



The Worldwide  
Organization  
For MacAlpines

# Chief of Chiefs

## Newsletter Of The Clan MacAlpine Society

*Remember the death of Alpin!*

3rd Qtr 2010 ~ Volume 12



Sir William McAlpine



John McAlpine



Michael McAlpin



William McAlpine

## President's Message

I would like to thank all those who have contributed so much over the last few months.

Together, we have taken on the arduous task of revamping our newsletter distribution list, of reaching out to Lord Lyon, Sir William, our Scots based membership, and our members that we have lost contact with.

This process will take time, but is vital in maintaining contact with our Clan Roll Call.

Through good dialogue with commissioners and members throughout our membership, we have sought to broaden the participation throughout the Society.

We are fortunate to have added the arms of Sir William to our effort, and we have had positive correspondence with the Lord Lyon, advising him of our present status, and our ultimate goal.

His response, though certainly not assuring our ultimate success, clearly acknowledges our direction, and "awaits further developments" regarding our efforts.

Lord Lyon has also issued warrants for arms to two new Armigers within the Society, Finn Alpin in Sweden, and Sid McAlpin, in Olympia, Washington, USA. Their arms, both now out for artistry, once issued will add to our banner.

Through the good offices of John Gilpin in the UK, we have sent letters to our

kinsmen in Scotland asking for their renewed support, and soliciting potential Armigers, John has also been successful in posting an article in both Lochaber Life, and the Evening Express.

Throughout the Society, our membership has been represented at Scottish gatherings in many locations.

The efforts to develop a presence on Facebook has instituted another vehicle to post Society matters and to attract members.

I would ask that each person in the Society considers how they expand the Roll Call, engages their sons, daughters, cousins, and nephews in our effort and lets strive to add substantially to the Clan Roll Call in the next year.

Together, united, and acting in co-operation, we will continue to build our membership base, seek additional Armigers, and push to our ultimate goal.

In kinship,

Michael T. McAlpin

## UNITE! UNITE! UNITE!

### Society Officers

**President:** Michael T. McAlpin

**Vice President:** Renee Hensley

**Treasurer:** Kenneth McAlpine

**Secretary:** Robin McAlpin

**Historian:** Dale McAlpin

**Editor:** Janet McAlpine

### Coordinators

**Canada:** Bruce McAlpin  
bdmacalpine@personainternet.com

**Europe:** Finn Alpin  
finndane@gmail.com

**United Kingdom:** John Gilpin  
j.gilpin1@brinternet.com

**Eastern U.S.:** Mary Ann Baker  
wizad3@yahoo.com

**Western U.S.:** Renee Hensley  
rhensley95@comcast.net

### Commissioners

**England:** John Gilpin  
j.gilpin1@brinternet.com

**Sweden:** Finn Alpin  
finndane@gmail.com

### USA

**California (N):** Renee Hensley  
rhensley95@comcast.net

**California (S):** Kenneth McAlpine  
kenneth@macalpineclan.com

**Georgia:** Michael T. McAlpin  
mc539@aol.com

**Idaho:** Robert G. Winkle, Esq.  
winkle@cableone.net

**Kansas:** Brian Garrett  
atoz@grapevine.net

**Michigan:** Mary Ann Baker  
wizad3@yahoo.com

# Prominent MacAlpines in America

## James McAlpin

(b. 1839)

*Submitted by Doris McAlpin Russell*

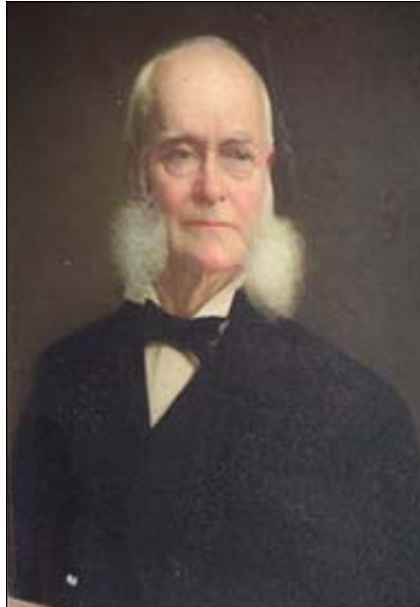
MacAlpines were found in the records of America by the early 1700's, although a few may have been here by the 1600's. Some of these families became rather prominent. One such family was that of David Hunter McAlpin of New York, one of several children born to James and Jane Hunter McAlpin.

James McAlpin, born in 1781 in Scotland and died 1849 in New York, married Jane Hunter. They sailed from Ireland aboard the ship "Jupiter" and arrived in the Port of New York on June 1, 1811. They settled at Fishkill On The Hudson, Dutchess County, N.Y., where in 1812 he was listed as a weaver. One story says he was a small grocer who was ruined by a fire which destroyed his property.

David Hunter McAlpin, son of James and Jane, was born in 1816 in Pleasant Valley, Dutchess Co., N.Y, and died 1901 at his home on W. 58th St., New York City. He was married to Frances Adelaide Rose and had nine children: David Hunter Jr., died age 11, Edwin Augustus, Joseph Rose, George Lowowick, William Willet, Frances Adelaide McAlpin Pyle, Dr. David Hunter Jr., Charles Williston, and John Randolph McAlpin, all born between 1846 and 1869. All these children became prominent in business and society. After being widowed in 1870, David married twice more.

According to one source, David went to work in a cotton factory at age ten and worked at various other occupations before going to NYC in 1836 to embark on a career in the tobacco business. He opened one store, then a second, and in 1857 bought out his partners and established the firm of D.H. McAlpin & Company. David eventually became less active in the business and the company was then run by his son, General Edwin Augustus McAlpin. Edwin was a great friend of Ben Duke (Duke University). Duke ran American Tobacco for many years and the General sold the McAlpin Company to him for cash even though he was offered stock. The American Tobacco stock would later be worth a fortune.

David Hunter McAlpin invested in real estate and his holding eventually included the Alpine block on Broadway between 33rd and 34th streets in NYC, his factory buildings, holdings on West 23rd street, and considerable property in residential areas. He expanded his holdings into Morristown, N.J. and eventually owned



1,500 acres around the city, a large block of property in the business center of town, and a huge home. He had stock in several banks and was a director of the Home Insurance Co., The Manhattan Life Insurance Co., The National Bank of the Republic, and a long list of other businesses. He had an excellent library and was known as a gentleman of intelligence and culture. He had a robust constitution, a cheery and happy disposition, and ranked among the eminently successful self-made men of New York. Descendants of his family can still be found in the New York Social Register.

The well known McAlpin Hotel located at Broadway and 34th Street in NYC

was built in 1912 by General Edwin Augustus McAlpin. A number of McAlpin groups have claimed that it was their family who built it, but records prove that the son of David Hunter McAlpin was the builder. Today the hotel is a nice apartment complex known as McAlpin Apartments.

The David Hunter McAlpin family probably ranks as the most prominent McAlpin group in America. Only through DNA testing will it be possible to determine if the descendants of James McAlpin have other relatives in America.



# Notable MacAlpines

## William McAlpin

(b. 1839)

*Submitted by Finn Alpin*

Continuing with our theme on Notable MacAlpines in history, this issue features **William McAlpin (b. 11839)**

William McAlpin was born January 20th, 1839, in Cincinnati, Ohio. He was the youngest son of the late Andrew and Margaret (Merrie) McAlpin, the parents representing two of the pioneer families in the early history of Cincinnati.

Andrew McAlpin, the grandfather, came to the United States from Scotland in 1795, bringing Andrew, his son and namesake, then but two years old, who was born in Glasgow, Scotland, October 12th, 1793. The McAlpins first made Philadelphia their home.

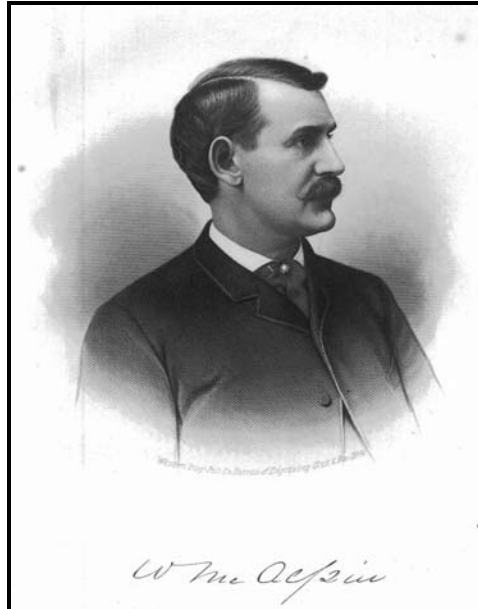
In 1812 young Andrew, then but nineteen, enlisted as a soldier, receiving after his honorable discharge, a land warrant.

In 1817 the McAlpins removed to Cincinnati, where Andrew McAlpin, Jr., commenced an honorable and successful career. He died October 27th, 1863, broken-hearted, after returning from the battle of Stone River, whither he had gone to bring home his son, Captain Henry McAlpin, who was mortally wounded in that battle, while in command of Company B, Sixth Ohio Infantry. Captain McAlpin fell December 31st, 1862, lingering until January 10th, 1863, and died in the hospital at Nashville, Tennessee.

After removal to Cincinnati, Andrew, the father, met and married Margaret Merrie, a daughter of Robert Merrie, in the Spring of 1818. Her father was a native of Ayr, Scotland, and had arrived, with his family, in Cincinnati in 1804. Margaret was born in Philadelphia, in 1798. Her mother, Eleanor Arthur, before marriage, was also a native of Scotland.

Five of Andrew and Margaret McAlpin's children reached maturity the youngest of the family, William, is the subject of this sketch.

William McAlpin entered Yale in 1856, and graduated from there in 1860, one of the honor-men of his class. After a period of five years, in which he engaged in business with his father's firm, McAlpin, Hinman & Co., Mr. McAlpin, finding himself much in need of rest, mental and physical, concluded to abandon the cares of business and seek both the rest and edification of travel abroad.



Mr. McAlpin then gave up mercantile pursuits altogether, and after 1868 gave his time almost entirely to Church and charitable work, and to fostering public enterprises, having in view the culture of his native city.

The history of the Cincinnati Expositions, the building of Springer Music Hall, and the founding of the College of Music and the Art Museum, can not be written without giving special prominence to the name of William McAlpin.

In 1874 and 1875 Mr. McAlpin served as associate Exposition commissioner; and in 1879, '80, and '81, as commissioner. While acting in this capacity he was in charge of the Art Department, the Natural History Department, the Department of Household Art, and the Department of Space.

At the opening of the Cincinnati Exposition in 1880, a benefactor proposed to give one hundred and fifty thousand dollars towards forming an Art Museum, provided the same amount would be subscribed by other citizens for the same purpose. Mr. McAlpin was a member of the executive committee, then appointed, which succeeded in raising one hundred and sixty thousand dollars within thirty days.

In 1882 Mr. McAlpin became a member of the board of directors of the College of Music, in January, 1885, he was elected vice-president. During the sickness and consequent absence of the president, Mr. McAlpin served faithfully and efficiently as president of the college.

Mr. McAlpin became active in organizing the "Yale Alumni Association of Cincinnati," the first society of this kind in the country, of which he was recording secretary, and one year its president.

**Editor's Note:** A side note to this article from Finn Alpin is word from Michael T. McAlpin, Clan MacAlpine Society President who says "I used to buy suits from his Mercantile Store in Cincinnati and Lexington, when I lived in Louisville. The store was called McAlpin's, and it was this was stitched on the interior pocket of the suit jacket".

## Flowers of the Forest



It is with sadness that we report the passing of Benjamin B. McAlpin, III. Known to his friends as "Ben," he was born on May 3, 1929 to the late Alberta McAlpin and Benjamin McAlpin. Ben died in Greenwich, NY on September 10, 2010 after a long illness with cancer. He was a longtime resident of Greenwich where he resided with his wife, Jean, who died in 2002. He was a graduate of Phillips Exeter Academy, Princeton University and the New York University Graduate School of Business Administration. During his retirement, he pursued scripture studies at Union Theological Seminary.

Ben served in the Airborne Infantry during the Korean War. After his discharge from the service, Ben served as an intelligence officer for the Central Intelligence Agency. During his business career, he worked for a variety of financial institutions and finished his business career as an account executive with AT&T in New York City.

Ben was a member of the Greenwich Field Club and the Knickerbocker Club in New York City. He was also an active member of many associations and societies including the Society of Mayflower Defendants and Sons of the Revolution.

## Clan MacAlpine Society Represented at Treasure Valley

*Submitted by Robert Winkle, Esq.*



For the fifth consecutive year, Clan MacAlpine Society was represented at Treasure Valley Celtic Festival and Highland Games in Boise, Idaho, with a clan tent and during the introduction of the Clans in the opening ceremonies. This year's festival saw a dramatic increase in attendance, as well as an increase in clan participation of almost 50%.

Although the Society has yet to be represented in caber tossing, it was represented in last year's bagpiping competition with Robert Winkle (the Society tent host) taking first place in the G5 march and a second place in the G5 slow air."



## Where have the MacAlpine's gone?

*Contributed by Janet McAlpine*

It is said that eighty percent of Scots are "Scots abroad". Our roll call would seem to validate that. A recent survey of those who have signed on to the Clan MacAlpine Society bears out the following:

| Country          | Percent |
|------------------|---------|
| Argentina        | 0.1%    |
| Australia        | 3.7%    |
| Bahamas          | 0.2%    |
| Canada           | 10.3%   |
| Denmark          | 0.4%    |
| France           | 0.5%    |
| Germany          | 0.2%    |
| Ireland          | 0.3%    |
| Jamaica          | 0.1%    |
| Mexico           | 0.4%    |
| Namibia          | 0.1%    |
| Netherlands      | 0.1%    |
| New Zealand      | 1.0%    |
| Northern Ireland | 0.3%    |
| South Africa     | 0.3%    |
| Spain            | 0.1%    |
| Swaziland        | 0.1%    |
| Sweden           | 0.8%    |
| Trinidad         | 0.1%    |
| United Kingdom   | 8.0%    |
| USA              | 73.1%   |
|                  | 100.0%  |



### Help Wanted!

The MacAlpine Society web site is no longer supported by our host, and must be migrated to a new platform. Before we reach into our coffers and outsource this, is there an aspiring Bill Gates on the list that might lend a hand?

If so, please email:  
[michael@macalpineclan.com](mailto:michael@macalpineclan.com)