



The Worldwide
Organization
For MacAlpines

Remember the Death of Alpin

Newsletter Of The Clan MacAlpine Society

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John McAlpine



William McAlpine



Sir William McAlpine



Michael McAlpin



Finn Alpin



Sidney Fay McAlpine

President's Message

Our meeting in Fergus went very well, and I would like to extend my appreciation to everyone who made it successful.

It is always great to see everyone and spend some time in kinship and camaraderie. Bruce McAlpine did a fine job as host and in arranging the tent, the dinner, and the meeting room. Piper Donald McAlpine added a nice touch by piping us into the meeting room and again at dinner. Special thanks to Ken G. McAlpine for donating the door prizes, and Janet from Reno for the new banner.

We were fortunate to be able to bring greetings from Major Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor, from Sir William McAlpine, from our European and UK Commissioners, and from a number of Scottish Organizations and Society members.

I think the importance of sharing these Greetings from across the community is that it demonstrates that over the last twelve years a large network has been brought together and organized across vast distances and branches of MacAlpines.

How wonderful that we had folks from so many places, literally from coast to coast.

We wanted to use this meeting to explain what the process of gaining recognition is (as we understand it), to bring everyone up to date with where we are in the process, what potential outcomes there might be, and what we must do going forward.

The process of gaining recognition is a legal

process, under the jurisdiction of the Court of the Lord Lyon in Scotland.

The guidance that Lord Lyon has given is that members representing differing branches of MacAlpines who bear arms (Armigers), or are recognized as a head of a leading branch, or who hold land in Scotland, conduct a meeting, in Scotland and under the supervision of the Court. At that meeting, and with concurrence from the Court, a Commander can be elected by the family, and recognized by the Court as a suitable Commander for a term of years.

Traditionally, an assembly of nine Armigers or landowners has been required to demonstrate required representation of the various branches.

We now show the arms of six members on our banner and masthead, and one additional member is finalizing paperwork. After paperwork is submitted, it takes it is eighteen months to two years before arms are awarded, so we are still some years away from petitioning the Court and stating our case.

The Court may rule in our favor, rule against our case, ask for further proofs or, greater representation.

As we seek and gain additional Armigers, we need to begin preparing our strongest case why the MacAlpines should be recognized.

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UNITE! UNITE! UNITE!

Society Officers

President: Michael T. McAlpin
Vice President: Renee Hensley-McAlpin
Treasurer: Kenneth McAlpine
Secretary: Robyn McAlpine
Historian: Dale McAlpine
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-McAlpin
rhensley95@comcast.net

Commissioners

England: John Gilpin
j.gilpin1@brinternet.com
Sweden: Finn Alpin
finndane@gmail.com
USA
California (N): Renee Hensley-McAlpin
rhensley95@comcast.net
California (S): Kenneth McAlpine
kenneth@macalpineclan.com
Georgia: Michael T. McAlpin
mc539@aol.com
Idaho: Robert G. Winkle, Esq.
winkle@cablone.net
Kansas: Brian Garrett
atoz@grapevine.net
Michigan: Mary Ann Baker
wizad3@yahoo.com
Oregon: Warren McAlpine
wdmacalpine@comcast.net
Utah: Dodd Greer
doddgreer@hotmail.com



Our History

Fencible men (a word that has gone out of British military use), were a kind of militia raised for the defense of a given district, the term of service being limited. The engagement was purely voluntary and service was restricted to the county in which the force was raised.

In May 1692 sixteen MacAlpines turned out in response to a call for fencible men "for putting the country in a posture of defense against an invasion of French and Irish Papists".

The importance of this list is that it draws from the area that so many of our kinsmen are descended from.

Those that turned out:

- Dun : Mcalpen, from Clachandysart
- Johne McCapin, from Kilmartin (same name listed in three places)
- Malcolme McCapin, from Kilmartin (same name listed in three places)
- Dougall mcalpin, from Over Shervin
- Gilbert mcalpin ab: from Glesvar
- John mcalpin, from Auchigdroim
- John McCalpine, from Dunanes, Knapdale
- John McCalpine, from Ob Campbell, Knapdale
- Malcolme McCalpine, from Ob Campbell, Knapdale
- Malcolme McCalpine, from Ardchoreine, Knapdale
- John McCalpine, from Kilmorie, Knapdale
- John McCalpine, from Ardnaw, Knapdale
- Donald McCalpine, from Dunoristen
- Dugald McAlpine, from Duppine, Saddell Paroch, Killean
- John McAlpine, from Altgaltrichs, Inverchaolain
- William McAlpine, from Glenkin, Inverchaolain

Clan MacAlpine Society is a member of COSCA.



COSCA
Council of Scottish Clans & Associations

COSCA is the acronym for the Council of Scottish Clans and Associations. Their primary purpose is to preserve and promote the customs, traditions, and heritage of the Scottish people. They strive to do this by educating the public about Scottish history, literature, music, poetry, art, and culture. With over 60,000 clan members represented, COSCA serves as a clearing house for clan activities throughout the US. While not a governing or supervisory board for any organization, COSCA strives to bring the clans and associations together through a variety of means. COSCA is also an active participant in The Scottish Coalition USA; a collective of several organizations united to serve the Scottish-American community through research, long-term planning and promotion of our heritage. Next time you are at a Scottish event, stop by and say hello.

The Cry Of The Curlew (A song for Scotland)

Submitted by John Gilpin

I asked of the Curlew, "Why do you not sing?"
The wee bird replied, "I still mourn a lost king."
"Be this the reason for your haunting cry?"
"For the ghosts of our past." Came the curlews reply.

I cry for the fishermen, lost to the see,
I cry for the collier, no coal left for thee.
I cry for the steel that is no longer milled.
And I cry for the ships, that we no longer build.

I cry for the keeper, the Gillie, the Laird.
I cry for the times past and a way of life shared.
I cry for the stag that drinks from the burn,
And I cry for the salmon, so few now return.

I cried for the crofters, thrown off o' their farm.
I cried for the flocks, pray keep them from harm.
I cried for a wife, her man died at her feet.
Then I cried for her child, left with no food to eat.

I cried for the starving, the young and the old,
And the hundreds of souls that died out in the cold.
I cried at Culloden, for its terrible cost,
Then I cried for the Clans and a way of life lost.

I cried for a Prince, who should have been crowned.
I cried for brave Flora, who brought him safe ground.
I cried for those banished, by the foreigner's law.
I still cry when I think of "Lochaber No More."

Now I cry as the clock ticks away from the past.
I'll keep you no more. I'll make this verse my last.
For no man may know what the future will bring?
When our ghosts are set free, aye the curlew will sing.

(Chorus) not used when printed as a poem!
So I cry on the shores, in the glens, in the sky,
I will cry for this land 'till the day that I die.

(Last Chorus) not used when printed as a poem!
Then I'll sing on the shores, in the glens, in the sky,
I will sing God Bless Scotland and no more will I cry.



Memories of the Annual Meeting in Fergus, Ontario



Pictures left to right, top to bottom:

1. Visiting MacAlpines gather for a group picture in front of the Clan MacAlpine Society tent.

2. Bruce McAlpine, Michael McAlpin, Mark McAlpin, and Mary Ann Baker line up for the parade of the clans.

3. Jeff and Mary Ann Baker enjoy dinner following the annual meeting.

4. Armiger Sid McAlpin (back) of Olympia, WA and Mark McAlpin (front) of Seattle, WA assist MacAlpines of all ages discover information about their heritage.

5. Piper, Donald McAlpine added a nice touch by piping us into the meeting room and again at dinner.

6. Robin and Dale McAlpine of Southern California take a moment for a photo before going in to dinner.



Pleasanton California selected as location for 2012 Annual Clan MacAlpine Society meeting

It has been ten years since the Society held its annual meeting at Pleasanton, and we are anxious to return. Located just outside San Francisco, with easy airport access, plentiful hotels and many area activities, it is a great place to hold our meeting.

The 147th Scottish Gathering and Highland Games will be over Labor Day weekend, 2012 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. It is sponsored by the Caledonian Club Of San Francisco.

Our host for the event will be Renee McAlpin-Hensley, Western US Coordinator. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

Greeting from Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor

I send The MacAlpines greetings and all wishes for a successful annual meeting in Fergus Ontario and commend your organisation and commitment in such an undertaking.

Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor

Note:

(Major Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor Bt. is the 24th Chief of Clan MacGregor, and the Convenor (Chairman) of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs. The Standing Council is the definitive and authoritative body for information on the Scottish Clan System.)



Notable MacAlpines

General Edwin Augustas McAlpin *Submitted by Finn Alpin, Sweden*

General McAlpin was born June 9, 1848, the son of David Hunter McAlpin, a prominent tobacco manufacturer in New York City, and Adelaide Rose McAlpin.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, he tried to enlist as a drummer boy, but his father rescinded the action due to his youth. After the end of the war, he was old enough to enlist in his own right and in 1869 joined the 7th Regiment of the New York Militia, (later the New York Guard) with the rank of Private.

In 1874 he attained the rank of First Lieutenant in the 71st Infantry Regiment (New York) where he was promoted in 1885 to Colonel, a role he retained until his military retirement in 1887. After retiring from the service he was appointed Adjutant General of the State by Governor Levi P. Morton, in 1895 with the rank of Major General. In this role he deployed his units to suppress several disorders in the New York City vicinity, but saw no formal combat.

He was an active worker in the Republican Party and ran an unsuccessful campaign for Congress in 1884. For many years he was treasurer of the Republican Campaign Committee. He was a potential Vice Presidential candidate alongside William McKinley in the 1896 election.

General McAlpin owned several large tracts of real estate in Manhattan, inherited from his father. One tract on 34th Street and Broadway was developed into the Hotel McAlpin. In the lobby of the hotel stood a wooden Indian which once stood outside the family's tobacco store on Catherine Street in Manhattan; the predecessor to the large tobacco concern which eventually became the D.H. McAlpin & Co. tobacco company.

On 12 August 1911 Gen. McAlpin was elected President and Chief Scout of the American Boy Scouts, an early Scouting organization. General McAlpin died at 2pm on April 12, 1917 at his home in New York.

**"For that is the mark of the Scots of all classes:
that he stands in an attitude towards the past
unthinkable to Englishmen, and remembers and
cherishes the memory of his forebears, good or bad;
and there burns alive in him a sense of identity with
the dead even to the twentieth generation."**

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON
Weir of Hermiston, 1894

President's Message

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While sending greetings, Sir Malcolm also emphasized that we will have a difficult case to present. His words of caution stem from a lack of Clan lands, a lack of documentation demonstrating that the MacAlpines fought together or lived as a structured Clan. He also noted the lack of any Scottish Armigers.

In his remarks, Sir Malcolm has effectively set forth our efforts going forward.

While we continue to gain membership and Armigers, we must look to commission research into our own history with an academic in good standing with the Lyon Court. We have ample time to accomplish this, as even in the best case, we are still several years away from asking the Courts consideration (although they are aware of our effort and await further developments).

We must also actively seek an Armiger or Armigers from Scotland itself. This will take correspondence and additional advertising.

We will need to fund these efforts, but I believe that determined people, working together, can accomplish anything.

In kinship,

Michael T McAlpin



Clan MacAlpine Society Information

Website: www.macalpineclan.com

Mail: Clan MacAlpine Society
2380 Saddlesprings Drive
Alpharetta, GA 30004
USA

Contributions: Can be made payable to:

Clan MacAlpine Society
c/o Kenneth McAlpine, Treasurer
32682 Rosemont Drive
Trabuco Highlands, CA 92679-3386
USA