



Chief of Chiefs

The Worldwide Organization
For MacAlpines

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The Newsletter Of The Clan MacAlpine Society

Remember the death of Alpin!

Notes from the AGM in Edinburgh

The Gathering in Edinburgh was a wonderful experience. There were nearly 50,000 Clansmen from all over the world in attendance, and it made it the largest gathering in over 200 years.

This was our Society's second Annual General Meeting in Scotland. The setting was exquisite, the Clan Tent was well attended, and the march up the Royal Mile from Holyrood to Edinburgh Castle was exhilarating. The Royal Mile is one of the most famous streets in Europe's capital cities. It has witnessed Royal processions, public executions and riots. Every notable figure in Scotland's rich history has walked this street. This was the first time that all the clans have paraded from the royal Palace of Holyrood up to the Edinburgh Castle esplanade. It is a true distance of 1 mile and 107 yards, a climb of 560 feet from the bottom to the top.

The pageant, "Aisling's Children" was a powerful message of the unique character of the entire Scots diaspora.

President Kenneth McAlpin, and Commissioner Michael McAlpin represented our Society at a full day

event with the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs. This event was held at the Scottish Parliament, and was attended by over 100 of the Clan Chiefs themselves.

Arms for Commissioner Finn S Alpin are near completion, and an additional application for a Coat of Arms has been submitted to Lord Lyon King of Arms. These arms, when granted will go to Sidney McAlpin, of Olympia, Washington.

The rules governing recognition (presently nine armigers) vary from Lyon Court to Lyon Court, however, each Society sponsored event further demonstrates our desire and effort to become a recognized Clan.

As discussed at the AGM, there are many areas that we need to work on. A regular newsletter, reinstatement of dues, reestablishing the message board, more engagement with our Scots based McAlpin(e)s and other efforts

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**UNITE! UNITE!
UNITE!**

UPCOMING ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Each year, the Society sponsors an Annual General Meeting (AGM) to which **all Clan members are welcome**. The focus of the AGM is to provide an opportunity for our Clan to gather together in a celebration of our heritage, to discuss issues of importance to the Clan and the Society, and to develop the kinship ties that bond us together. The following is our schedule of upcoming AGM dates and locations. For the most current information, visit our website or contact the Society directly for more info. We hope to see you there!

Costa Mesa California
Memorial Day Weekend May 29-30, 2010
Orange County Fair & Event Center

<http://www.scotsfest.com/index.htm>

2009 AGM at The GATHERING IN EDINBURGH



Kenneth McAlpine - Born to be King?

Kenneth was born around 800AD in the Gaelic Kingdom of Dal Riata - it was a time when the Gaels were dominated by the more powerful Pictish kingdom. His father, Ailpín, was beheaded fighting for a Pictish king and historical sources suggest that his mother was a Pictish princess.

In the confusion and terror caused by the ferocious ninth century Viking raids, the Pictish kingship was almost completely destroyed. Wrad, a Pictish warlord, eventually became King of the Picts at the same time as Kenneth became King of Dal Riata.

When Wrad died in 842 his kingship was contested. Wrad's sons believed they were the rightful heirs, whilst Kenneth, through royal Pictish descent on his mother's side, claimed the kingship for himself - his claims were heard all the louder with the backing of his Gaelic and Pictish followers. The matter was settled seven years later when Kenneth invited Drest, last of the sons of Drest, to a truce meeting at Scone, a meeting at which Kenneth treacherously slew his rival.

Dunadd Hillfort was the royal centre for the Gaelic Kingdom of Dal Riata, where Kenneth MacAlpine first ruled before moving to Pictland.



As Kenneth MacAlpine triumphed in Pictland, he faced a new challenge. A Viking fleet of 140 ships intent on destruction attacked Dal Riata. It spelled doom for the Gaelic kingdom; the Gaels collected the relics of their saints and moved them to Kenneth's new Pictish kingdom. Dal Riata vanishes from the chronicles and we only hear of Pictland from this point.

Kenneth was able to reward his Gaelic followers with lands taken from the men who supported the sons of Wrad, but he no doubt faced resentment from the Picts over their new Gaelic overlords. Unity was needed: something the Picts and Gaels had in common, to define them as a single people, and, as is so often the case throughout history, this came in the form of a common enemy. Kenneth raided the Angles of Northumbria for booty.

The Dupplin Cross, which would have been visible from the Pictish royal palace of Forteviot, where King Kenneth MacAlpine ruled and died. The cross is thought to have been erected for an earlier Pictish King, who would have ruled whilst Kenneth was a child in Gaelic Dal Riata.



Kenneth died in 858 at the Palace of Forteviot. For the Gaels he was the conqueror of the Picts and their bards lamented his passing: 'That Kenneth with his host is no more brings weeping to every home. No king of his worth under heaven is there, to the bounds of Rome.'

What the Picts thought is unrecorded. They must have believed the Gaels and Kenneth's successors would adopt Pictish ways ... but it is the Picts who vanish from history.

Hope of finding first King Kenneth McAlpin's first home

Archaeologists believe they could be closer to discovering the site of the palace belonging to the first King of a united Scotland.



Last year students excavated a ritual site and cemetery

The academics at Glasgow University have been studying documents and previous archaeological finds to narrow down the location in Perthshire.

They will return in August to Forteviot in the hope of uncovering evidence of Kenneth MacAlpine's wooden castle. MacAlpine died at the Palace of Forteviot in 858.

Dr Kenneth Brophy from the University of Glasgow said: "The palace is mentioned in a lot of medieval and later texts as being a stone building, but because it's early medieval it would've been a wooden building. "It's allegedly in the Foteviot area somewhere and various attempts have been made to find it archaeologically before, but they've not been successful."

The academics have previously carried out work in the surrounding area. They excavated the entrance of an enclosure they believe would have been used for ritual purposes, and would have been more impressive than Stonehenge.

They also worked on a graveyard, which they suspect could have been the biggest medieval cemetery in Scotland. About 40 researchers and 10 local people will work in the area in August for three weeks in the hope of finding the royal palace.

Dr Brophy said: "It would be the first archaeological proof that there was a royal centre at Forteviot, which obviously has implications for our understanding of the early Scottish nation. "My colleagues are very excited about the possibility of actually pinning down this almost legendary building. "What's now a very small village, was once maybe one of the major centres of royal power in Scotland."

Flowers Of The Forrest

Mary Hensley

We are sad to let you know that we recently lost one of our long-time supporters and Clansfolk, Mary Hensley passed away this month after a battling illness since last September. Mary's daughter, Renee Hensley, is our Northern California Commissioner and it was just shortly after the Pleasanton festival that Mary became ill. Mary was in and out of the hospital over the next few months but was unable to recover from her illness. Mary, along with her husband Jon and their daughter Renee and son Jonathan, were frequent visitors to the Clan MacAlpine tent at various games since Renee joined the Society back in 2003. They were frequent attendees at our Annual General Meeting, including the 2007 Enumclaw festival as pictured below. Mary's constant smile and gentle nature will be thoroughly missed at our events. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers.



Mary Hensley, center, pictured with Clan members at the 2007 AGM.

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IF YOU HAVE NEW CONTACT INFORMATION, PLEASE LET US KNOW!