



# Remember the Death of Alpin

## Newsletter Of The Clan MacAlpine Society

2nd Qtr 2011 ~ Volume 14

The Worldwide  
Organization  
For MacAlpines



John McAlpine



William McAlpine



Sir William McAlpine



Michael McAlpin



Finn Alpin



Sidney Fay McAlpin

## President's Message

Presidents Message –

Congratulations to Sid McAlpin on the receipt of his arms from Lord Lyon and the Lyon Court.

Sid's arms and my own are very close as they are matriculated from the same source, Neil McAlpin (1758-1831) of Kilmartin Scotland, and Robeson County, North Carolina. Close scrutiny will find "differences" as set forth by Lyon Court which are an indication of order of birth etc.

The award of arms is the result of years of application, research, and effort, and we welcome him to the ranks of our existing five Society Members that hold Arms. Sid's petition was presented to the Lyon Court on July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009, and he received his arms Feb 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011 yet another indication of the length of time and diligence the Court takes in these matters.

I am excited that we have now six members who hold arms. We have another applicant who has his petition together, and will be submitting it soon. This should be a strong indication to the Lyon Court of the level of effort that is being put forth to pursue our goal.

I wish to caution however, that there is a long road ahead, and no certainty.

Once we demonstrate to the Lyon Court that we have sufficient representation of a broad base of various branches of

MacAlpines from a broad geographic area, he may, at his discretion, allow a family meeting of officers (historically nine or more Armigers) that the court recognizes. Under Court supervision, a "Commander" may be elected to represent the Clan. If the Lyon Court agrees to formally recognize the Clan, there will still be a considerable length of time (years in fact) before formal recognition and a Clan Chief (presumably the elected "Commander" would become official. In addition, there will be many other obstacles that we will have to overcome.

This year's Annual Meeting will be at the Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games on Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup>. I hope for good discussion on our progress, and of course great camaraderie and kinship.

I look forward to seeing you there.

In Kinship,

Michael T McAlpin



## UNITE! UNITE! UNITE!

### Society Officers

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**Treasurer:** Kenneth McAlpine  
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## 2011 Annual Meeting at Fergus, Ontario, Canada

submitted by *Bruce MacAlpine*  
[bdmacalpine@personainternet.com](mailto:bdmacalpine@personainternet.com)

I am excited to be your host for this year's event, the second Society Annual meeting to be held in Canada.



The Fergus Games have been a success since their beginning in 1946. The Games exemplify all things Scottish with a focus on heavy events, dancing, piping, clans and family interactive fun.

We will post our meeting location in our Clan Tent, which will be located in Clan Row at the Fergus Games. If you have items to display at the Clan Tent, please contact me. I look forward to seeing you all at the Games.

We have arranged for dinner on Saturday at the Breadalbane Inn in Fergus on Saturday, August 13, at 7:00PM. The Breadalbane's ambiance, location, and name, I felt, was appropriate for our group. We have planned a three course meal at approx. 39.95 with choice of soup or salad, chicken salmon or beef, and apple crumble or hot fudge chocolate something, sounds delicious. The Inn has arranged for seating for maximum of thirty in the main dining room. If we have overflow these individuals will need to be seated elsewhere in the restaurant. Please email soon if you plan to attend the dinner, so I can arrange proper seating.

It is anticipated, that we may be taking part in the Friday evening program and also the Opening Ceremonies Parade at noon on Saturday. We would like to have as many as possible participate in these activities, so dig out your kilts and put on your sashes and join us for a weekend of fellowship. More information to follow when it becomes available.

In Kinship,  
Bruce



There's something for everyone at the Fergus Scottish Games and Highland Festival!

*Music ~ bands ~ bagpipes ~ drums ~ crafts for the kids ~ heavy events ~ author lectures ~ highland-dancing ~ sword fighting displays ~ story telling ~ singing ~ heritage information ~ find your family roots!*

**August 12 - 14, 2011**  
**Fergus, Ontario**

## Blairvockie

Submitted by *Finn Alpin*

Blairvockie has often been mentioned in relation to the MacAlpines. It is referenced often as housing a Chieftain of the MacAlpines. It is on Loch Lomond, forming a side of a triangle from Blairvockie up to Monachyle and then down across Ben Leddi to Callander. Until the 20th century, Blairvockie Farm formed part of the property of the Dukes of Montrose' Buchanan Castle Estate. It Listed: 4 May 2006 as Historic Scotland Building ID: 50452.

Pure Rob Roy-Country!! This is where the "Glengyle Highland Watch" (Gregarach) was operating from. The Sterling Observer covered an interesting story throughout September 1880 in a series of articles titled The Captive Heiress of Strarthendrick in which describes Blairvockie as "This beautiful property, stretching along the eastern shore of Loch Lomond, in the parish of Buchanan, has one of the finest exposures in all that attractive country. The estate at this time was the property of a Mr. McAlpine".

Additionally, The Buchanan Book: The life of Alexander Buchanan, Q.C., of Montreal published in 1911 references that Walter Buchanan, Laird of Blairvockie married Margaret McAlpine who died in 1619, and later sold Blairvockie to a John McAlpine.

There is a portrait of Henry McAlpin of the Hermitage Plantation of Savannah Georgia which has a family history on the back which reads that the (Henry) McAlpins descend from Blair Vockie, the last chieftain of Clan McAlpin whose estate was on the shores of Loch Katrine. (It is really on Loch Lomond).

Unquestionably, there is a long history of MacAlpines associated with Blairvockie, and it is worth stopping by if you happen to be in the vicinity.



The Cottage is set within the steading (farm building) and being a working hill farm there are opportunities, at various times of year, to observe many aspects of farm life such as lambing, shearing, etc. Blairvockie Farm extends to 5,000 acres including Ben Lomond, offering unlimited scope for hill walking.

### Blairvockie Farm

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by Drymen

G63 0AW

+44 (0) 1360 870242

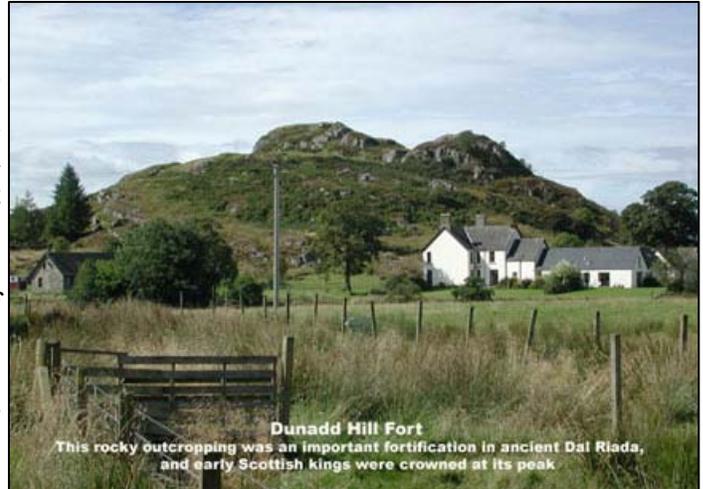
# MacAlpine Historical Sites

Submitted by Mary Ann Baker

*Editors Note: We were fortunate to have received a wonderful report from Mary Ann Baker who assembled a listing of sites that are significant to the history that surrounds the MacAlpines. We will be featuring different parts of her work in our next few newsletters. Thank you Mary Ann for putting this together.*

## I. Kilmartin Valley, Dunadd Hill Fort

Dunadd is the stronghold from where the kings of ancient Dal Riada (the western area of Scotland settled by the Irish, or *Scotti*) ruled. One theory is that Kenneth MacAlpin began his rule in Dal Riada (his father was a Scot and his mother a Pict) and expanded his conquest to the whole of Scotland in 843 A.D. At the top of hill, you can see a flat stone with an imprint of a human foot. It is thought that, following Irish tradition, the King of Dalriada was inaugurated by placing his foot into the rocky imprint into which soil from various areas of his kingdom had been placed, thus signifying rulership over all the land.



## II. Dunstaffnage Castle, near Oban

Dunstaffnage is a ruined castle built by the McDougalls in 1200s and passed to the Campbells in the 1400s. It sits on land that was traditionally held by the Clan MacAlpin in ancient times. A wooden structure, not a stone castle, would have existed on the site at that time.

## III. Iona Abbey, Island of Iona

St. Columba brought Christianity from Ireland to Scotland here in 563 A.D., and it is considered a holy place to this day. Kenneth MacAlpin is said to be buried on Iona, along with many other ancient kings of Scotland. Look for the “royal mound” in the abbey cemetery. (To get to Iona, you must take a ferry from Oban to the island of Mull, and another passenger ferry from Mull to Iona. See the Caledonian MacBrayne ferry service for more information.)



## Notable MacAlpines

### Robert Alistair McAlpine



**Robert Alistair McAlpine, Baron McAlpine of West Green** (born 14 May 1942), is often known as Alistair McAlpine. He is the son of Robert Edwin McAlpine, Baron McAlpine of Moffat and Ella Mary Gardner Garnett.

He became a life peer in 1984 as **Baron McAlpine of West Green** in the County of Hampshire.

McAlpine was a prominent Conservative peer, close in his views to Margaret Thatcher. He had been both Treasurer and Deputy Chairman of the Conservative Party. In 1996, he defected to James Goldsmith's Referendum Party and in 1997 became its leader following Goldsmith's death. He sat as an Independent Conservative for some time in the House of Lords before rejoining the Conservatives. In 2010 he stepped down from his seat in the House of Lords.

A bon vivant, patron of the arts and author of a dozen books, he pursued these interests with considerable vigor.

He founded his own publishing house in London in the 1960s, and has variously been an art dealer, collector, member of the Arts Council, zookeeper (in Broome, Western Australia), gardener and traveler.



### Clan MacAlpine Society Information

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## Members of Clan MacAlpine Society Celebrate their Heritage

Throughout the year, especially during the warmer seasons, Highland games take place all over the world—wherever Scots are known to reside. Plan to attend one and enjoy all the events that are in celebration of your heritage.

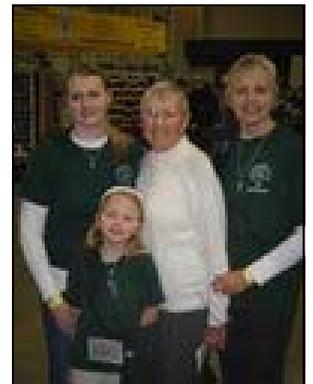
Hopefully, you will find a Clan MacAlpine Society tent or booth to visit while there. Be sure to stop by and make yourself known to other MacAlpines in your community. Who knows; you may even want to host a tent yourself at a games in your area.



*Mary Ann Baker hosted the Clan MacAlpine Society tent at the Alma Highland Festival & Games in Alma, MI.*



*Doug, Ann Marie & Janet McAlpine of Reno, NV visit the Clan MacAlpine Society tent at the Sacramento Highland Games in Woodland, CA.*



*Jean Mangrum and family take time to pose in their MacAlpine shirts at the Scottish Festival in Linn County, OR. Pictured are: Bettylou Ely of Milwaukie, OR; Jean Mangrum of Crabtree, OR, daughter Laurel Lynne Sewell of Lebanon, OR and granddaughter Payton Sewell of Lebanon.*