



Remember the Death of Alpin

Newsletter Of The Clan MacAlpine Society

1st Qtr 2012 ~ Volume 17

The Worldwide
Organization
For MacAlpines



John McAlpine



William McAlpine



Sir William McAlpine



Michael McAlpin



Finn Alpin



Sidney Fay McAlpin

President's Message

We had hoped to receive a bit of historical research on the MacAlpine's from Mr. Hugh Peskett, whom the Society has commissioned to assist us in our efforts to trace the MacAlpine history. Unfortunately, Mr. Peskett has taken ill, and is delayed in the research. We wish him Godspeed in his recovery, and look forward to a future column.

With the advent of spring, the Highland Games of 2012 will be occurring in many areas. I would encourage all to enjoy this.

The historic town of Arbroath, birthplace of the famous Declaration of Arbroath of 1320, is at the heart of Scotland's Tartan Day celebrations. The celebrations marking Tartan Day 2012 begin on Saturday 31 March when a host of special events throughout the country mark the start of over a week of festivities. April 6th is National Tartan Day in Canada and the US. It is an excellent time to break out the garb, and celebrate our heritage. In Australia and New Zealand it is on July 1st.

The date commemorates the signing of the Declaration of Arbroath in 1320, which asserted Scotland's sovereignty over English territorial claims, and which was an influence on the American Declaration of Independence. Canada has been celebrating "National Tartan Day" since 1993.

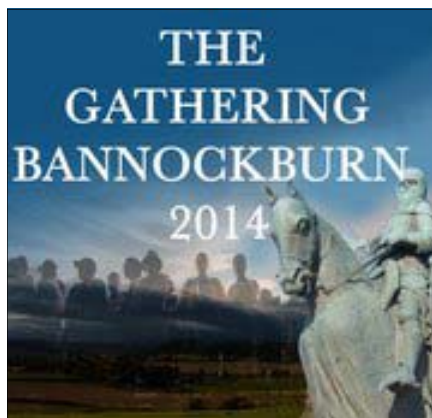
**McAlpine AGM 2012 to be held
in Pleasanton, California**

Mark your calendar for September 1 and 2 for a wonderful weekend of family fellow-

ship and Scottish Highland Game fun. Since 1866 the Caledonian Club of San Francisco has been hosting the Scottish Highland Games. This event makes for a wonderful Labor Day weekend for one and all.

The Alameda County fairgrounds are the home of the 147th games where the Clan McAlpine Society will hold our 2012 annual general meeting (AGM). Renee McAlpin-Hensley, Society Vice President, will be our host for this event. Renee is currently making plans for our event, including where we will stay, have our family AGM and a dinner afterward. Stay tuned for details as the plans are solidified. We will let you know where to make your reservations and what the agenda for the weekend holds.

In Kinship
Michael T McAlpin



UNITE! UNITE! UNITE!

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Treasurer: Kenneth McAlpine
Secretary: Robyn McAlpine
Historian: Dale McAlpine
Editor: Janet McAlpine

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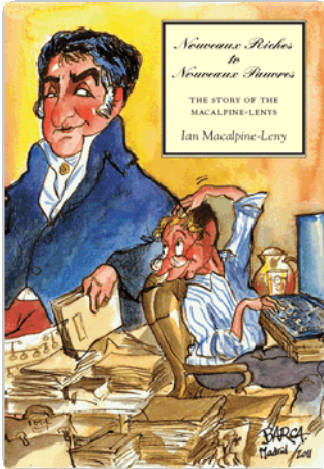
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Nouveaux Riches to Nouveaux Pauvres

UK Clan MacAlpine Society member Ian MacAlpine-Leny has just now published this fascinating book on one branch of MacAlpine's.



This is the story of one particular family and some of the more amusing families they have married into over the last 200 years.

From 18th-century Scotland, the story goes first to Moghul India, then 19th-century Dumfriesshire, the Boer War, Arabia, the First War, Colonial Kenya, the ill-fated British Expeditionary Force during the last war, and finally, Lincolnshire. It ends

with some thoughts on fishing and game shooting, and why this has fascinated so many members of the family. While this is the story of one family it also encapsulates the characteristics of a certain class, and what they achieved, in Britain's years in the sun.

This book is about an amazing array of characters that have got up to all sorts of fascinating things. Fighting in the Anglo-Nepal War, being caught up in the siege of Ladysmith, taking part in the great cavalry charge before the relief of Kimberley, torpedoed at sea and appointed Comptroller and Treasurer to the Prince of Wales in the 1920s. Others have been Members of Parliament, white hunters in Kenya, pioneering engineers in China and designers of catamarans that held the world speed-sailing record for fourteen years.

But the thing that runs through them all, is that they have all been great fun. To have a MacAlpine-Leny round the dinner table meant that the conversation would never be dull, although the alcohol consumption might have been higher than expected.

A large number of original records and photographs have survived to paint a very clear picture of how this family lived, and the fun they all had doing it.

Full details, together with how to take advantage of the pre-publication offer, at www.macalpine-leny.co.uk.



MacAlpine Clan Crests Which One Is Correct?

Many variations of MacAlpine Clan Crests, or "Family" Crests are readily available from many different vendors. Which one is correct?

The Society utilizes the symbol of a boar's head on a crown (note: this is a non-heraldic symbol, not a Clan Crest).



A crest in common usage today is that of a bearded man's severed head dripping blood which is taken from "Fairbairn's Crests" (published 1911). There are multiple versions offered there, Plate 19



And Plate 23



These are often shown with or without the Ancient Crown Plate 79

These and other versions are readily available at many vendors that claim it is the MacAlpine Clan Crest.

No MacAlpine Chiefly Arms, of which a crest would be a part, have ever been recorded in the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland by the Court of the Lord Lyon.

Lord Lyon has stated that his jurisdiction does not extend to North America, however it seems entirely appropriate that we respect his authority as the heraldic authority for Scotland and all matters relating to Scottish Heraldry.

Our Society is working toward the official recognition of a Clan MacAlpine Leader. Hopefully, this will result in the granting of Chiefly Armorial Bearings including a crest that will be available for wear as a crest badge by Clan members. Until that time, we suggest that our Clan Plant Badge be worn to show your allegiance to our Clan. A sprig of pine in your cap or on your sash or shirt is a perfectly appropriate way to send the message of your ties to Clan MacAlpine!

A brief extract of the Lyon Courts informational brochure follows that discusses the significance of the Crest. (the full version is available at www.scotarmigers.net/pdfs/info-leaflet-2.pdf)

"The popular name "Clan Crest" is a misnomer, as there is no such thing as a "Clan" Crest. The Crest is the exclusively personal property of the Clan Chief, and it is fully protected to him by the law in Scotland. The circumstances in which it may

(Continued on Page 4)

An Interview with the Ghost of Robert Burns

By Clan MacAlpine Society Historian:
Earl D. McAlpine Jr.

Date of interview: January 25th, 2012

Q: I understand you were home schooled by your father while you were raised on the farm.

RB: Yes, my father thought education was important and I also took a year of mathematics.

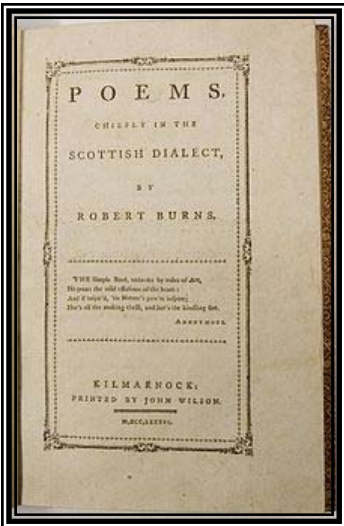
Q: How old were you when you wrote your first poem?

RB: At the young age of 15 I fell in love and shortly after wrote my first poem, "O, Once I Lov'd A Bonnie Lass"

Q: You had 14 children. How old were you when your first child was born?

RB: I was 26 before my first child Elizabeth was born.

Q: You were known as a great peasant poet; tell me about your first book?



RB: My first book, Poems Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect was printed in 1786 and surprised me to be an immediate success.

Q: Besides writing poetry what other hobbies did you enjoy?

RB: In the last years of my life I wrote over 300 songs and collected Scottish folk songs. You may sing one of my songs on the last day of the year, "Auld Lang Syne".

Q: Tell about your artistic inspiration?

RB: "I consider the poetic sentiment, correspondent to my idea of the musical expression, then chuse my theme, begin one stanza, when that is composed - which is generally the most difficult part of the business - I walk out, sit down now and then, look out for objects in nature around me that are in unison or harmony with the cogitations of my fancy and workings of my bosom, humming every now and then the air with the verses I have framed. when I feel my Muse beginning to jade, I retire to the solitary fireside of my study, and there commit my effusions to paper, swinging, at intervals, on the hind-legs of my elbow chair, by way of calling forth my own critical strictures, as my, pen goes."

Q: What was the theme of your works?

RB: I wrote in poetry and song about life and traditions of folk life, cultural heritage, celebration, love, friendship, work, and drink with often hilarious and tender sympathy.

Q: How old were you when you died?

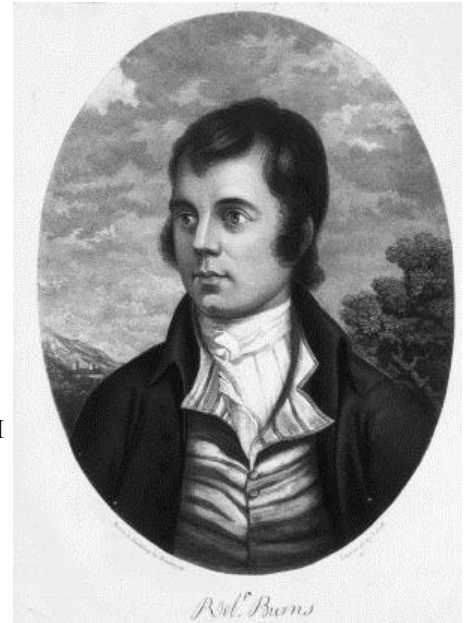
RB: I was 37 years old when heart disease took me from the earth. This was after the extraction of a tooth on 21 July 1796, in Dumfries, Scotland.

Q: How does it make you feel to know that every year on your birthday Scottish descendants all over the world celebrate your life's accomplishments?

RB: Really? Is that so?

DM: Yes, let me tell you about some of the ways my friends celebrated the greatest Scot of all time, this year.

Continued on page 4



The best-known portrait of Burns, by Alexander Nasmyth, 1787

An Interview with the Ghost of Robert Burns - Continued from page 3

Finn Alpin, Commissioner, Clan MacAlpine Society of Sweden:



We celebrate the annual Burns supper pretty much the same every year..... Speakers vary, but the guests of honor are always the British Ambassador and his wife and the host, Lt. Col Christian Braunstein and his wife.

Pictured to the right is the 2012 program.

In the picture are from left to right: Finn, Monika, Leizel (my wife) and "Bosse" Bjarkerot, husband of Monika. They joined the society at the gathering in Edinburgh 2009. Before going to the gathering, they had no idea that a society existed



Michael McAlpin, President of Clan MacAlpine Society:

“Carolyn and I usually don the garb and head out to our favorite steakhouse. We receive a few surprised looks when I ask for Haggis. After dinner, we stop by our local Irish Bar, where we generally run into a few others having a wee dram.”
Mike and Carolyn McAlpin, Alpharetta, GA



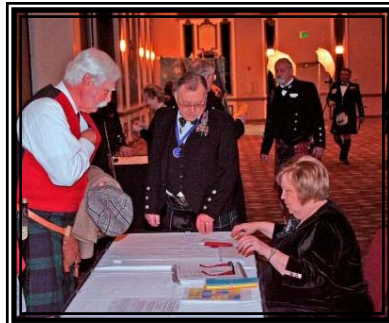
Bruce MacAlpine, Commissioner, Clan MacAlpine Society of Canada:

Bruce and Donna MacAlpine and their daughter Anne and her husband Ted Elmhirst at the Burns dinner in Beaverton, Ontario. “We have attended this event for many years as it is all about the Haggis and the wonderful beef dinner that goes with it. Hats off to the Beacan Presbyterian Church for hosting such a great event.”

Sincerely, Donna and Bruce MacAlpine



The room at the Grand Sierra is festive.



Doug & Janet check in guests.

Doug and Janet McAlpine (Newsletter Editor), of Reno, Nevada:

We just held our 31st. Robert Burns Celebration in Reno, NV with 426 attending. Great food, single malt tasting, our local pipe band and a Highland dance group that came over the Sierras from Sacramento. The event included the traditional haggis ceremony, Immortal Memory to Burns, and the toasts to the lads and lassies. It is one of the biggest Burns events on the West Coast!!!!”

In Conclusion:

To learn more about Robert Burns and his colorful, take the time to Google him. There is so much more to learn about his life than the small introduction we have given here.

In Kinship,
Dale

MacAlpine Clan Crests . . . Continued from Page 1

be worn by his clansmen are set out hereafter. But, first a few brief definitions of the technical terms are necessary.

THE CREST

When a coat of Arms is granted by the Sovereign through Her Majesty's Lord Lyon King of Arms, the Grant of Arms document shows the coat of Arms on a Shield. Above the Shield is placed a conventional helmet, and on top of the helmet is shown an additional device called the CREST, accompanied by the owner's Motto on a conventional scroll. It is impossible to own a Crest without first owning a coat of Arms, shown on the Shield, as the Crest is an adjunct to the coat of Arms. Sometimes an additional Motto or Slogan is granted, which may correctly appear on the Clansman's bonnet badge as an alternative to the first Motto.

The Wreath

Between the crest and the helmet usually appears a WREATH shown beneath it to indicate that it is a heraldic crest.



RIGHTS

In Scotland ALL Arms and Crests are PERSONAL. There is NO SUCH THING as a "Family" coat of Arms or Crest. Though the Arms or Crest may be borne by SUCCESSIVE members of a family, they are personal to each in turn. The rules of the inheritance of Arms and Crests are legal and strict.

Chiefs of Clans

Chiefs have the right to wear their Crests as badges

- either simpliciter, without the accompaniment of circlet, motto or feathers behind the badge.
- or, as is more usual, surrounded with a plain circlet inscribed with his Motto or Slogan, NOT a strap-and-buckle which is for clansmen; and, if they choose, with THREE eagle's feathers in silver behind the circlet.



Chiefs

Heads of large branches of a Clan, who have been Officially Recognised as Chiefs by the Lord Lyon King of Arms, may wear:

- either their own personal Crest within a plain circlet inscribed with the Motto, as for a Chief, but with two small eagles' feathers instead of the Chief's three. If the Chieftain is also a Peer, he may add the appropriate coronet of rank on top of the circlet,
- or they may wear their Chief's Crest badge without feather like any other clansman, as described for clansmen, below.



Armigers

A person who has registered his or her own coat of Arms and Crest, or inherited these according to the Laws of Arms in Scotland from an ancestor who had recorded them in the Lyon Register, may wear their own Crest as a badge:

An armiger is entitled to one silver eagle's feather behind the plain circlet, and if he is also a Peer he may add his appropriate coronet of rank on top of the circlet.



Clansmen and clanswomen

These are all members of the extended family called the "Clan", whether bearing the Clan surname or that of one of its septs; that is all those who profess allegiance to that Chief and wish to demonstrate their association with the Clan. It is correct for these people to wear their Chiefs Crest encircled with a strap and buckle bearing their Chief's Motto or Slogan. The strap and buckle is the sign of the clansman, and he demonstrates his membership of his Chiefs Clan by wearing his Chief's Crest within it.



Many established and reputable Clans do not have a Chief, where the Chief's line has died out or been lost — possibly through long past emigration of the line who are now heirs to the Chief ship. No Chief can exist for such Clans till a claimant comes forward and proves to the Lord Lyon King of Arms that he is the senior heir, when the Lord Lyon will Officially Recognise him as the Chief."



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