

The History of the McAlpine Clan Society

2000 Dearborn, Michigan, USA July

Clan MacAlpine Society: Report On 1st AGM - July 2000

The 1st Annual General Meeting of the Clan MacAlpine Society is deemed a success!

We did it! Our 1st Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on July 21st and 22nd, 2000, and was pronounced a resounding success. We had approximately 60 MacAlpines in attendance as we shared food, drink, and, of course, the sound of bagpipes. Many discussions arose about the history of our Royal Clan and the endeavors of the Society to bring us together and to regain recognition for our Clan. This two-day event consisted of a golf tournament on the 21st and a picnic with barbecue on the 22nd. The golf tournament was held in Glencoe, Ontario, Canada, while the picnic was held at Maybury State Park in Northville, Michigan, USA. Eight hearty souls entered the golf tournament and Andrew Hugh McAlpine of Detroit was declared the winner. Timothy (McAlpine) Smith, Staff Writer for the Farmington Observer, interviewed some MacAlpines at the picnic and documented our event. He wrote an article about our gathering that appeared in several newspapers the following month (see below). A copy of the article has been forwarded to The Lyon Court so that they will be kept informed of our gathering activities. Among other festivities, a one-year subscription to Scottish Life Magazine was given to one lucky attendee. We would like to thank the folks at this fine publication for their support and sponsorship of our event. We would like to offer a special thank you to the co-hosts of this event, James A. McAlpine, Advisors Committee, and Donald R. McAlpine, Michigan Commissioner, for their efforts in coordinating this two-day event. Originally intended to be a family reunion for one branch of the Clan, an invitation was extended to the Society to use this as a platform for the 1st AGM. Thus, an open invitation was extended to all Society and Clan members to attend this celebration of our heritage. While most of the people at this event were members of Clan MacAlpine, many were not yet members of the Society. Additionally, although this event was originally a family reunion for a particular branch of the Clan, MacAlpines of no known relation to one another was in attendance making this a true Clan gathering. We will keep you informed as to the date and location of our next AGM so that you can plan on attending. Below are items related to the gathering, including the itinerary, an article appearing in newspapers following the event, photographs, and some notes of "Thanks."

Clan members present assemble for a group photo.



Itinerary

Our 1st Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held July 21 & 22, 2000.

Friday July 21 - Wardsville Golf Classic, Wardsville, Ontario, Canada. Eight people attended this day of golf.

Saturday July 22 - Picnic and Gathering, Maybury State Park, Northville, Michigan, USA. Almost 60 people attended the picnic.

Article Appearing In Newspapers Following The AGM

Royal Scottish Clan gathers; seeks others

By Tim Smith

Courtesy Farmington Observer

The large green banner unfurled from the picnic pavilion at Maybury State Park in Northville stated what all of us attending our family reunion on July 22 could proudly drink in.

It touted the burgeoning existence of the Clan MacAlpine Society, a new non-profit organization that -- with the help of the Internet - pledges to reach to all parts of the globe in search of aunts, uncles, cousins and distant relatives who might want to sign up.

The society was established earlier this year to promote a general awareness of the royal clan and its history to everyone. One way to do that is via having an official presence at Highland games, such as those set for 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 5 when

Greenmead Historical Park in Livonia hosts the annual St. Andrews Society picnic.

Unfinished business remains, at least until the clan is formally recognized and registered by the Court of the Lord Lyon in Scotland. An effort to gain the nod of approval is a work in progress.

Before we go further here, yes, my last name is Smith. But my mom's a McAlpine (one of the variations on the "official" clan name) and therefore, I am part of the worldwide clan that now has an ever-growing roster of about 55 roots-starved members who hail from as far away as Australia. The goal is to recruit 1,000 members in the next six years.

As I learned during a conversation during the reunion with a second cousin - who happens to be leading the clan back to life after a dormancy of oh, at least five centuries - I'm part of the oldest Scottish clan in the world: the MacAlpines.

I suppose there could be some Jones and Browns in there, too.

Our clan travels back to ancient time, as early as the year 843, when it was founded by King Kenneth McAlpine, the first king of Scotland. (To illustrate the name's versatility over the years, the king's name actually was spelled *MacAlpin*.)

And, as tends to be the case with clans, names seem to recycle, even those of a king. The president of the Clan MacAlpine Society also is a Kenneth McAlpine, who notes that "all Scottish sovereigns down to Queen Elizabeth II have (King) Kenneth's blood in them, including descendants through the female line." (Yet another Kenneth McAlpine was at the Maybury reunion; my mom, Anne, is one of his sisters.)

It wasn't *just* a family reunion in Northville. Society president Ken presided over the second day of the July 21-22 First Biennial International Meeting, with the first day highlighted by a golf outing in Wardsville, Ontario, Canada.

What happened in Canada took on greater significance, McAlpine explained.

The golf outing was attended by "McAlpines of no known relationship to each other," he said. "This signals a gathering of more than mere family members. It's a true clan gathering."

Resurfacing at last

The clan is finally gathering, all right. And, make no mistake, the Clan MacAlpine is one of Scotland's oldest and greatest. But, explained the society president, it somehow became like a rudderless ship and "officially" disappeared at least 500 years ago.

What one of my cousins said that means is: All of the Johnny-come-latelies have splashy tents and banners at Highland games, but perhaps the oldest Scottish family name of them all does not.

According to the society's Michigan commissioner, Donald McAlpine of Canton, a blow to family pride happens whenever he visits various events and does not view any regal banners proclaiming the MacAlpines, or McAlpines for that matter.

That's as if someone pulled a tartan rug from under his feet.

"It's the most ancient name, and the justice (to it) isn't being done that should be," Donald said. "If this is what it takes to force the hands of leadership in Scotland to recognize the legitimacy of the name, then that's what we have to do."

With bagpipes droning in the background, Donald said it seems odd that, at Highland games and Scottish festivals, "everybody knows who King Kenneth McAlpine was" and yet the name itself isn't duly noted. "Being certified by an accredited organization would make us legitimate, but beyond that, we're kind of on the outside."

Finding roots

"It relates to the wanting to find one's roots and the culture of our ancestors," said society president Ken about why the quest for the reborn clan is quickly gaining momentum. "It's also a form of kinship."

To that end, 11-year-old Michelle McAlpine of Canton was thrilled to find out about the family history, enough to declare "wouldn't it be neat if I was related to a king on the other side, too?"

I suppose it is possible. But it is unlikely that her mom's side of the family is as rich in heritage as the Clan MacAlpine. Still, there might be the question of whether the clan even exists. I mean, the clan's name and symbols (crest and motto, for example) are not formally recognized or registered by the Court of the Lord Lyon and therefore, in the Court's eyes, it's almost as if those were fictitious.

Adding insult to injury, Kenneth McAlpine said, new clans sprang to life during the centuries the MacAlpine clan disappeared as an entity.

"The MacGregor clan claims descent from the youngest grandson of (King) Kenneth," the

society president went on. "A whole branch of MacAlpines is called MacGregor."

Nothing against the MacGregors, though.

Tim "McAlpine" Smith is a Livonia resident and staff writer for the Farmington Observer. He also is author of "Miracle Birth Stories of Very Premature Babies -- Little Thumbs Up!"

Thanks and Acknowledgements

Thanks to Lynn and Neil Ray, the folks at Scottish Life magazine, who helped to sponsor our AGM event by providing a one year subscription to this wonderful publication. And, congratulations to the lucky winner, Mary M.!

A special thanks to James A. McAlpine, Advisors Committee, and Donald R. McAlpine, Michigan Commissioner, who did a great job co-hosting our two-day AGM event.

Clan Events We Hosted In 2000!

October 21 & 22

**Loch Prado 22nd Annual Scottish Clan Gathering And Highland Games
Prado Regional Park, Chino, California, USA**

October 19, 20, & 21

Cedar Creek Civil War Days

Middletown, Virginia, USA (Represented at The Kings Celt tent)

October 6 & 7

Chesapeake Celtic Festival

Furnace Town, Maryland, USA (Represented at The Kings Celt tent)

September 23

Williamsburg Highland Games

Chandler Park, Tulsa, Oklahoma, USA (Represented at The Kings Celt tent)

September 15, 16, & 17

Scottish Games

Cape May, New Jersey, USA (Represented at The Kings Celt tent)

September 2 & 3, 2000

135th Annual Gathering & Games of the Caledonian Club of San Francisco (One of the largest Scottish Games events in the *world!*)

Alameda County Fairgrounds, Pleasanton, California, USA

September 1, 2000

McLean Highland Fest

Carlisle, Pennsylvania, USA (Represented at The Kings Celt tent)

August 26

Quechee Scottish Festival

The Polo Field, Quechee, Vermont, USA

August 19 & 20

Myrtle Creek Highland Games

Millsite Park, Myrtle Creek, Oregon, USA

August 19

22nd Annual Maine Highland Games

Thomas Point Beach, Brunswick, Maine, USA

July 29 & 30

54th Annual Pacific Northwest Scottish Highland Games and Clan Gathering

King County Fairgrounds, Enumclaw, Washington, USA

July 22, 2000

Irish Fest

Irishtown, Pennsylvania, USA (Represented at The Kings Celt tent)

June 24 & 25

San Diego Scottish Highland Games and Gathering of the Clans

Brengle Terrace Park, Vista, California, USA

June 10 & 11

Potomac Celtic Festival

Leesburg, Virginia, USA (Represented at The Kings Celt tent)

May 27 & 28

68th Annual Highland Gathering and Games

Orange County Fairgrounds, Costa Mesa, California, USA

2001 Pleasanton, California, USA, Highland Games

2nd AGM Brings MacAlpines Together!

September 1st and 2nd, 2001, saw approximately 25 MacAlpines come together in Pleasanton, California, USA to celebrate our heritage and to confirm our common goal to see the recognition of a Clan MacAlpine Leader by the Lyon Court. About 60% of those who attended the Annual General Meeting were members of the Society, with the remaining 40% made up of Clan members who have not yet joined the Society. Below, an energetic group of attendees prepares to march in front of a grandstand filled with thousands of spectators as part of the Procession of the Clans. Prior to our entrance into the stadium, the announcer, Jerry Jardine, gave an informative biography of our ancient and Royal Clan to the crowds. Thanks Jerry!



Itinerary

Saturday (September 1)

All day: Check-in at the Clan MacAlpine Society tent and receive Clan plant badge pin (Scots pine) as a means of identification as part of Clan MacAlpine. Clanspersons were invited to stop in at the Clan MacAlpine Society tent throughout the day for kinship, refreshments, rest and a place to store things, and information on our heritage.

All day: Festival activities including: numerous opportunities to view Scottish athletics, shop for Scottish related goods, eat Scottish foods, view Highland dancing, see various reenactments and period dress, and, of course, to listen to bagpipes and much, much more!

Highlights of the AGM

Our group was comprised of individuals representing five different states and a wide range of ages. Just being in the presence of each other and knowing our common bond of heritage and our common desire to re-unite our Clan was a fantastic feeling.

Having seven kilted gentlemen and another eight persons wearing ties, sashes, scarves, etc. combined to result in quite a wonderful display of our tartans. That together with our Clan plant badges, formed the true picture of a unified Clan. We were all sort of looking around at each other saying, "Wow! This is really neat!"

Each day, we had the opportunity to march together as a Clan onto the stadium field and assemble in front of the grandstand containing several thousand observers. During the ceremony, each Clan was asked to shout its War Cry. Each time, our Clan let out with a rousing and thunderous yell of "***Remember the death of Alpin!***" This was very inspiring to each of us on the field and to those of us seated in the grandstand. It gave us just a taste of what it must have been like when King Kenneth MacAlpin's entire army shouted this same phrase before defeating the Picts to create the Scottish nation.

Our Saturday evening meeting provided an opportunity for us to share the progress we have made and discuss the future. This included comments from our Washington, USA Commissioner, Kenneth McAlpine, who had just returned from visiting with the Lord Lyon in Scotland earlier in the week and presentation of an early draft of the first MacAlpine Arms (designed by the Lord Lyon himself) ever to be granted by the Lyon Court. Also presented were comments of encouragement from other Clan dignitaries and Clan members who could not be present.

One of the most enjoyable events was the dinner following our meeting on Saturday night. We were seated in a virtually private dining area and we thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity this afforded for us to spend time together as a group, getting to know each other better.

Thanks and Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all those who joined us for this celebration of our heritage and

who have helped to strengthen the fabric of our Clan through the development of kinship bonds. Without you, our Clan does not exist in the present day! We would also like to thank those who worked hard to help make this a successful and enjoyable event: Jerry Jardine and the Caledonian Club of San Francisco; Howard Shaw and the Clan Chattan; Joanne McAlpine, Society Vice-President; Lynn McAlpine, Society Executive Director; Fran Crandall – a friend of the Clan; and Kenneth J. McAlpine, Society President.

Clan Events We Hosted In 2001!

September 22

Williamsburg Scottish Festival

Williamsburg Winery, Williamsburg, VA, USA

Clan tent host: James Bolles, Virginia, USA Commissioner

September 8 & 9

Kelso Highlander Festival

Downtown, Kelso, Washington, USA

Clan tent host: Kenneth McAlpine, Washington Commissioner

September 1 & 2 - Site of our 2nd Annual AGM!

136th Annual Gathering & Games of the Caledonian Club of San Francisco (This Scottish games event is one of the oldest in the USA and one of the largest in the *world!*)

Alameda County Fairgrounds, Pleasanton, California, USA

Clan tent host: Kenneth J. McAlpine, Society President

August 24 & 25

Cowal Highland Gathering (We did not host a Clan tent but, we marched behind our banner in the procession of the Clans from the docks to the games site.)

Dunoon Stadium, Dunoon, Argyll, Scotland

Clan march host: Kenneth McAlpine, Washington, USA Commissioner

August 18 & 19

Douglas County Celtic Highland Games

City Park, Winston, Oregon, USA

Clan tent host: Warren D. McAlpine, Oregon Commissioner

July 28 & 29

Pacific N.W. (Enumclaw/Seattle) Scottish Highland Games

King County Fairgrounds, Enumclaw, Washington, USA

Clan tent host: Kenneth McAlpine, Washington, USA Commissioner

July 20

Portland Scottish Highland Games

Mount Hood Community College, Gresham (near Portland), Oregon, USA

July 12-15

Grandfather Mountain Highland Games

MacRae Meadows, Linville, North Carolina, USA

June 23 & 24

San Diego Scottish Highland Games and Gathering of the Clans

Brengle Terrace Park, Vista, California, USA

June 9 & 10

Potomac Celtic Festival

Morven Park Equestrian Center, Leesburg, Virginia, USA

June 2

Southern New Hampshire Scottish Games & Celtic Music Festival

Oak Park, Greenfield, New Hampshire, USA

May 26 & 27

69th Annual Highland Gathering and Games

Orange County Fairgrounds, Costa Mesa, California, USA

May 19 & 20

Celtic Heritage Festival In Hanover County

Cold Harbor Ruritan Park, Mechanicsville, Virginia, USA

May 5 & 6

Loch Prado 23rd Annual Scottish Clan Gathering & Highland Games

Prado Regional Park, Chino, California, USA

April 7

Tartan Day Celebration

Washington, USA

February 17 & 18

Queen Mary Eighth Annual Scottish Festival & Games

Long Beach, California, USA

2002 Grandfather Mountain, North Carolina, USA, Games

3rd AGM Sees The MacAlpines At Grandfather Mountain!

Despite a rainy weekend that cut the festival's usually high attendance in half, July 13th and 14th, 2002, brought about 20 MacAlpines together at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in North Carolina, USA to enjoy our heritage and to develop kinship ties. Most of those who attended the AGM were members of the Society but other Clan members were also present. The picture below shows some Clan members at our tent with the main field in the background.



MacAlpine Clansfolk in attendance were provided a nametag displaying our tartan and the Society logo. Each day provided the opportunity to meet and greet, to enjoy the skirl of the bagpipes, and to witness a marvelous and colorful display of heraldry and pageantry. In addition, the weekend brought a new member in Bert "Alistair" Latamore who agreed to become our new Virginia Regional Commissioner, filling the shoes of James Bolles (who had recently moved to the West Coast and has been helping to further our interests in the state of Washington!) At our meeting on Saturday, we discussed our continued progress and issues, goals and projects on the horizon. One of the highlights of the meeting was the presentation of a copy of the just recently received Letters Patent from the Lyon Court in Scotland granting the first ever MacAlpine Scottish Coat of Arms. Pictured below are Clan members who attended our meeting in the "Chiefs" tent.



Unfortunately, the inclement weather all but cancelled our planned dinner as most attendees scurried home to avoid being caught in a treacherous and wet drive down the mountain in the dark. However, about a half dozen of us did manage to enjoy some fine Chinese dining at a local establishment! We would like to thank all those who faced the weather to join us for our AGM. The warm wishes exchanged as each person departed our event is a testament to the bonds of kinship created and the goodwill developed as our Clan begins to flourish in the present day! We would also like to thank our North Carolina Commissioner, Christopher Hellard, and his wife, Tonya, who worked so hard to make this a successful and enjoyable event.

Clan Events We Hosted In 2002!

November 1 & 2

16th Annual Tucson Celtic Festival & Scottish Highland Games

Rillito Park Raceway, Tucson, Arizona, USA

Clan tent host: Dallas Thirey, Arizona, USA Commissioner

August 31 & September 1

137th Annual Gathering & Games of the Caledonian Club of San Francisco (This Scottish games event is one of the oldest in the USA and one of the largest in the *world!*)

Alameda County Fairgrounds, Pleasanton, California, USA

Clan tent host: Kenneth J. McAlpine, Society President

July 27 & 28

56th Pacific Northwest (Enumclaw/Seattle) Scottish Highland Games & Clan Gathering

King County Fairgrounds, Enumclaw, Washington, USA

Clan tent host: Kenneth McAlpine, Washington, USA Commissioner

July 20

50th Annual Portland Highland Games

Mount Hood Community College, Gresham (near Portland), Oregon, USA

Clan tent host: James Bolles, Washington, USA Deputy Commissioner

July 20

5th Annual Arizona Highland Celtic Festival

Wheeler Park, Flagstaff, Arizona, USA

Clan tent host: Dallas Thirey, Arizona, USA Commissioner

July 11-14

Grandfather Mountain Highland Games - Site of our 3rd AGM! Our Annual General Meeting will be held at the games on Saturday July 13 with an evening barbeque to follow. Clan march to take place Sunday July 14. More details to come!

MacRae Meadows, Linville, North Carolina, USA

Clan tent host: Christopher Hellard, North Carolina, USA Commissioner

June 22 & 23

San Diego Scottish Highland Games & Gathering of the Clans

Brengle Terrace Park, Vista, California, USA

Clan tent host: Kenneth J. McAlpine, Society President

June 22

33rd Annual Tacoma Highland Games

Frontier Park, Graham, Washington, USA

Clan tent host: Kenneth McAlpine, Washington, USA Commissioner

June 8

25th Annual Kansas City Scottish Highland Games

Wyandotte County Fairgrounds, Kansas City, Kansas, USA

Clan tent host: Brian Garrett, Kansas, USA Commissioner

June 1

Bellingham Highland Games

Hovander Homestead Park, Bellingham, Washington, USA

Clan tent host: Kenneth McAlpine, Washington, USA Commissioner

May 25 & 26

35th Alma Highland Festival & Games

Alma College, Alma, Michigan, USA

Clan tent host: Kenneth G. McAlpine, Michigan, Member

May 25 & 26

70th Annual Scottish Festival

Orange County Fairgrounds, Costa Mesa, California, USA

Clan tent host: Kenneth J. McAlpine, Society President

May 11

26th Annual Savannah Scottish Games

Old Fort Jackson, Savannah, Georgia, USA

Clan tent host: Wes Schiwitz, Georgia, USA Commissioner

May 4 & 5

Loch Prado 24th Annual Scottish Clan Gathering & Highland Games

Prado Regional Park, Chino, California, USA

Clan tent host: Kenneth J. McAlpine, Society President

April 6

Tartan Day Celebration

Fort Lewis, Washington, USA

Event host: Kenneth McAlpine, Washington, USA Commissioner

February 16 & 17

Queen Mary Ninth Annual Scottish Festival & Games

Onboard The Queen Mary, Long Beach, California, USA

Clan tent host: Kenneth J. McAlpine, Society President

2003 Fergus, Ontario, Canada Highland games

Report On 4th AGM - August 2003

Clan MacAlpine Gathers at the Society's 4th AGM in Fergus, Ontario, Canada!

Well, our 4th Annual General Meeting (AGM), held on August 8th, 9th, and 10th, 2003, was a fantastic success! We had over 50 MacAlpines visit our Clan tent, hosted by Bruce MacAlpine (Canada) and Kenneth J. McAlpine (USA), over the weekend. The setting for the games was majestic and the Tattoo held on Friday night, which included numerous pipe bands, athletic demonstrations, and Celtic music performers, was great. The festival organizers treated us with great care, including Donald M. McAlpine, one of the festival's Directors, and John Campbell, Director of the Clan area. We were well situated in the Clan tent area and made many friends with our surrounding Clan neighbors, including another branch of the Siol Alpin, the Clan MacAulay, who we were lucky enough to have situated next to us.



Our Saturday afternoon meeting was very well attended by 25 of our clanspersons, pictured above, as we discussed the Society's progress and our Clan's future. About half of those attending were Society members with the remainder being Clan members

at-large. Key issues included progress toward recognition of the Clan, a possible Patron for the Society, and our interest in gaining formal recognition of King Kenneth MacAlpin's feats in the form of a suitable marker for "The Birthplace of Scotland."

Highlights of the weekend also included Anne Caylor MacAlpin's entry in the solo piping competition, clanspersons sharing our common heritage our Clan tent, the sign-up of several new members, and the formation of kinship bonds that will last a lifetime. Below, Anne pipes "Scotland The Brave" for two admiring youngsters, Douglas and Alexander McAlpine.



On Saturday evening, a dinner for Clan members was held at a local restaurant complete with a "Clan MacAlpine" menu. Our party of 23 occupied one third of the restaurant as we enjoyed good food, warm conversation, and getting to know each other better. The conclusion of the games on Sunday brought fond farewells and promises to see each other at our 2004 AGM, which is to be held August 26 at the Argyllshire Gathering in Oban, Argyll, Scotland. We would like to say thank you to everyone who attended

especially to those who traveled great distances from within Canada and the US to be with us. A special thank you goes to the co-host of this event, Bruce MacAlpine, and his wife, Donna, for their efforts in helping to coordinate this two-day event.

Clan Events We Hosted In 2003!

February 15 & 16

**Queen Mary 10th Annual Scottish Festival & Games
Onboard The Queen Mary, Long Beach, California, USA**

Clan tent host: Kenneth J. McAlpine, Society President

April 6

**Tartan Day Celebration
Fort Lewis, Washington, USA**

Event host: Kenneth McAlpine, Washington, USA Commissioner

May 3 & 4

**Loch Prado 25th Annual Scottish Clan Gathering & Highland Games
Prado Regional Park, Chino, California, USA**

Clan tent host: Kenneth J. McAlpine, Society President

May 10

**27th Annual Savannah Scottish Games
Old Fort Jackson, Savannah, Georgia, USA**

Clan tent host: Wes Schiwitz, Georgia, USA Commissioner

May 24 & 25

**71st Annual Scottish Festival
Orange County Fairgrounds, Costa Mesa, California, USA**

Clan tent host: Kenneth J. McAlpine, Society President

May 24 & 25

**36th Alma Highland Festival & Games
Alma College, Alma, Michigan, USA**

Clan tent host: Donald McAlpine, Michigan, USA Commissioner

June 7

**Bellingham Highland Games
Hovander Homestead Park, Bellingham, Washington, USA**

Clan tent host: Kenneth McAlpine, Washington, USA Commissioner

June 7

**26th Annual Kansas City Scottish Highland Games
Wyandotte County Fairgrounds, Kansas City, Kansas, USA**

Clan tent host: Brian Garrett, Kansas, USA Commissioner

June 21

**34th Annual Tacoma Highland Games
Frontier Park, Graham, Washington, USA**

Clan tent host: Kenneth McAlpine, Washington, USA Commissioner

June 21 & 22

**San Diego Scottish Highland Games & Gathering of the Clans
Brenle Terrace Park, Vista, California, USA**

Clan tent host: Kenneth J. McAlpine, Society President

July 12 & 13

**Grandfather Mountain Highland Games
MacRae Meadows, Linville, North Carolina, USA**

Clan tent host: Christopher Hellard, North Carolina, USA Commissioner

July 19

**6th Annual Arizona Highland Celtic Festival
Wheeler Park, Flagstaff, Arizona, USA**

Clan tent host: Dallas Thirey, Arizona, USA Commissioner

July 19

**51st Annual Portland Highland Games
Mount Hood Community College, Gresham (near Portland), Oregon, USA**

Clan tent host: James Bolles, Washington, USA Deputy Commissioner

July 26 & 27

**57th Pacific Northwest (Enumclaw/Seattle) Scottish Highland Games & Clan
Gathering, King County Fairgrounds, Enumclaw, Washington, USA**

Clan tent host: Kenneth McAlpine, Washington, USA Commissioner

August 8, 9 & 10

58th Annual Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games - Site of our 4th AGM!

Our Annual General Meeting will be held at the games on Saturday August 9th with an evening dinner to follow. Clan march to take place Sunday August 10. More details to come! This Scottish games event is one of the largest in Canada!

Fergus Community Centre, Fergus, Ontario, Canada

Clan tent host: Kenneth J. McAlpine, Society President

August 30 & 31

138th Annual Gathering & Games of the Caledonian Club of San Francisco (This Scottish games event is one of the oldest in the USA and one of the largest in the *world!*)

Alameda County Fairgrounds, Pleasanton, California, USA

Clan tent host: Kenneth J. McAlpine, Society President

November 1 & 2

17th Annual Tucson Celtic Festival & Scottish Highland Games

Rillito Park Raceway, Tucson, Arizona, USA

Clan tent host: Dallas Thirey, Arizona, USA Commissioner

2004 Oban, Scotland, USA, Games

Report On 5th AGM - August 2004

Clan MacAlpine Gathers at the Society's 5th AGM in Oban, Argyll, Scotland!

In August 2004, the Society held its 5th Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Oban, Argyll, Scotland. We had 60 Clan members attend our morning meeting and join us for our Clan dinner that evening. Clan members came from the UK, Sweden, Canada, and the USA to join in the celebration of our heritage. Three representatives from the "McAlpines North Canterbury Pipe Band" of New Zealand were in attendance as well as the Society's Patron, The Hon. Sir William McAlpine, 6th Bt. and Lady Judy McAlpine. Sir William spoke at both the AGM and the dinner to offer encouragement to those present to continue to support our Clan revival effort. It was quite a wonderful event and I know that many kinship ties were formed and that many lifelong memories were made. In fact, some of those present turned out to be long lost cousins!



During the day, the Society hosted a table in the Clan Heritage tent at the Argyllshire Gathering that offered information on the Clan and its history. An exceptional piece of research on the MacAlpine families contained in the census records of Scotland was on-hand courtesy of Margaret McAlpin of Buckinghamshire, England. Michael Quick was

among numerous others who helped to answer questions of interested visitors during the day.

For several days before and after the AGM, 25 of us enjoyed a tour through Scotland which included visits to many areas of particular relevance to our Clan's history. Some of the highlights included a visit to see the Stone of Destiny (Stone of Scone) upon which the MacAlpine Kings were coronated, a visit to Dunadd Hill fort our ancient Clan seat, and a visit to the Isle of Iona where King Kenneth MacAlpin is buried.

During our stay in Edinburgh, the Lord Lyon King Of Arms invited our group of 25 to Lyon Court for a private tour. Lord Lyon had arranged for the register containing the only MacAlpine Arms thus far recorded to be available for our viewing pleasure. Later that day, Sir William McAlpine and I met with Lord Lyon to discuss the progress we have made to-date in becoming an organized name group and to ask for advice on those things we can do to further our progress. Overall, the visit to Lyon Court was quite a success as we demonstrated our continuing commitment to gaining recognition of our Clan.

The crescendo of the AGM was our Clan dinner; great food, great entertainment, and great haggis. The Address to the Haggis by Alex Hood of Scottish Highland Trails was simply the best.

Thank you to everyone who attended our AGM, especially to Sir William and Lady Judy. Also, a special "Thank You" to everyone at Scottish Highland Trails who organized our tour and ensured that the Clan dinner was fantastic!

Clan Events We Hosted In 2004!

February 14 & 15

**Queen Mary 10th Annual Scottish Festival & Games
Onboard The Queen Mary, Long Beach, California, USA**

Clan tent host: Kenneth J. McAlpine, Society President

April 16-18

**11th Annual Loch Norman Highland Games
Historic Rural Hill Farm, Huntersville, North Carolina, USA**

Clan tent host: Christopher Hellard, North Carolina, USA Commissioner

May 29 & 30

**72nd Annual Scottish Festival
Orange County Fairgrounds, Costa Mesa, California, USA**

Clan tent host: Kenneth J. McAlpine, Society President

May 29 & 30

37th Alma Highland Festival & Games

Alma College, Alma, Michigan, USA

Clan tent hosts: Kenneth G. McAlpine and Mary Ann Baker, Michigan, USA, Members

June 12

27th Annual Kansas City Scottish Highland Games

Wyandotte County Fairgrounds, Kansas City, Kansas, USA

Clan tent host: Brian Garrett, Kansas, USA Commissioner

June 19 & 20

San Diego Scottish Highland Games & Gathering of the Clans

Brengle Terrace Park, Vista, California, USA

Clan tent host: Kenneth J. McAlpine, Society President

August 26

134th Argyllshire Gathering - Site of our 5th AGM! (This is one of the oldest of the Highland Gatherings in Scotland!)

Oban, County of Argyll, Scotland

Our Annual General Meeting will be held at 9:00AM prior to the games on Thursday August 26th with a Clan march to the festival grounds to take place immediately following. There will be an evening dinner for the Clan (***Reservations for the dinner are required!***)

Clan tent host: Kenneth J. McAlpine, Society President

September 4 & 5

139th Annual Gathering & Games of the Caledonian Club of San Francisco (This Scottish games event is one of the oldest in the USA and one of the largest in the *world!*)

Alameda County Fairgrounds, Pleasanton, California, USA

Clan tent host: Kenneth J. McAlpine, Society President

September 24-26

McPherson Scottish Festival and Highland Games

Lakeside Park, McPherson, Kansas, USA

Clan tent host: Brian Garrett, Kansas, USA Commissioner

October 8 & 9

St. Louis Scottish Games & Cultural Festival

Forest Park, St. Louis, Missouri, USA

Clan tent host: Brian Garrett, Kansas, USA Commissioner

October 23 & 24

Richmond Highland Games and Celtic Festival

Fairgrounds on Strawberry Hill, Richmond, Virginia, USA

Clan tent host: Alistair Latamore, Virginia, USA Commissioner

November 6

18th Annual Tucson Celtic Festival & Highland Games

Rillito Park Raceway, Tucson, Arizona, USA

Clan tent host: Dallas Thirey, Arizona, USA Commissioner

2005 Arlington, Texas, USA, Games

Report On 6th AGM - June 2005

Clan MacAlpine Gathers at the Society's 6th AGM in Arlington, Texas, USA!

On June 4, 2005, the Society held its 6th Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Arlington, Texas, USA. We had over 40 Clan members participate over the weekend which included our Saturday morning meeting and a Clan dinner "Texas barbeque style" that evening. Clan members came from all over the USA and Canada to share our heritage and enjoy all things Scottish. At the meeting, we discussed our continuing progress toward the recognition of a Clan Leader. It is a slow process in which progress occurs most frequently in steps rather than leaps. However, everyone was enthusiastic about what we have accomplished to-date and eager to continue to support our effort.



In attendance at our meeting were family members of each of two gentlemen (Mr. W. McAlpin and Mr. M. McAlpine) who are each in the process of obtaining a grant of a Coat of Arms (Arms) from the Lord Lyon in Scotland. Remember that in order to gain

recognition of a Clan Leader; we must be able to fill the quota for a special meeting that requires a minimum of nine “MacAlpines”, most of whom must have a Coat of Arms granted by the Lord Lyon, Scotland’s Heraldic Authority. The process to obtain a Coat of Arms usually takes in excess of one year. To qualify for the special meeting, the Arms must have been granted at least one year and a day prior to the meeting. As these gentlemen will represent only the second and third “MacAlpine” Arms ever granted in Scotland, you can see that we are likely years away from attaining our goal. However, I am pleased to report that each of these gentlemen have submitted their Petition For Arms and that they each have both been notified by the Lord Lyon that he has agreed to grant them Arms. We expect that both of these gentlemen will receive their Coat of Arms sometime in 2006. We are hopeful that we can find at least three more “MacAlpines” who will submit a Petition For Arms during 2007. Additionally, we hope to identify several individuals who own at least a few acres of land in Scotland (even if they do not reside in Scotland) as they can qualify to fill the remaining seats at the special meeting. If you are interested in obtaining a Coat of Arms or some land in Scotland, or if you already own some land in Scotland, and you would like to sit on the special committee meeting to nominate our Clan Leader, please contact me so we can discuss it. My email address is Kenneth@macalpineclan.com and I would be very happy to hear from you and I would be glad to explain what is involved.



On Saturday, the festival invited all of the clans to show their spirit by gathering together and marching in a procession of tartan, flags, and banners. Clan MacAlpine was one of two clans given "Honored Clan" status and asked to lead the procession in recognition of this being our AGM. As can be seen above, the Clan MacAlpine rallied to the call and formed the second largest group of assembled clans folk. In front of our delegation, carrying the Society banner can be seen Mr. Bruce MacAlpine of Ontario, Canada, and Zachary and Amber Garrett of Eudora, Kansas. Mr. Brian Garrett is the Society's Commissioner for Kansas, USA (as well as most of Missouri, USA) and can be seen following in close center formation carrying a banner with the Society logo that was skillfully made by his wife, Trendera. Still others carried the MacAlpine tartan banner and a parade banner of my Coat of Arms (granted by the Lord Lyon in Scotland) which tells the story of the death of King Alpin, father of King Kenneth MacAlpin, our first Chief and the first King of (a united) Scotland. Although it might not show in the picture, it was about 90 degrees F with 95% humidity during the march, so, I really appreciated everyone who made the effort to participate.

The Society also hosted Clan tent over the weekend and had name tags, plant badges, and information available to our members and visitors. We are always glad to share information on the Clan and its history! As happens quite often, we had MacAlpines arrive at our tent a bit shocked to learn about our history and to see that we are organizing ourselves into an effective clan body. Most of us have heard of King Kenneth MacAlpin but, most of us have also read or heard about claims that we were never a really a Clan. Some of us have even been convinced of such! However, the MacAlpines were here at the earliest time of Scotland and we made significant contributions to its development. The mere passage of time does not erase the past. And, the fact that liberties have been taken with our heritage while we have not been vigilant in its protection does not make what others say true. When our Clans folk come to our tent, after having been disappointed by the stories of our non-existence and resigned to them, and then they realize that WE ARE A CLAN and that we are re-uniting, the heartfelt joy that comes over their faces is worth all of the work!

One final highlight to the weekend was our Clan dinner that was coordinated by Sophia McAlpine of Arlington. This provided a true Texas barbeque atmosphere in which to spend some time together and make some life-long kinship ties. Thank you to everyone who attended our AGM, especially to those of you who traveled great distances at great cost. It was all of you who made this such a memorable Clan MacAlpine event. I hope to see you all at our next AGM.

Clan Events We Hosted In 2005!

February 19 & 20

**Queen Mary 12th Annual Scottish Festival & Games
Onboard The Queen Mary, Long Beach, California, USA**

Clan tent host: Kenneth J. McAlpine, Society President

April 16 & 17

**11th Annual Loch Norman Highland Games
Historic Rural Hill Farm, Huntersville, North Carolina, USA**

Clan tent host: Christopher Hellard, North Carolina, USA Commissioner

April 29 & 30

**129th Annual Sacramento valley Scottish Games & Festival
Yolo County Fairgrounds, Woodland, California, USA**

Clan tent host: Renee Hensley, Northern California, USA Commissioner

May 28 & 29

**73rd Annual Scottish Festival
Fairplex, Pomona, California, USA**

Clan tent host: Kenneth J. McAlpine, Society President

May 28 & 29

**38th Alma Highland Festival & Games
Alma College, Alma, Michigan, USA**

Clan tent hosts: Kenneth G. McAlpine, Michigan, USA Commissioner, and Mary Ann Baker, Member

June 3-5

**Texas Scottish Festival & Highland Games - Site of our 6th AGM!
UTA's Maverick Stadium, Arlington, Texas, USA**

Our Annual General Meeting will be held at 2:30 PM on the festival grounds on Saturday, June 4, 2005. There will be a casual dinner Saturday evening for those Clan members interested.

Clan tent host: Kenneth J. McAlpine, Society President

June 11

**28th Annual Kansas City Scottish Highland Games
Wyandotte County Fairgrounds, Kansas City, Kansas, USA**

Clan tent host: Brian Garrett, Kansas, USA Commissioner

June 25 & 26

San Diego Scottish Highland Games & Gathering of the Clans

Brengle Terrace Park, Vista, California, USA

Clan tent host: Kenneth J. McAlpine, Society President

August 6

158th St. Andrews Society of Detroit Highland Games

Historic Greenmead, Livonia, Michigan, USA

Clan tent hosts: Kenneth G. McAlpine, Michigan, USA Commissioner, and Mary Ann Baker, Member

September 3 & 4

140th Annual Gathering & Games of the Caledonian Club of San Francisco (This Scottish games event is one of the oldest in the USA and one of the largest in the *world!*)

Alameda County Fairgrounds, Pleasanton, California, USA

Clan tent host: Kenneth J. McAlpine, Society President

September 23-25

McPherson Scottish Festival and Highland Games

Lakeside Park, McPherson, Kansas, USA

Clan tent host: Brian Garrett, Kansas, USA Commissioner

September 29

Dixon Scottish Games & Gathering

Dixon Fairgrounds, Dixon, California, USA

Clan tent host: Renee Hensley, Northern California, USA Commissioner

October 7 & 8

St. Louis Scottish Games & Cultural Festival

Forest Park, St. Louis, Missouri, USA

Clan tent host: Brian Garrett, Kansas, USA Commissioner

October 22 & 23

Richmond Highland Games and Celtic Festival

Fairgrounds on Strawberry Hill, Richmond, Virginia, USA

Clan tent host: Alistair Latamore, Virginia, USA Commissioner

November 5

18th Annual Tucson Celtic Festival & Highland Games

Rillito Park Raceway, Tucson, Arizona, USA

Clan tent host: Dallas Thirey, Arizona, USA Commissioner

2006 Pomona, California, USA, Highland Games

Report On 7th AGM – May 26, 2006

Clan MacAlpine Gathers at the Society's 7th AGM

Our Annual General Meeting was held at “The United Scottish Society of Southern California, 74th Annual Scottish Festival”.

We enjoyed Opening & Closing Ceremonies with more than 250 pipers and drummers. There were over 20 competition bands, Celtic Rock Bands Wicked Tinkers & Tempest, Celtic Bands John Allan & Bad Haggis. Also in attendance were Scottish Folk singers Alex Beaton & Joann Gilmartin, Scottish Fiddlers, Royal Scottish Country Dancers, Highland Dancers and Competition and Harpists.

As with most Scottish Festivals, there was also a variety of Scottish Athletics, Large Vendor Areas, Scottish Gifts, and Ethnic Scottish Foods.

We participated in the Clan march with over 60 Clans that attended this festival. As always, this is a great time for us to meet and greet our Scottish kin. On Saturday night we had a sumptuous dinner together.

Clan Events We Hosted in 2006!

February 17 & 18

Queen Mary 14th Annual Scottish Festival & Games
Onboard The Queen Mary, Long Beach, California, USA
Clan tent host: Kenneth J. McAlpine, Society President

February 24 & 25

43rd Annual Arizona Scottish Gathering and Highland Games
Mesa Community College, Mesa, Arizona, USA
Clan tent host: Dallas Thirey, Arizona, USA Commissioner

April 28 & 29

131th Annual Sacramento valley Scottish Games & Festival
Yolo County Fairgrounds, Woodland, California, USA
Clan tent host: Renee Hensley, Northern California, USA Commissioner

May 26 & 27

75th Annual Scottish Festival and AGM

Fairplex, Pomona, California, USA

Clan tent host: Kenneth J. McAlpine, Society President

May 26 & 27

40th Alma Highland Festival & Games

Alma College, Alma, Michigan, USA

Clan tent hosts: Mary Ann Baker, Michigan, USA Commissioner

June 9

30th Annual Kansas City Scottish Highland Games

E. H. Young Riverfront Park, Riverside, Missouri, USA

Clan tent host: Brian Garrett, Kansas, USA Commissioner

June 23 & 24

34th Annual San Diego Scottish Highland Games & Gathering of the Clans

Brengle Terrace Park, Vista, California, USA

Clan tent host: Kenneth J. McAlpine, Society President

July 28 & 29

61st Annual Pacific Northwest Scottish Highland Games and Clan Gathering- Site of our 8th AGM!

Enumclaw Expo Center, Enumclaw, Washington, USA

Our Annual General Meeting will be held (Time To Be Announced) on the festival grounds on Saturday, July 28, 2007. There will also be a Clan march (Time To Be Announced).

We are Planning a private Clan dinner Saturday evening for those interested.

Reservations are required for the dinner. All Clan members, whether or not you are a member of the Society, are welcome!

Clan tent hosts: Kenneth McAlpine, Washington, USA Commissioner & Kenneth J. McAlpine, Society President

September 1 & 2

142st Annual Gathering & Games of the Caledonian Club of San Francisco (This Scottish games event is one of the oldest in the USA and one of the largest in the *world!*)

Alameda County Fairgrounds, Pleasanton, California, USA

Clan tent host: Reney Hensley, Northern California, USA Commissioner

September 22 & 23

14th Annual McPherson Scottish Festival and Highland Games

Lakeside Park, McPherson, Kansas, USA

Clan tent host: Brian Garrett, Kansas, USA Commissioner

October 5 & 6

St. Louis Scottish Games & Cultural Festival

Forest Park, St. Louis, Missouri, USA

Clan tent host: Brian Garrett, Kansas, USA Commissioner

November 3 & 4

19th Annual Tucson Celtic Festival & Highland Games

Rillito Park Raceway, Tucson, Arizona, USA

Clan tent host: Dallas Thirey, Arizona, USA Commissioner

2007 Enumclaw, Washington, USA, Highland games



Aerial view of the Enumclaw Expo Center, site of the 62nd Annual Pacific NW Highland Games.

Report On 8th AGM – July 28, 2007

Clan MacAlpine Gathers at the Society's 8th AGM

Our Annual General Meeting was held at the 61st Annual Pacific Northwest Scottish Highland Games and Clan Gathering on the festival grounds. We had a casual Clan dinner Saturday night.

These Highland Games, hosted by the Seattle Scottish Highland Games Association, are the sixth oldest in the United States and the largest, 2007 attendance was 30,000, in Washington state.

Participants will be amazed by the titans who deftly toss the caber or put the stone, delight in the soothing sound of the Celtic harpist, thrill in the bourdon of the bagpipes and the cadence of the drums and behold the grace and elegance of the Scottish dancers.

Other performers include Scottish balladeer Alex Beaton, traditional Scottish folk artist Ed Miller, the loud and boisterous Wicked Tinkers, the upbeat Highland Way, the Celtic rock of Tempest and the multi-talented Blackthorn.

Visitors can stroll through the Avenue of the Clans and the Glen of the Clans and delve into Scottish ancestry and heritage or wind through the Hall of Vendors and the Celtic Marketplace to see the workmanship of Scottish artisans.

Wandering through the Scottish farm with shaggy Scotch Highland cattle and Clydesdale horses or the Celtic Kennel and the Ceilidh, a traditional Scottish party with music, sing-along, stories and Scottish country dancing Saturday evening.

New to the event this year was the Single Malt Scotch Whisky Tasting, an opportunity to attend a program dedicated to the understanding and enjoyment of one of Scotland's finest exports.









Clan Events We Hosted in 2007!

February 17 & 18

**Queen Mary 14th Annual Scottish Festival & Games
Onboard The Queen Mary, Long Beach, California, USA**

Clan tent host: Kenneth J. McAlpine, Society President

February 24 & 25

**43rd Annual Arizona Scottish Gathering and Highland Games
Mesa Community College, Mesa, Arizona, USA**

Clan tent host: Dallas Thirey, Arizona, USA Commissioner

April 28 & 29

**131th Annual Sacramento valley Scottish Games & Festival
Yolo County Fairgrounds, Woodland, California, USA**

Clan tent host: Renee Hensley, Northern California, USA Commissioner

May 26 & 27

**75th Annual Scottish Festival
Fairplex, Pomona, California, USA**

Clan tent host: Kenneth J. McAlpine, Society President

May 26 & 27

**40th Alma Highland Festival & Games
Alma College, Alma, Michigan, USA**

Clan tent hosts: Mary Ann Baker, Michigan, USA Commissioner

June 9

30th Annual Kansas City Scottish Highland Games

E. H. Young Riverfront Park, Riverside, Missouri, USA

Clan tent host: Brian Garrett, Kansas, USA Commissioner

June 23 & 24

34th Annual San Diego Scottish Highland Games & Gathering of the Clans

Brengle Terrace Park, Vista, California, USA

Clan tent host: Kenneth J. McAlpine, Society President

July 28 & 29

61st Annual Pacific Northwest Scottish Highland Games and Clan Gathering- Site of our 8th AGM!

Enumclaw Expo Center, Enumclaw, Washington, USA

Our Annual General Meeting was held on the festival grounds on Saturday, July 28, 2007.

We participated in a Clan march parade. We had a Clan dinner Saturday evening.

Clan tent hosts: Kenneth McAlpine, Washington, USA Commissioner & Kenneth J.

McAlpine, Society President

September 1 & 2

142st Annual Gathering & Games of the Caledonian Club of San Francisco (This Scottish games event is one of the oldest in the USA and one of the largest in the *world!*)

Alameda County Fairgrounds, Pleasanton, California, USA

Clan tent host: Reney Hensley, Northern California, USA Commissioner

September 22 & 23

14th Annual McPherson Scottish Festival and Highland Games

Lakeside Park, McPherson, Kansas, USA

Clan tent host: Brian Garrett, Kansas, USA Commissioner

October 5 & 6

St. Louis Scottish Games & Cultural Festival

Forest Park, St. Louis, Missouri, USA

Clan tent host: Brian Garrett, Kansas, USA Commissioner

November 3 & 4

19th Annual Tucson Celtic Festival & Highland Games

Rillito Park Raceway, Tucson, Arizona, USA

Clan tent host: Dallas Thirey, Arizona, USA Commissioner

2008 Alma, Michigan, USA, Highland Festival Games



Report On 9th AGM – May 24, 2008

Clan MacAlpine Gathers at the Society's 9th AGM

Our Annual General Meeting was held on the festival grounds on Saturday, May 24, 2008. We had a casual Clan dinner Saturday night. The Alma Highland Festival and Games began in 1968. The festival is located on the Alma College campus in Alma, Michigan. Each year the festival brings visitors the very best of Scottish tradition. The festival combines great competition with Scottish hospitality.

Subject: 9th Annual General Meeting

Just a quick update on highlights of the AGM

18 members attended the meeting which was held on May 24, 2008 at the Alma Highland Festival and Games in Alma, Michigan, USA. In all, about 30 members/friends participated in all or part of the activities over the weekend.

Discussions during the AGM included:

Current status of Armigers: Of the nine needed, two are on the books and the Lord Lyon has signed a warrant for one more. A fourth is close to having a warrant signed. With the possibility that some of these coats of arms could also matriculate to brothers, we are making progress toward our goal.

The Gathering: The group voted to have the Society represented at The Gathering in Edinburgh in 2009. The society will reserve and pay for a tent in the clan area, which will

be paid for by membership dues to be collected in the coming months. We will ask for volunteers to represent the society at the clan tent. Details will be forthcoming on the clan website and via newsletter.

DNA project: Discussion took place regarding interest in a DNA project to identify relationships between clan members. Pros and cons were identified. It was agreed that an article in an upcoming newsletter would be used to gauge interest from clan members on whether to participate in the project.

Volunteers were solicited to assume various responsibilities relating to the society. Sophia Els McAlpine volunteered to assume editorial responsibility for the newsletter, which we hope to revamp and publish at least once or twice a year. Articles and information will be solicited from members for the newsletter. Michael McAlpin volunteered to coordinate clan festival/tent/event activities. Mary Ann McAlpine Baker volunteered to assume membership responsibilities. Kenneth J. (clan society president) will continue with treasurer responsibilities and general oversight. We would like to identify a webmaster to assume responsibility for the website and identify and manage a message board service.

Look for additional details on the AGM and topics of discussion in an upcoming newsletter. Also, we hope to post a few pictures from the weekend on our Facebook page soon.

In kinship,

Mary Ann McAlpine Baker







Clan Events We Hosted in 2008!

February 16 & 17

**Queen Mary 15th Annual Scottish Festival & Games
Onboard The Queen Mary, Long Beach, California, USA**

Clan tent host: Kenneth J. McAlpine, Society President

February 23 & 24

**44th Annual Arizona Scottish Gathering and Highland Games
Mesa Community College, Mesa, Arizona, USA**

Clan tent host: Dallas Thirey, Arizona, USA Commissioner

April 26 & 27

**132nd Annual Sacramento Valley Scottish Games & Festival
Yolo County Fairgrounds, Woodland, California, USA**

Clan tent host: Renee Hensley, Northern California, USA Commissioner

May 24 & 25

**41st Alma Highland Festival & Games- Site of our 9th AGM!
Alma College, Alma, Michigan, USA**

Our Annual General Meeting will be held (Time To Be Announced) on the festival grounds on Saturday, May 24, 2008. There will also be a Clan march (Time To Be Announced).

Clan tent host: Mary Ann Baker, Michigan, USA Commissioner

June 14 & 15

**31st Annual Kansas City Scottish Highland Games
E. H. Young Riverfront Park, Riverside, Missouri, USA**

Clan tent host: Brian Garrett, Kansas, USA Commissioner

June 28 & 29

**35th Annual San Diego Scottish Highland Games & Gathering of the Clans
Brengele Terrace Park, Vista, California, USA**

Clan tent host: Kenneth J. McAlpine, Society President

July 28 & 29

**62nd Annual Pacific Northwest Scottish Highland Games and Clan Gathering
Enumclaw Expo Center, Enumclaw, Washington, USA**

Clan tent host: Kenneth McAlpine, Washington, USA Commissioner

August 30 & 31st

143rd Annual Gathering & Games of the Caledonian Club of San Francisco (This Scottish games event is one of the oldest in the USA and one of the largest in the *world!*)

Alameda County Fairgrounds, Pleasanton, California, USA

Clan tent host: Reney Hensley, Northern California, USA Commissioner

September 27 & 28

15th Annual McPherson Scottish Festival and Highland Games

Lakeside Park, McPherson, Kansas, USA

Clan tent host: Brian Garrett, Kansas, USA Commissioner

November 3 & 4

20th Annual Tucson Celtic Festival & Highland Games

Rillito Park Raceway, Tucson, Arizona, USA

Clan tent host: Dallas Thirey, Arizona, USA Commissioner

2009 Edinburgh, Scotland, The Gathering

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



The 'clan village' at The Gathering.

The Gathering 2009 was a two-day weekend event, celebrating Scottish culture, held between 25–26 July 2009, as part of Homecoming 2009. The event was held at Holyrood Park, Scotland, and attracted around 47,000 people from all over the world. Over 125 Scottish clans were represented in what was described as the largest Highland Games in Scotland's history. A clan convention also took place, also the largest recorded meeting of chiefs.

However despite being initially hailed as success subsequent revelations that the organisers had overseen a £600,000 loss lead to the event's finances being described as a fiasco in the Scottish Press.

Festivities

Thankfully in 2009 the lives of clan chiefs and their clansmen, both in Scotland and abroad, are somewhat less blood-soaked and unhappy than those experienced by thousands of their ancestors.

The Duke of Rothesay

The Gathering took place at [Holyrood Park](#) between 25–26 July. On the evening of 25 July, about 20,000 people lined the [Royal Mile](#) and watched the parade of about 8,000 clan members and pipe bands march from the [Palace of Holyroodhouse](#) to [Edinburgh Castle Esplanade](#). The [Duke of Rothesay](#) officially opened the weekend event, which attracted over 47,000 people from at least 40 different countries. 125 Scottish clans were represented and 85 clan chiefs were also present. Visitors enjoyed traditional [Highland Games](#), piping, dancing, live music performances, and sampled Scottish food, drink, as well as crafts and textiles. The majority of the weekend visitors attended the festivities on the 25th, with about 30,000 enjoying the sunshine, while rain the next day dampened the mood of some attendees. The event was reported to have been the world's largest Highland Games and clan meeting. It was not, however, a sell out. The day before the festivities, 7,400 out of 8,100 tickets that guaranteed access to the parade and esplanade had been sold. The cost of such tickets was £95 a piece. Also, only 12,000 tickets out of 30,000 had been sold for the event held in Holyrood Park.

Clan convention

A Clan Convention was held on 24 July 2009, located at the [Scottish Parliament](#). The convention was made up of more than 100 clan chiefs and about 300 other people. The meeting of chiefs was the first of such scale in recorded history. One of the points discussed at the convention was the use of [social networking](#) to reach young people. About 40 clan chiefs were not present for the convention; and it was noted that a minority of chiefs refuse to participate in clan functions.

McAlpine 2009 AGM

The AGM for Clan McAlpine was held at The Gathering 2009, part of Scotland's Homecoming event. Attending the AGM were, We also participated by manning the McAlpine Society tent and had many visitor's.

The Gathering in Edinburgh 2009

<http://www.clangathering.org/>

Tue May 27 18:13:27 UTC 2008

Internet turns Scottish clans into global tribe

By Chloe Fussell

EDINBURGH (Reuters) - When the ancient system of Scottish tribes risked fading away two decades ago the 30th chief of the Carmichael clan turned to the Mormon Church. That's where Richard Carmichael of Carmichael found thousands of genealogical records and the addresses for people around the world who shared his surname.

Today, many of the 140 officially recognized clans have morphed into massive online

associations, whose ranks have been swelled by enthusiastic Americans, Canadians, Australians, New Zealanders and South Africans keen to have a link to their Scottish heritage.

Descendants abroad are often delighted to discover that hundreds of years after the MacDonalds and MacDuffs first organized themselves into loose family associations that many kilt-wearing clan chiefs still live on the ancestral lands and pass their titles down to the next generation.

"It's very difficult to take on a role that's historic and redundant. In the 80s, we often heard that the clans were finished because no one lived in the locality anymore," Carmichael told Reuters.

"A few of us fought hard to defy that and the clan has got back on course. The world wide web has made the global clan a reality."

When Carmichael became chief in 1981 -- taking over the clan's estate north of Glasgow -- he used the Mormon Church's extensive genealogical records to track down thousands of Carmichaels and sent everyone an invitation to a gathering.

One hundred and fifty of the Carmichael descendants traveled to the revived clan gathering that year, and the chief resolved to hold them every few years. He estimated the clan numbers around a quarter of a million people around the world.

In the 18th and 19th centuries, a succession of land improvement schemes by landowners in Scotland resulted in the "Highland clearances", which drove tens of thousands of people from their homes to make way for sheep. Many, facing deprivation and starvation, emigrated to the New World and beyond.

Rather than waging war against the English and keeping clan members in check, today's chiefs see their role as educational. They also keep in touch with each other at the standing council of chiefs.

"If the chief has a role at all, it's to serve the people, especially abroad, who are interested in their forebears. A lot of my jobs are social or administrative," said George MacMillan of MacMillan and Knap, chief of the MacMillan clan.

As well as looking after the estate and farming livestock, MacMillan finds himself increasingly traveling to countries where Scots emigrated.

Americans in particular are fascinated by tracing their genealogy, but MacMillan has also

been invited to clan gatherings in Canada, Australia and New Zealand. He has even been invited to celebrity-obsessed Los Angeles later this year.

But the newly revived interest among the Scottish Diaspora has not been echoed at home, even though most Scots carry a traditional clan name, and the ancestral homes still exist.

"To Americans, Australians, Canadians and New Zealanders, it's a completely staggering fact that I'm still living here near 1,000 years after the name began," Carmichael said.

"The disinterest in the UK is quite marked. To them, it's just about an old building right on their doorstep."

(Editing by Paul Casciato)



Clan McAlpine



AGM



Clan McAlpine Dinner



Getting ready to walk the Royal Mile



Pageant Clan March of the Royal Mile, a welcome home



Scottish Play at the Edinburgh Castle Esplanade





Scottish Pageant



Time for a pint Bruce, Kenneth, Michael, Dale

Clan Events We Hosted in 2009!

July 25 & 26

Hollyrood Park, Edinburgh, Scotland, The Gathering 2009

There will be an evening dinner for the Clan of Friday July 24th. Our Annual General Meeting will be held at General meeting tent, prior to the games on morning of Saturday 25th, with a Clan parade & Pageant to take place 7PM. Clan tent host: Kenneth J. McAlpine, Society President

2010 Costa Mesa, California, USA, Scots Fest

Scots Fest 2010

Clan McAlpine Society held their 2010 AGM at Scots Fest 2010 at the Orange County Fair and Event Center in Costa Mesa, CA, Memorial Day Weekend May 29-30, 2010. The organizers told us this year had a record of the most clans attended, 57. This year the festival also had the most pipe bands in Festival history! Twenty-three bands, including 6 bands from Canada. Scots Fest also hosted the NATIONAL ATHLETIC CHAMPIONSHIP, HIGHLAND DANCING WESTERN REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP and the added a fourth entertainment stage.

Friday night there was a tour of Scotland and Single Malt tasting at the Irvine Marriot Hotel. A handful of our group attended this event while others went to dinner.

The AGM was attended by Kenneth McAlpine, Michael and Carolyn McAlpin, Renee Hensley, her father John, Earl McAlpine and Robin McAlpine, Visiting us from Canada were Bruce McAlpine and his brother-in-law, Dave , Monette Cortez and her daughter, and Christine McAlpine McCabe, and her husband.

The evening after our AGM, members enjoyed dinner at a local pub before dispersing back to the hotel or home.



Rear Row: Bruce, John Hensley, Kenneth McAlpine, John McAlpine, Michael McAlpin, Earl McAlpine **Front Row:** Monette Cortez and her daughter, Douglas McAlpine, Alex McAlpine, Carolyn McAlpin, Robin McAlpine, Renee Hensley



McAlpine Clan March



Clan McAlpine Society at work



Clan McAlpine Dinner

Officers Committee

President: [Michael T. McAlpin](#)

Vice-President: [Renee Hensley](#)

Treasurer: [Kenneth J. McAlpine](#)

Secretary: [Robin L. McAlpine](#)

Membership Secretary: [Mary Ann McAlpine Baker](#)

Member At-large: [John Gilpin](#)

Member At-large: [Finn C. Alpin](#)

Clan Historian: [E. Dale McAlpine](#)

Appointments

Newsletter Editor: [Janet McAlpine](#)

Regional Commissioners

Australia: None at present

Canada: None at present

Mexico: None at present

New Zealand: None at present

Sweden

[Finn C. Alpin](#)

United Kingdom

[John Gilpin](#)

USA

California: North: Renee Hensley

California: South: Kenneth J. McAlpine

Georgia: Michael T. McAlpin

Idaho: Robert G. Winkle

Kansas: Brian Garrett

Michigan: Mary Ann McAlpine Baker

Utah: Dodd L. Greer

Washington: Kenneth McAlpine

Clan Events We Hosted in 2010!

February 13 & 14

Queen Mary 14th Annual Scottish Festival & Games

Onboard The Queen Mary, Long Beach, California, USA

Clan tent host: Kenneth J. McAlpine, Society President

May 29 & 30

72nd Annual Scottish Festival

Orange County Fairgrounds, Costa Mesa, California, USA

Our Annual General Meeting was held on the festival grounds on Saturday, May 29, 2010. There was a Clan march.

Clan tent host: Kenneth J. McAlpine, Society President

May 29 & 30

41st Alma Highland Festival & Games- Site of our 9th AGM!

Alma College, Alma, Michigan, USA

Clan tent host: Jeff Baker



Tent display at the Alma Highland Festival. The sign in the background is an old Gaelic saying, "Hills and Streams and MacAlpine", signifying the ancient roots of our clan.



Clan MacAlpine Society members at the Alma Highland Festival 2010. From l to r: Jeff Baker, Alexandra McDonald, Jackie (McAlpine) McDonald, Mary Ann (McAlpine) Baker, Don McDonald, Kenneth G. McAlpine.

Presented Historian: Earl McAlpine, July 18, 2010

Note: If you find any discrepancy, or additional photo's, names and events past / future information on Clan MacAlpine history, please forward to:

<mailto:earlmcalpine@yahoo.com>