



The Worldwide
Organization
For MacAlpines

Remember the Death of Alpin

Newsletter Of The Clan MacAlpine Society

2nd Qtr 2012 ~ Volume 18



John McAlpine



William McAlpine



Sir William McAlpine



Michael McAlpin



Finn Alpin



Sidney Fay McAlpin

President's Message

It is an exciting time to be involved in the Society, as we see progress being made in many areas.

We are told that Lord Lyon is proceeding with arms for (Earl) Dale McAlpine, and that is truly great news for all of us. We are anxious to see the completion and the artwork.

It is also noteworthy and that the Lyon Court has posted the following:

NOTICE OF INTENT – FAMILY CONVENTION – CLAN EWEN

It has been proposed by the Clan Ewen Society, the Ewing Family Association and various individuals of the name that a Family Convention for those of the name, broadly defined, should be convened with a view to the recognition of a Commander. In accordance with the Guidelines already posted regarding the holding of a Derbhfine or Family Convention the Lord Lyon intends to appoint a Supervising Officer in the near future.

David Sellar
Lyon
27th February

The Court has also posted a similar notice for Clan Gunn, "with the purpose of recognizing "the current Commander Iain Gunn of Banniskirk, be now recognized as Chief of the Name."

This is truly exciting news for both the Ewen and Gunn Clans, and we are envious of their status. We continue to move forward with our own efforts to reach the same goals, their success demonstrates that it can

be done, and that is encouraging to us. We should be mindful however, that although we should draw encouragement from their success, we have a high hurdle to jump, which will require continued efforts on our part to achieve our ultimate goal.

The Clan Ewen Society has recorded (with the assistance of Hugh Peskett) their history and demonstrated their existence historically and today as a Clan. We must do the same.

The Chiefship of Clan Gunn (a recognized Clan) has been dormant since the death of the son of George Gunn of Rhives in 1874. The head of the Clan, in the absence of a recognized chief is Iain Gunn of Banniskirk, who has been appointed Commander of the Clan by the Lord Lyon King of Arms at the request of the landed and armigerous members of the Clan. Clan Gunn is now petitioning to have the Commander recognized as Chief.

This has been a busy season of Highland Games, I hope many of you have had the opportunity to enjoy some of the games and the Scottish heritage and kinship that goes with it. We have hosted Clan Tents at many Games, and we are also pleased that newly appointed North Carolina Commissioner, Randy Madry will be representing us at the annual COSCA meeting at the Grandfather Mountain Games in July.

We will be sending more details of our Annual Meeting at the Pleasanton Games in the future. I hope to see many of you there,

In kinship,
Michael T McAlpin

UNITE! UNITE! UNITE!

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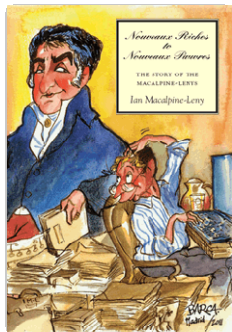
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Book Review

Submitted by: F.C. Stavnsbo Alpin, Sweden

In the last newsletter I saw the article on the new book from Ian Macalpine-Leny; “Nouveaux Riches to Nouveaux Pauvres: The Story of the Macalpine-Lenys” I thought to my-self, that looks like a title best found next to Lord McAlpine’s biography! A quick e-mail off to the author and soon it arrived. I was not disappointed. It is the fascinating story of a family’s development and growth through the days of the Empire and later, through the fall of the same Empire. The book takes you to India and back, then for several tours to Africa, the Boer War as well as the First World War in Kenya and other places and later in World War II. Having first seen the photo’s, lots of the people brought into the story I knew a little bit about, where they served and their regimental connections. But the most fascinating thing of all is, that these were real people in very interesting situations. The author writes well, it never gets boring and it’s obvious that he’s got a great sense of humour.



We meet the Macalpine-Lenys as they grow up, go to school and start their careers and get married into the families of; the Downies of Appin in Argyllshire, the Quantock Shuldhams of Norton in Somerset, the Halseys of Gaddesden in Hertfordshire, the Kavanaghs of Borris, County Carlow, and the Bergne-Couplands of Skellingthorpe in Lincolnshire. The book contains great genealogical charts that make it easy to follow the marriages between the families mentioned.

The Service they rendered varies; Chief of Staff to the Prince of Wales, Admirals, Majors and Captains as well as businessmen, all in the thick of it, has made for a new understanding of how a family can emerge and prosper, but still experience so much loss, both of life and wealth. What about the women of the story you might wonder? They are equally marvelous! The women you find in this book are all fascinating. One was a bit mad, but wonderful, another quite boring, but most of them were strong and beautiful women.

The photographs and pieces of diaries that have survived in spite of transportation around the globe and several fires make this book what it is. Thanks to the author for taking the time to save the history of his family. I am sure that the coming generations will be very grateful for having it all so readily available and neatly bound. I do not only recommend it but will call it a “must have” for anyone interested in the life and times of the families that helped create the British Empire. A must have if you also have a corner of your bookshelves dedicated to Scottish culture and history. To follow the various branches of families that came to form the Macalpine-Lenys’ has been a real pleasure.

Notes from Hugh Peskett

(The Society has commissioned the noted Hugh Peskett to research the history of the MacAlpines)

Evidence of a Clan MacAlpine or Clan Alpine is surprisingly hard to find since the end of the Middle Ages.

What we have to do is to have enough evidence to convince Lord Lyon that this is a genuine clan deserving of a chief. I think we are well on the way, but what happened to the Clan – they lost their lands and their chiefs died out – which is not unique. I suspect (but I may be wrong) that I shall find the MacAlpin clan went through a “bad patch” in the 16th century when quite a number of clans lost their lands and their chiefs, and more research is necessary to provide a convincing account of what happened. I have found a string of medieval references which confirm that research would be justified.

Frank Adam’s “Clans, Septs and Regiments of the Scottish Highlands” (first published 1908, 6th edition revised by Sir Thomas Innes of Learney 1960) includes a better map, which places the MacAlpin lands in the same place, but adds “Anciently”), and the appendix of tartans includes at No: 40, the MacAlpine tartan. He writes of the MacAlpins “This clan is one of the chief branches of the Royal clan “Alpin”. The seat of the chief of the clan is said to have been at Dunstaffnage in Argyllshire”. The clan is now, “landless” and the family of the chief has been lost sight of.” The castle of Dunstaffnage, it should be said, has more recently been a Campbell property.

But even Frank Adam’s book only gives six lines of text about the clan and half a page illustration of the tartan– against a page and more for most clans.

In general, my comment is that this looks to be a promising case. Some more detailed and specific research to corroborate Frank Adam’s work would apparently make this a sound case.

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From Scotland to New South Wales, Australia

Contributed by [janilye](#)

Peter McAlpin's branch traces their family from Donald McAlpin who was born about 1670 in Killin, Perthshire. Peter married Catherine McCondie in 1690 in the Parish Kirk at Killin, Loch Tay, Perthshire, Stirling, Scotland.

Killin is the largest and oldest of the many settlements in Breadalbane - 'Braghaid Albainn' - the High Country of Scotland. The name of the village comes from its association with the legendary Celtic Hero Fingal who, it is thought was buried here - 'Cill Fhinn' meaning the burial place of Fingal.

They had one child, Donald McAlpin born in 1691 who married Margaret McKenzie in 1714 in Killin.

Donald and Margaret had three children; one was Peter McAlpin, who was born about 1722 in Killin. Peter married Katherine McLean about 1748 in Killin; together they had twelve children, including the eleventh child, also named Peter, born in 1768 in Killin-Bridge, End of Dochart, Perthshire, Scotland.

Peter joined the Scottish Army and by the age of twenty-six had attained the rank of sergeant. On April 21st, 1794 he transferred to the Princess Louise Argyllshire Highlanders at Stirling Castle. He marched with his Regiment in June 1794 to Leith and there embarked for Netley Common near Southampton. There the Regiment joined the 98th Regiment of Foot, and on May 5th 1795 embarked at Spithead as part of a joint expedition to South Africa against the Dutch. It landed at Simon's Town on 9 September 1795 and camped at Muysenberg. After a battle with the Dutch at Wynberg, the Regiment entered Cape Town Castle on September 16th and the Dutch garrison surrendered. The 98th stayed in South Africa until 1803. During his stay in Cape Town, Peter married Elisabeth Elton on Dec 16th 1798 in Garrison Church, Cape of Good Hope, Cape Town, South Africa.

Elisabeth had sailed from Deptford, England with her mother Sarah Elton and stepfather Francis Wheeler on the storeship HMS "Buffalo" – arriving at Table Bay, Cape Town, South Africa on October 13th 1798 to leave stores and pick up cattle for Sydney Cove. It didn't depart until early February the following year.

When it departed, Elisabeth did not accompany her mother and step-father on the continuation of the journey to New South Wales as she had met and married Peter McAlpin whilst the ship was moored in Cape Town.

Peter and Elisabeth lived in Cape Town until Peter returned to the army barracks on March 25th, 1801 where they lived until April 24th 1802 when he was discharged. After his discharge, they remained in Cape Town until December 1802 when they sailed back to Portsmouth and returned to Killin, Scotland – settling in Stirling where their three children were born.

The family moved to London in November of 1810 immediately after their third child William Glas McAlpin was christened. Whilst in London the family were strongly encouraged by letters from Elisabeth's mother to join her in the NSW colony as Francis WHEELER had died - they eventually gained a free passage to the colony after letters to the Governor of NSW.

Source: Peter Moore direct descendant

They sailed from England via Rio de Janeiro to Sydney Town, and the family arrived from London as free settlers on the ship "General Graham" on January 29th, 1812 with three of their children, Sarah, Peter, and William, the fourth Catherine was born in the colony.

After Elisabeth passed in 1817, Peter next married Eleanor Blake on March 7th, 1820 in St Peter's, Church of England, Richmond, NSW, Australia.

Eleanor had been assigned from the female factory compound at Parramatta to Peter McAlpin to help out in his home and care for his 4 young children following the premature death of his wife Elisabeth ELTON.

After they married, Eleanor was granted her freedom, but it was a disaster, because as soon as she was free, she absconded in 1821 - returned - and left again in 1823. She returned again at some time as she was living in one of the McAlpin houses when she died.

Peter, the patriarch of the McAlpin branch in New South Wales died on Feb 23rd, 1850 in Richmond, NSW, Australia at age 82, and was buried in St Matthew's, Church of England cemetery, Windsor, NSW, Australia.

Many of his descendants live there today.

Flowers of the Forest

Gregory Lee McAlpin Jr. known by his friends as Craigger, was born on August 11, 1967 to Gregory Lee McAlpin and Christine McAlpin of Lakewood, Washington. Craigger passed on May 24, 2012 after a long illness.



MacAlpines Trace Their Descent To A Very Early Time In Scottish History

Sir Iain Andrew Noble, 3rd Baronet of Ardkinglas and Eilean Iarmain, was a businessman, landowner on the Isle of Skye and a noted Scottish Gaelic language activist. He was directly responsible for the erection of the first Gaelic road signs in Scotland, and the holder of the first ever Gaelic cheque book, issued for him by the Bank of Scotland. Noble was the original founder of the Gaelic college Sabhal Mòr Ostaig which is located in Sleat, Skye. In 1983 he penned the following in a letter to Sir William McAlpine.

There is an old Gaelic saying:

Cruic ‘a uillt ‘ a Allpeinich.

Ath cuin a thainig Artairith?

“Hills and streams and McAlpines, but when came the MacArthurs?”

The implication of this is of course that the MacAlpines were as old as the hills and streams, but that the MacArthurs came from some place further back in history than that. Were these therefore the two oldest Scottish Clans?

History will never tell us this, but in Gaelic folklore the MacArthurs all claimed to be descended from King Arthur, about who there are many legends in Scotland. Indeed he is supposed to have been killed by a king from Scotland in AD596.

The MacAlpines can be more easily traced. So far as is known, the first person of this name was King Alpan od dalraiada, the Gaelic speaking kingdom of Gaels or “Scots” which lay in Western Argyllshire. The scots of course had generally moved from Ireland and up to the tenth century the name Scotis and Scots was most frequently applied to Ireland and the Gaels generally in Ireland and Dalriada alike.

One legend relates that Gaidhil, a Hellenistic prince married Scota, a princess of Egypt. They and their followers emigrated to Spain. After many generations their descendants travelled to Ireland, and so to Scotland from not later than the second or third centuries onwards in the period of Roman control of England. Indeed Nennius who wrote “History of Britonus” says that the Scots “ when the Egyptians were lost in the Red Sea, 1002 years before Christ, passed into Ireland and the district of Dalrietta”.

In any case by the early ninth century they were strongly established north of the Clyde over the greater part of the West Coast of Scotland.

The picture of that time was one in which the Picts were being worried and attacked by the Vikings on the East Coast, while on the West the Norsemen were beginning to make life in the Western Isles precarious.

In AD836 Alpan, the last of the purely Dalriadic Scottish kings, fell near Laicht Castle on the ridge which separates Kyle from Galloway.



King Alpan had a Pictish wife, and it was his son who was to become the first sovereign of the Picts and Scots together, the founder of the royal dynasty of what was to evolve as the modern kingdom of Scotland. He was called Coinneach MacAilpein, which in English is known as Kenneth MacAlpine.

In AD843 Coinneach, with a claim to the Pictish Crown through his mother’s side, moved in on Pictland and though not without controversy

made himself “ard-righ” (high king) of “Alba” (as Scotland was then known, and indeed as it is still known in Gaelic). Despite the similarity of the name, scholars seem to think that the name Alba is not derived from Alpeinich, and that therefore that Scotland was not named after the MacAlpines. Yet one has to wonder.

Descendants of Coinneach continued to be kings of “Alba” for the next four and a half centuries and the last Gaelic king* of Scotland was Alexander III whose death at the end of the thirteenth century led to the invasions of Edward I of England and eventually Bannockburn.

Returning to Coinneach however, he was crowned in Scone in AD843 in the Pictish monastery, and upon the ancient Stone of Destiny which is now in Westminster. The Stone itself according to another Gaelic legend about early history was the Pillow on which Jacob rested his head in the desert when he saw the ladder going up to heaven. It became an heirloom and was carried by descendants of his in emigration to Spain and eventually to Ireland. For many years it was kept in Tara and the kings of Scotland and Ireland were crowned on it there. The kings of Dalriada had their main residence at Dunstaffnage at that time and somehow the stone seems to have moved there from Iona. A rhyme about the MacGregors, who claimed descent from the Alpeinich, goes as follows:

“Slioched nan righre duthchasuch,
bha thuinedadh an Dunstainnis:
Aig an robh crun na h-Alba o thus’ ‘s aig
as bheil duthchas fhathast ris”

(“Descendants of the native hereditary kings,
Who reigned down at Dunstaffnage?
Who possessed the Crown of Alba from the
beginning and who still have hereditary rights in it”)

It is recorded that the Crown and the Stone of Destiny of the Clan Alpine race were removed from Dunstaffnage to Scone by Coinneach, symbolizing the Union of the Picts and Scots. The historic “moot Hill” there became henceforth the legal centre of Scotland, as it already was of Pictland.

MacAlpines Trace Their Descent To A Very Early Time In Scottish History - *Continued from page 3*

Coinneach and the Scots of Dalriada brought their language with them, and very soon Gaelic spread its influence throughout Alba. Before long it was the language of all modern Scotland, and indeed reached into the Court of Northumbria. Its scholars were famous and influential throughout Europe and it is said they even taught the Saxons how to read and write.

At this time Scotland was divided into a number of kingdoms, south of the Fourth – Clyde divisions. The old “British” (i.e. Welsh speaking) Scottish kingdoms of Gododdin and Nheged quickly vanished, though the legends of their heroes and the stories of King Arthur continue to be preserved in Welsh folklore, in Wales. The one remaining independent kingdom of Scotland was Strathclyde and in 908 in the time of Constantine II, this grandson of Coinneach, the direct line of the sovereigns of Strathclyde became extinct. Constantine appointed his brother Donald “under the machinery appropriate when the throne became de jure and de facto vacant” to the throne.

As a result, the MacAlpine line became also the **KINGS OF Strathclyde**. This line became extinct in 1018 when Eugenius (Gaelic “Eoghann” or “Ewan”) died at the battle of Carham, and Malcolm II then “Ard righ” (high king) of Alba appointed his grandson Donnehadh (Duncan) to the vacant throne of Strathclyde.

Sixteen years later Malcolm died and was succeeded by Duncan, who thus became King of both Alba and Strathclyde, uniting Scotland within the boundaries which have continued to this day. It was also around this time that the term “Scotia” began to be applied to the ancient kingdom of Alba, perhaps in order to denote the common original ancestry of the kings of both Strathclyde and Alba.

It is said that Duncan was a good king but his reign lasted only until 1040 when, after a defeat at the hands of the Norsemen, he was slain near Elgin by MacBeth the Mormaer of Moray, made famous by Shakespeare.

MacBeth then ascended the throne through the inheritance of his wife, Greoch Nighean Bode. Apparently MacBeth too was a good sovereign, but eventually in 1057 he was defeated and killed at Lumphanen near Aberdeen by Malcolm, the son of Duncan I, who was crowned at Scone as Malcolm III.

Malcolm is better known in history as Malcolm “Ceann-mor” (Canmore”, which means “the large head”. His reign marks the beginning of modern Scotland, the further development of an already fairly sophisticated legal system and the introduction of Saxon influences.

All the Dalriada kings were buried in Iona, up to Duncan I and also MacBeth. Thereafter they were buried at Dunfermline.

The motto of the MacAlpines is “Cuimhnich Bas Alpein” (remember the death of Alpan”). Strangely the MacAlpines do not seem to have developed as a Clan in the way that other clans emerged in the twelfth and later centuries. Perhaps this is because they were already the Royal House of Alba and therefore there was no need for a separate clan. Instead a number of other clans claimed the honour of descent from Alpan such as the MacGregors, Grants, MacKinnons, MacQuarries, MacNabs, and MacAuleys. It is from this that the MacGregors has as their motto
“S rioghall mo dhream
“Royal is my race/descent”

The famous Gaelic Book of the Dean of Lismore refers to St PATRICK AS “Padruig MacAlpain” as if to suggest that St. Patrick himself was a descendant of the same line.

What is one to draw from this? That the MacAlpines can trace their descent to a very early period in Scottish history is plain. Those who hold the name MacAlpine are claiming also a direct inheritance from the Scottish kings of Dalriada who gradually absorbed the Picts and all the rest of Scotland. Indeed Scotland even in its English form seems to be named after the ancestors of the MacAlpines. Could one have a better pedigree than that?



Douglas, Alex, Kenneth & Dale McAlpine in the Clan March at The 80th Annual Scottish & Celtic Festival, Costa Mesa, California.



Renee Hensley-McAlpin & Doug McAlpine at the Clan MacAlpine Society tent at the Highland Games, Woodland, California.



Jeff and Mary Ann Baker with Ken G and Mary Jo McAlpine in the MacAlpine Tent at the 45th Alma Highland Festival.

CLAN MACALPINE SOCIETY
2012 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
ALL EVENTS LOCATED AT THE HILTON-PLEASANTON
7050 JOHNSON DRIVE | PLEASANTON CA 94588

Chef's Customized Pizza Buffet \$20-Friday Night

- Garden Salad with Ranch & Italian Dressing
- Assorted Sliced Pizza to Include Pepperoni, Cheese & Combination
- Garlic Bread
- Assorted Cookies
- Iced Tea & Iced Water

Customized Dinner Buffet \$30-Saturday Night

- Garden Salad with Two Dressings
- Rolls and Butter
- Rice Pilaf
- Seasonal Vegetables
- Choice of Dessert
- Starbucks Coffee, Iced Tea with Lemon

Your choice of:

- Herbed Roast Beef _____
- Pistachio Crusted Salmon _____

Send all payments to:

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

The Clan MacAlpine Society 2014 Annual Meeting

The Clan MacAlpine Society 2014 Annual Meeting will be held in Stirling to coincide with the 2014 International Gathering of the Clans.



A few key dates have been released:

June 28 - 29, 2014: Reenactment of the Battle of Bannockburn at Bannockburn itself (NTS).

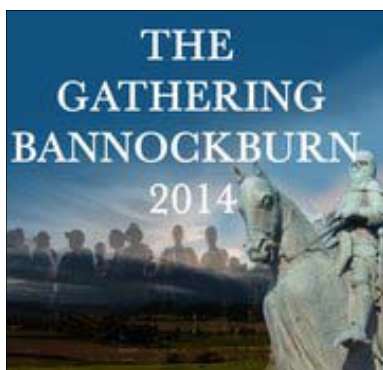
July 11 - 13, 2014: Clans 2014 - International Clan Gathering and Highland Games in Stirling, Scotland.

The 2014 clan gathering is envisioned to take place across a number of venues in Stirling, and is planned to feature:

- ▶ Clans Village
- ▶ Cavalcade procession between the Clan Village and Stirling Castle
- ▶ Entertainment on the Esplanade
- ▶ A program of musical and other cultural events in other key venues

And the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs will host a *2nd International Clan Convention* to conduct the global business of the Clans, in 2014, most likely also in Stirling and well coordinated with Clans 2014 Bannockburn 700 etc.

COSCA and the Standing Council will partner in America to ensure that American Scots are well integrated into all of the 2014 events, especially the Clan Convention.



The Court of the Lord Lyon

The Clan MacAlpine Society is not yet prepared to petition the Lyon Court for a *Derbhfine*, or Family Convention, however it is useful to be cognizant of the Courts Guidance.

Guidance from the Court as regards the holding of a *Derbhfine* or Family Convention:

The Conduct of a Family Convention

The Family Convention should take place in Scotland although members outwith the jurisdiction may participate by video link or similar.

It is anticipated that the number of those participating in a Family Convention will be relatively small, of the order of ten to twenty-five people.

It is desirable that one of HM Officers of Arms, or some other person approved by the Lord Lyon King of Arms, be appointed to supervise the Family Convention. The supervising officer's role is to act as an impartial Chairman and to make an objective report to Lyon.

In case of dispute, the supervising officer will determine which individuals shall comprise the Family Convention and, in reporting back to Lyon, shall also take into account the views of any well established clan or family association.

At least six month's notice of the intention to hold a Family Convention should be given to the Lord Lyon to be posted, at a minimum, on the Lyon Court website. The Supervising Officer should give at least two month's notice of the date of the Family Convention to interested parties, setting out the procedure to be followed.



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