



The Worldwide  
Organization  
For MacAlpines

# Remember the Death of Alpin

## Newsletter Of The Clan MacAlpine Society

4rd Qtr 2011 ~ Volume 16



John McAlpine



William McAlpine



Sir William McAlpine



Michael McAlpine



Finn Alpin



Sidney Fay McAlpin

## President's Message

### The Diaspora

A diaspora (from the Greek διασπορά, "scattering, dispersion") is "the movement, migration, or scattering of people away from an established or ancestral homeland".

An estimated 80% of Scots or Scots descendants are 'Scots abroad', and our Society's makeup is a reflection of that migration. Our membership extends from Scotland, across the world, with representation that closely mirrors the migration of Scots.

The Society's membership extends from Scotland to England, Northern Ireland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, the Bahamas, the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Swaziland, Namibia, and others.

As we continue our efforts, our focus becomes clearer, and we are taking solid steps to pursue our goal of formal recognition as a Clan and to knit MacAlpines together from around the world.

You will read in this edition that we have engaged a pre-eminent researcher to assist us. We anticipate additional clarity on our next steps when we receive his initial views. For those of you who have contributed to this effort, we thank you. For those who have considered and not yet brought their support to bear, please give it some additional thought. Payments can be made via PayPal on the web-site [www.macalpineclan.com](http://www.macalpineclan.com) or by check to:

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

Our 2012 Annual Meeting will be in Pleasanton, California on September 1st. Western US Co-coordinator Renee Hensley-McAlpin is starting to block hotel space and arrange dinners etc. I am sure she would appreciate an initial head count. You can contact her at [rhensley95@comcast.com](mailto:rhensley95@comcast.com).

In Kinship  
Michael T McAlpin

## UNITE! UNITE! UNITE!

### Society Officers

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**Treasurer:** Kenneth McAlpine  
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## Pleasanton California selected as location for 2012 Annual Clan MacAlpine Society meeting

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 147<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Notable MacAlpines

Joan McAlpine is a Minister of the Scottish Parliament, a member of the Scottish Parliamentary Committee on Education and Culture and the Parliamentary Liaison Officer to the First Minister Alex Salmond MSP. She currently writes a weekly column for *The Scotsman*. Her blog, *Go Lassie Go*, was voted Scotland's top media blog in 2010.

## Bringing it all back home

### – Joan McAlpine

The message of Tom Devine's book on Scottish emigration is ultimately a positive one.



Professor Tom Devine's "[To the Ends of the Earth: Scotland's Global Diaspora](#)" is one of the most important books written about Scotland in recent years. It debunks myths while at the same time demonstrating, through fact and statistic, that Scotland's mass migration was no fiction. The myth is that all migrants were victims, burned off their land. In fact, while the clearances were very real, many more migrants were positive, well qualified people, ambitious for a better life.

Scotland produced more migrants per head of population than almost any other country in Europe. We traveled further and continued leaving long after other restless natives had decided home was best. My own interpretation of Devine's book is the [subject of my Scotsman column today](#).

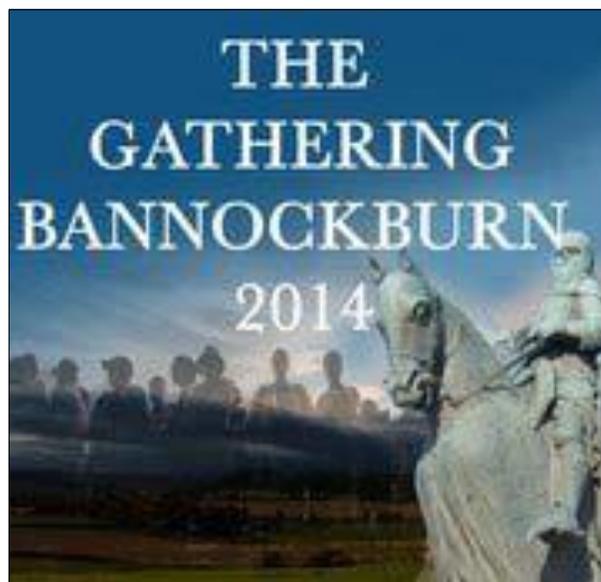
While the reasons for the exodus were complex, its scale and longevity destroys another myth ie that Scotland prospered under the union. Clearly all Scots didn't see it that way. Much of the profit made from our raw materials and heavy industry was invested elsewhere in the empire, meaning that the domestic economy didn't diversify. Wages in Scotland were lower than elsewhere in the UK and housing and health much worse. Our people were the raw material that never ran out. Literate,

Literate, skilled, hard working - they were willing to administer the empire, fight for it, and supplement its labor force elsewhere in the UK as well as around the world. It seemed like the best option available. But a domestic market failed to develop because of the artificially low wages, and the flight of both capital and labor. It was a vicious cycle.

Continuing emigration, even when times were good such as after the Second World War, could be interpreted as an unconscious political act. Scots were frustrated in their own land, so sought fulfillment elsewhere. Now why might that be? One of the most striking facts uncovered by Devine was that Scotland, Ireland and Norway were the premier suppliers of emigrants from 19th century Europe. By the 20th century, Scotland had overtaken the other two, who by then had achieved political independence, and the optimism, self respect and confidence that accompanies such a change in status.

Recent political events suggest Scotland has changed utterly, and we recognize, at last, some of the forces that shaped us historically. We see more clearly what needs to be done to build a new Scotland here at home. Yet we also benefit from the shrinking of the world around which our people have been scattered. There is an upside to hundreds of years of saying goodbye - the 40 million of Scottish origin across the globe who want to reconnect. As people increasingly look to their roots for meaning and definition, Scotland, or more precisely Scottishness, emerges as a powerful force. There is also the phenomenon of affinity Scots: other migrants who have come to us from Ireland, Poland and Pakistan and find our identity inclusive enough to buy into and celebrate along with their own. The imagined community is real - and increasingly powerful. Diaspora isn't all about loss.

Prof Devine's book is available on [Amazon](#).



## Hugh Peskett Commissioned



As discussed at the last Annual Meeting, we have now commissioned a notable genealogist and historian to assist in preparing a history of the MacAlpines to further our efforts.

After making numerous inquiries, we were directed consistently to Mr Hugh Peskett, who has accepted our commission. We look forward to periodic progress reports from him.

His specialist research service in the older documented sources for legal, historical and genealogical purposes

has an international reputation. Mr Peskett is the Scottish Editor of Burke's Peerage and has added the genealogies of all Clan Chiefs to the most recent edition.

He has proven seven clan chiefships in the Lyon Court and on one occasion he was cross-examined in court by Queens Counsel about succession to a Clan Chief for two and a half days - and won! Currently he has six such claims pending before the Court. He has also won cases regarding Earldoms and Baronies. He has recently been elected an Academician of the Académie Internationale de Généalogie which is limited to 100 members world-wide. He is the only Scottish member.

He says "I am looking forward to this challenge. MacAlpine is one of the most ancient names in Scotland."

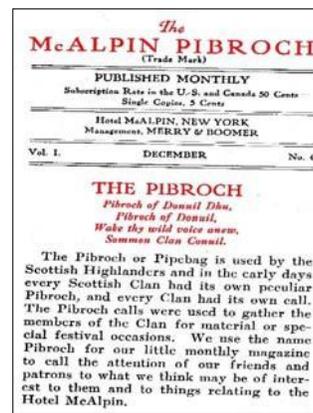
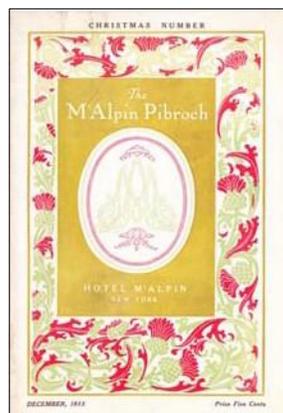
## A Rose By Any Other Name...

If we were to consider changing the name of our newsletter – have you a suggestion?

The following have been offered:

*Hills, Streams an' MacAlpines*  
*MacAlpines United*  
*Clan McAlpine~Voice of the Ancients*  
*Marching on Together*  
*MacAlpine Tartan Times*  
*MacAlpine Pibroch\**

\*MacAlpine Pibroch is based on the old circa 1910-1920 magazine, the McAlpin Pibroch. Here is their December 1913 cover.



Let us know your thoughts either at the MacAlpine Society Facebook page, or by email to michael@macalpineclan.com



### The MacAlpine Project:

Y-DNA Testing ~ Family Tree DNA  
<http://www.familytreedna.com>

This Project was originated as an effort to expand the genealogical research of the MacAlpine, McAlpin, etc (various spellings) to identify common heritage of the various known lines. The procedure identifies the DNA associated with the Y Chromosome which is passed from generation to generation thru the male descendants. The DNA testing is done by the Family Tree DNA Project. The administrator is Doris McAlpin Russell.

**Discover the Origin of Your Paternal Line with a Y-DNA Test:** Connect with genetic cousins and uncover the deep ancestral origin of your direct paternal line (your father, your father's father, etc.) through Y-DNA testing. This is available for males only.

**Results Include:** Genetic matches, paternal ancestral origins, paternal haplogroup, haplogroup migration map, haplogroup frequency map, and test results certificate. Family Tree DNA does not charge a subscription fee and will continue to update you about new matches and other information regarding your results.

**Matches:** These are genetic cousins who share the same direct paternal line. You will have access to your matches' e-mail ad-

resses and genealogical information they have provided. You can begin exchanging information as soon as your results arrive!

**Ancestral Origins:** Your matches' paternal origins, listed by country, provide clues to your own recent geographic and ethnic ancestry.

**Predicted Haplogroup:** This is your predicted place on the paternal genetic tree of humankind.

**Migration Map & Frequency Map:** Interactive maps detail the ancient migrations of your paternal ancestors and the distribution of your haplogroup from more recent times.

**Y-DNA Certificate:** This is a printable certificate that includes your name and your marker (STR) values.

**Updates:** As our database grows, you will receive notifications about new matches. There are no subscription fees for this service!

**What Level of Y-DNA Should I Test?** The level of Y-DNA testing you choose determines how closely you are related to your matches. The more markers you test and match, the more closely related you are to the person you match.

## Greetings from the most southern tip of Africa: Beautiful Cape Town South Africa.

Table Mountain is one of the Worlds wonders. Table Mountain is beautiful, summer and winter. On clear days you can see the flat table top, on other days the top of the mountain is covered with clouds, simulating a table cloth over a table.

Almost everyone has a view of the mountain from their homes. It is wonderful to wake up to in the morning with a cup of coffee in one hand and a camera in the other, to capture the ever changing skies.



The weather reminds me of England in the winter time. Our winters are cold and wet, with some sunshine. The winters are the time of year when lall the water in the dams and rivers get replenished for the dry summer months, which are very sunny, but awfully windy at times, and rather hot.

The beach if not too far from where we live, making long walks along the ocean possible. I love to just wonder, kick the dry sand, and watch the footprints disappear in the wet sand. There are millions of shells, shark teeth and fossils to collect on these walks. I've given up collecting because I have so many already. I have no room to store anymore.

Driving around the Mountain, Chapman's peak is the best outlook stop for foreign visitors. You can actually see where the two oceans come together and fight one another.

Simon's Town is our Military harbor, and all the buildings are replicas of buildings in England and the time the English ruled South Africa. Coming back around the mountain, the most popular places would be the Wine Estates and then the beautiful botanical gardens at the foot of the mountain. I honestly would not trade being and living here for anything else in the world.

Our branch of McAlpines arrived in South Africa when, Monroe McAlpine and his wife Isabelle (Lister) and their four children Isabelle, Margaret, Neil and Thomas immigrated to South Africa in the early 1930's from Glasgow, Scotland.

Monroe had decided to become part of many Scottish and British that wanted to share in the gold producing mines. He became a mine manager at City Deep mine on the Southern outskirts of Johannesburg. Their youngest son, "Big Jim McAlpine" (James Malcolm McAlpin) was born in South Africa a few years later.

"Big Jim" qualified as an engineer and drilled many mine shafts with his crew in South Africa and in England. He is still the record holder in the "Guinness Book of World Records" for sinking the deepest mine shaft in the shortest period of time.

"Big Jim" married Daphne Clemens and they had four sons. Malcolm Thomas an Economist, Ian Lister a Master builder and Engineer, Gilroy Clemens a graduate and business owner in Johannesburg and David Bruce a Gynecologist in Ft Worth TX. Big Jim and Daphne have both passed.

Malcolm married (me) Sophia Els and we have four sons. James Malcolm an aviation graduate and business man, married to Lindie Smit, he has two sons, Jared and Jesse James. They live in Kimberley South Africa. Wayne Arnold a Medical graduate married Elaine du Plessis a gynecologist and has one daughter, Amelia Catherine Ann. They live in Brentwood CA, USA.

Quintin Thomas, a Theology and business graduate, married Heather Pickering, and has one son Christian Thomas. Quintin lives in Cape Town South Africa.

Munroe (spelled differently to Great Grandpa Monroe) Justin a CIS graduate, married Kim Besaans and has a son Chase and a daughter Linsey-Kay. Munroe passed on 10/10/2008.

Big Jim's son Ian married Penny Gosling, and had three sons. Greg, Steven, and Bruce. Ian passed away 11 years ago. Big Jim's son Gilroy remains a bachelor and the other son David Bruce became a gynecologist, married Linda Plath, and they now living in Ft Worth TX. They have a son Craig and three daughters, Laura, Diana and Sharon.



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