



# Remember the Death of Alpin

## Newsletter Of The Clan MacAlpine Society

The Worldwide Organization For MacAlpines

2nd Qtr 2013 ~ Volume 20



John McAlpine



William McAlpin



Sir William McAlpine



Michael McAlpin



Finn Alpin



Sidney Fay McAlpin



Earl Dale McAlpine

## President's Message

I look forward to seeing everyone who can make it to the Grandfather Mountain Games. While there, we will receive the latest update on Bannockburn 2014 and will distribute it as quickly as possible. I am told that there has been good work done by the National Trust for Scotland (see attached article from COSCA).

I am anxious to meet with those who can gather, and discuss where we are, next steps, and what we need to do next. If you have questions that you would like brought forth for discussion, please email them to me at mc539@aol.com.

If you look at the home page of the Lyon Court ([www.lyon-court.com](http://www.lyon-court.com)) the Lord Lyon King of Arms has appointed Charles J. Burnett, Esq., Ross Herald Extraordinary, to be the Supervising Officer for the Strachan Family Convention. He has also appointed the Honourable Adam Bruce, Marchmont Herald of Arms, to be the Supervising Officer for the MacEwan/Ewing Family Convention.

It is our hope that at a future date, we will see that the Lord Lyon has appointed a Supervising Officer for the MacAlpine Family Convention. Yet we still have a great deal of work to be done. To that end, last year the Society commissioned the renowned Hugh Peskett to begin preparatory work to petition the Lyon Court for a Family Convention. Hugh is the Scottish editor of Burke's Peerage, and Hugh's involvement includes the genealogy of all recognized Scottish and Irish Chiefs and many Scottish Feudal Barons.

Hugh has proved a number of clan chiefships in the Lyon Court - on one occasion he was cross-examined by Queens Counsel for two and a half days - and currently he has six such claims to chiefships pending before the Court.

As you read the notes from Hugh Peskett, you can see that Hugh believes that we are well qualified to petition the present Lord Lyon for a Family Convention to appoint at least an interim Clan Commander if not going all the way to appoint a Clan Chief. They need not be the same, and there are merits in having an interim Commander.

We must therefore begin the process of soliciting Society members (or any MacAlpine) for their interest and ability to attend a proposed future Family Meeting supervised by the Court (Date to be determined, however it would not be 1013, and likely not 2014).

It is anticipated that the attendees participating in a Family Convention will be relatively small, of the order of 10 to 25 people maximum.

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## UNITE! UNITE! UNITE!

### Society Officers

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# 14th Annual Clan MacAlpine Society General Meeting Grandfather Mountain Highland Games

by Dale McAlpine

## Hello MacAlpine Kinsmen,

Time is quickly approaching for the MacAlpine Clan Society Annual General Meeting (AGM).

For fourteen years the Society has held the General Meeting in different locations in the US, Scotland, and Canada. This year it will be at the 58<sup>th</sup> Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, the largest Scottish games in the country. The games will be held July 11-14, 2013 at MacRae Meadows on Grandfather Mountain near Linville, NC. They are the premier Scottish Highland games and gathering of Clans.

Grandfather Mountain Highland Games and Gathering of Scottish Clans fosters and restores interest in traditional dancing, piping, drumming, athletic achievement, sheep herding, caber tossing and more. There are food vendors and other merchants, so bring your cash. At night they have concerts (tickets are available at the Games). There is no parking on the mountain so be prepared to pay to park and take a shuttle, at minimal cost. Additional information regarding the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games can be found on their web site [www.gmhg.org](http://www.gmhg.org)

On Thursday, July 11, Society President Michael McAlpin and I will be representing the Clan MacAlpine Society at the Council of Scottish Clans & Associations (COSCA) Clan Caucus and enjoying fellowship. The MacAlpine Clan Society will be

hosting a Clan Tent on Friday, July 12<sup>th</sup> through Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup>, and will provide drinks and snacks. Stop by the clan tent early and we will supply you with the opening ceremonies assembly time for walk of the clans.

## Agenda:

### Friday July 12th

Move equipment and supplies between 06:00 and 07:30 AM and then setup clan tent.  
Host clan tent at 08:00 AM.  
Meet at Host tent to prepare for Opening ceremonies "Parade of Tartans and Clan March" (time TBD).  
Clan Welcome (snack foods / finger foods) at MacAlpine Clan Tent.

### Saturday July 13th

Host clan tent at 07:30 AM.  
Meet at Host tent to prepare for Opening ceremonies.  
MacAlpine Clan Annual General Meeting (AGM) at 04:00 PM at the MacRae Meadows Chief's tent.  
Clan MacAlpine Society fellowship 05:00 PM.

### Sunday July 14th

Host clan tent at 08:00 AM  
Meet at Host tent to prepare for Parade of Tartans and Clan March (time TBD)  
Break down clan tent camp.  
Closing Ceremonies at 04:00 PM.

## Where to stay:

Please make your reservations at Best Western Banner Elk Hotel, by calling (828)898-4571 and mention "**Mac Alpine Clan**" for the discount rates we arranged. You must call for this rate, you will NOT get these rates by registering online.

Thursday July 11th = \$86.24 (after tax)  
Friday July 12th = \$162.91 (after tax)  
Saturday July 13th = \$162.91 (after tax)

All rooms are for two doubles beds or one king bed.



[Best Western Plus Mountain Lodge](#)  
1615 Tynecastle Hwy, Banner Elk,  
North Carolina 28604

In Kinship,  
Dale





The Council of Scottish Clans & Associations is excited to announce the return of an old tradition – Clan and Scottish organization workshops and conferences at Grandfather Mountain Highland Games. This year, to kick it all off, we are hosting a very special day long conference on Thursday prior to the opening of the games at Grandfather Mountain.

The **2013 Grandfather Mountain Scottish Clan Caucus** is designed to bring Scottish American clan, family and organization leaders and active members together to explore and debate how we can bring Scotland and America and the global Scottish diaspora much closer together as we continue to move into the 21st century.

**What is our role?** The discussion about what's happening in Scotland in 2014 has highlighted the critical need for the Scottish American community to continue our dialogue about *what we need, what we want and how we can best help the global Scottish diaspora community to grow and thrive in the 21st century.*

**How can we grow closer to Scotland?** We can never take for granted that Scotland will remain as supportive and protective of its ancestral traditions, sites, culture and language as it is today. We need to understand *what Scotland needs from us and how we can best meet those needs* - and how we can best communicate *what we need from Scotland* to do our job.

### Caucus Special Guests

**Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor.** We are absolutely delighted to announce that, back by popular demand, Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor, Convenor of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs will co-chair Thursday's Grandfather Mountain Scottish Clan Caucus on behalf of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs.

**Lord Jamie Sempill.** Lord Sempill, or as most of us know him, Jamie, is a great friend of the Scottish diaspora and we are pleased to bring Jamie back to Grandfather Mountain for the first time since his visits prior to 2009. Of course many of us met Jamie while he was coordinating the 2009 International Clan Gathering. We are privileged that Lord Sempill will join us to facilitate discussion and to entertain and enlighten us all as the Caucus Keynote Speaker.

**Rt. Hon. Henry McLeish.** It is a great privilege to announce that former First Minister of Scotland Henry McLeish will be joining us at the Caucus as a speaker and general caucus participant. Mr. McLeish continues a deep and long term interest in building a vigorous and sustainable Scottish American diaspora with his visit to this year's Scottish Clan Caucus.

### A Few More Bannockburn Details From the National Trust for Scotland (NTS)

#### A Council of Scottish Clans and Associations report

We have heard from our friends at NTS following our last post on the available details of the increasingly awesome sounding Bannockburn 2014 experience. Plans continue to progress, and NTS is working in cooperation with the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs and the Association of Highland Clans & Societies in Scotland for clan perspective.

Here are just a few additional bits and pieces of information. We will bring you more as they become available:

NTS continues to work on the make up of the Clan Village. It may end up as a combination of one large and some smaller tents.

While clans will be able to sell normal clan merchandise, event – specific branded items can only be sold by NTS.

Parking: In addition to limited parking right on site and shuttle buses from Stirling, nearby parking in fields within walking distance will be available.

Other clan specific features: Stand by, it remains early enough that NTS is still open to ideas from clans wishing to engage in additional activities.

3-D Clan Battle simulation: Details of VIP tickets which include the battle simulation experience over the three days of the event will be confirmed at the end of June. How Clans can exclusively book evening "Fight Knight" (working title) experiences including the battle simulation plus a meal in the new center will also be published at the end of June as well.

You can find more on the project at:  
[www.battleofbannockburn.com](http://www.battleofbannockburn.com) and answer the Call to Arms to be kept informed on the Re-enactment event.

### MACALPIN

The most authoritative source is Frank Adam – *The Clans, Septs and Regiments of the Scottish Highlands*, first published in 1908, with editions in 1924, 1934, 1952, and in 1955 a substantially re-written edition by Sir Thomas Innes of Learney, Lord Lyon King of Arms. He wrote in the fifth (1955) edition:

#### MACALPIN OR MACALPINE

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, however, what their relations, the MacGregors, once were, “landless,” and the family of their chief has been lost sight of.

This terse mention is all they say about the clan. This has remained unaltered in subsequent editions with subsequent editing by Sir Malcolm Innes of Edingight, son of Sir Thomas, and also Lord Lyon, and by Charles Burnett, Ross Herald, now in the eighth (2004) edition. We therefore start to argue our case with the authority of two distinguished and respected Lords Lyon and a highly respected herald, that the MacAlpins are a recognisable clan, but landless.

The suggestion of a “Clan Alpin confederation” including MacGregor, MacKinnon, MacNab, MacQuarrie, MacAulay, Grant and MacFie, proposed by Charles MacKinnon (*Scottish-American Genealogist* no: 17/20 (1980) pp 91-98) is not generally supported. There is certainly nothing to support it in the works of the great Irish genealogist, MacFirbis nor in the authoritative 1467 manuscript in the National Library of Scotland; Black (*Surnames of Scotland* (1993 edn) p. 452 attributes it as “pseudo history” by Sir Walter Scott.)

A tradition in Clan Arthur takes MacAlpine as a measure of antiquity:

*Cruic ‘is uillt ‘is Ailpeinich  
Ach cuin a thaning Artairich ?*

The hills and streams and MacAlpin  
But whence came forth MacArthur?

This shows Clan Arthur claiming seniority before Clan Alpin. However there is debatable (if any) evidence of the true legends in the Arthurian origins of Clan Arthur. For Clan Alpin, however, there are sound historical roots.

Clan Alpin’s roots are in the Scots (from Ireland) whose leaders succeeded by tanistry, by nomination or election (after a fashion) between the male kindred. They frequently married women from the Pictish royal family who then ruled much of northern and eastern Scotland. The name Alpin has Pictish origins, and

Pictish kings included Alpin I and Alpin II.

The Pictish king Alpin II had a brother Ciniath (Kenneth) II who ruled the Picts and a sister and heiress who married Fergus, king of Dalriada (approximately equating to modern Argyll) and had a daughter Fergusa who married her cousin Eochaid IV (styled the Venomous or Poisonous), who became King of Dalriada in 781 Pictish kingship was through a not entirely understood system of inheritance of male heirs through the female line

Alpin, the son of Eochaid and Fergusa, was king of Kintyre (the far south-western promontory of Scotland) who ruled March to August 834, and was killed in battle with the Picts. He had two known sons, Kenneth and Donald, both of whom were later Kings of Scots. There probably were other sons of whom we know nothing, for ancient records are silent about younger sons who did not play a major part in history, but this Alpin was the founder and progenitor of Clan Alpin or MacAlpin.

His eldest son Kenneth MacAlpin became King of Dalriada in 841 and King of the Picts (as Ciniath or Kenneth III) in 844. Modern historians disagree with the tradition that he united the two kingdoms as the first King of Scots. He was actually styled “King of Pictland”. The first to be styled King of Scots or of Scotland was his grandson Constantine II who succeeded in 900. (except Strathclyde which remained a separate kingdom until 1018). His descendants were Kings of Scots thereafter.

Records are scanty at this period for anyone less than rulers, but tradition places the MacAlpins in western Argyll and the castle of Dunstaffnage, but if this is correct, they had lost it to the MacDougals by 1250, who themselves lost it to the Campbells.

Black (*Surnames of Scotland* (1993 edn) p. 451-452) lists examples of the name with most of the earlier examples occurring in the area of Loch Lomond eastwards to the city of Perth. They were witnesses to charters and officials but not land-owners, such as Michael Macalpyne who witnessed a charter of Duncan, Earl of Lennox, in 1395 (*Cartularium Comitatus de Levanax* (1833) p.65) and I have found in the Leith-Buchanan estate records reference in a list of farms on the estate, “Macalpins Croft” (Records of Scotland GD47/24), located just east from Loch Lomond.

Searching land charters under the Great Seal 1306 to 1608 there is only one reference to the name, Thomas Makcalpie of Pittendreich in 1599 (*RMS VI 946*) and this was not a land grant but a grant of legitimation to an illegitimate son. Pittendreich is in Midlothian, near Edinburgh.

The earliest-dated MacAlpine family recorded in Burke’s Peerage or Landed Gentry is that of MacAlpine, later MacAlpine-Leny, now MacAlpine-Downie of (it is said) Inshie, Argyll. However this place cannot be identified.

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William MacAlpine there is recorded fathering children born 1717-1726, and the next generation were of Kippen, Stirlingshire, and therefore in the Loch Lomond to Perth area previously identified.

A MacAlpine from Perth is the only man of the name listed in the Muster Roll of the Jacobite Army in the 1745-46 Rising (*No Quarter Given* (2010) p.73).

### CONCLUSION:

We have the authoritative opinions in print of two Lords Lyon, Sir Thomas Innes of Learney and Sir Malcolm Innes of Edingight, and of Charles Burnett, Ross Herald, through eight revised editions of Frank Adam's foundation work, that the MacAlpins were a senior branch of Clan Alpin, the royal clan.

They were landless, and so at a time when most records which survived were of land ownership, their evidence has been hard to find. They were not Jacobite rebels (apart from one man) so whatever status they had was not forfeit by rebellion, and their chiefs have been lost to record.

Exhaustive (time-consuming and often frustrating) research has shown these men, landless (except as tenants) but often as credible witnesses in positions of authority, loyal to the Crown and not given to rebellion, and they have left limited records of a family who are, in my opinion, well qualified to petition the present Lord Lyon for a Family Convention to appoint at least an interim Clan Commander if not going all the way to appoint a Clan Chief.

### MACALPINES GOING FORWARD:

I refer you to the Lyon Court web-site [www.lyon-court.com](http://www.lyon-court.com) and in particular to Lord Lyon's remarks on holding a derbhfine or family convention [www.lyon-court.com/lordlyon/656.html](http://www.lyon-court.com/lordlyon/656.html)

You will see that he states: "(3) Where neither blood link to a past Chief nor Representer of a cadet line can be identified but it is wished to propose a particular person of the surname as Commander. It is generally desirable that such a Commander should live in Scotland.]

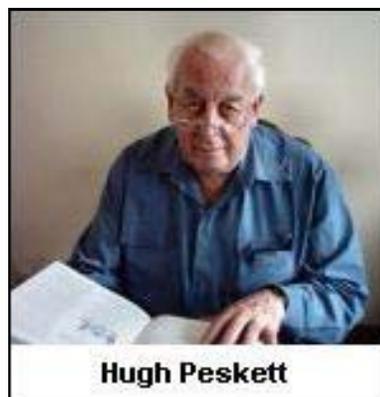
You will see that he says it is "generally desirable" rather than "quite essential", so the possibility of Commander from outside of Scotland (American, Canadian, European, etc.) is not ruled out. Normally a Commander is appointed for ten years. Perhaps if you sought only five years, he might prefer that and this would give you time to "get things off the ground"/"prime the pump" and find a suitable resident Scot (or, having failed to find one after reasonable serious effort, ask for an extension which he could hardly refuse!). An American (or Canadian etc.)

Commander would need to be prepared to come to Scotland at least twice a year, and actively promote a clan society this (east) side of the Atlantic, attend appropriate events (kilted, of course!) etc. To get a Clan Society "up and running" needs enthusiasm, especially where none exists at present, and especially in Scotland, where people are too close to it to feel an urgent need for a clan society.

To "get a feel" for the potential, I had a computerised browse through the telephone directories for the name (with variants of the spelling) and they number many hundreds. They are there but they need to be installed.

Next year we have the anniversary of the battle of Bannockburn 1314 and many celebrations because that was the great battle which preserved Scotland's independence. That is a time to rouse pride in being MacAlpines (spell it how you will).

Hugh Peskett  
22 May 2013



Hugh Peskett has been a professional genealogist specializing in both Scottish and North American immigrant research for more than thirty years; journalists dubbed him 'the Sherlock Holmes of the Family Tree' after he traced President Ronald Reagan's Irish roots and also solved the 190-year-old puzzle in the Annandale Earldom pedigree. In 2003 Lord Lyon King of Arms has accepted his proof of the Clan Chiefs of MacArthur (dormant since 1782) and Oliphant (dormant since 1748). He has welcomed the challenge of including the genealogies of all recognized Scottish and Irish Chiefs into the new Edition of Burke's Peerage. His website is at [www.hughpeskett.co.uk](http://www.hughpeskett.co.uk).

## MacAlpines Participate in Highland Events

### The 32<sup>nd</sup> annual Honolulu Highland Games 2013



The weekend of April 6<sup>th</sup> (National Tartan Day) and 7<sup>th</sup> was a great celebration of Scottish heritage.

There were hours of original Gaelic music, hundreds of kilts, and yes, haggis! The clan history tent was filled with dozens of clans represented, the Sons, and Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Scottish Veterans Association.

Every accessory for Scottish attire was for sale as well as kilts, bagpipes, music, and specialty food items.

Society Commissioner David Stevens will be representing Clan MacAlpine Society there again next year, and would be encouraged if more members were able to be in beautiful Hawaii also.



### Alma Highland Festival



The Alma Highland Festival and Games began in 1968. The festival is located on the Alma College campus in Alma, Michigan. Each year the festival brings visitors the very best of Scottish tradition. The festival combines great competition with Scottish hospitality.

Memorial day weekend this year, May 25th and 26th was the 46<sup>th</sup> Alma Highland Festival, and as always was a great success.

The Society is well represented at Alma, and Society Commissioner Mary Ann McAlpine Baker always has an information tent. Thanks go out to past Commissioner Ken G. and his wife Mary Jo for their annual attendance and support, and the many others that attend.

Hal McAlpin (seated) and his wife came all the way from Elyria OH to attend the Alma Highland Festival and introduce themselves. His son Scott (in pink shirt) comes to



Alma every year. The fellow in white (John) is also one of Hal's sons. Jeff Baker, is at left in the dark green shirt.

The Clan MacAlpine Society held its Annual General Meeting at the Alma Highland Festival in 2008.

# From Motherwell, Scotland to Chilliwack, BC, Canada in Six Generations

Submitted by J.Wayne McAlpine

I know we go way back to Kenneth McAlpine, the 1<sup>st</sup> King of Scotland in 843 AD, but my story starts in 1886 in Motherwell, Scotland where my Grandfather was born. Born to John & Jeannie (nee Fotheringham), his was one of 5 brothers, James (Grampa), Andrew, Robert, John, and William. Andrew was probably the most famous, earning the British Order of the Empire for Labour Unions.

Where the other 4 boys went and what they did is still unknown to me, but Grampa James (Jimmie) at age 19 decided he would venture to the “new land” of Canada. He arrived by boat at Montreal in 1905 and proceeded West to Maple Ridge, Sask. Finding very little work or none that were of interest to him, he set out on horseback, arriving in North Battleford, Sask. Here he eventually found a job with the Post Office service delivering the mail on horseback. His rural route was somewhere around 45 miles per day, no small feat 5 days a week on the back of a horse!

His route would take him southwest to the Cut Knife area and eventually he applied for homesteading rights in the area. This was granted and he obtained the deed to 160 acres in the Adanac area (Canada spelled backwards!), just a few miles from the town of Unity.

I understand he didn't farm for long, and started dealing in horses, both matched teams and single horses, something he did until retirement.

In June 1911, he married Elsie (nee Whittaker) and they had 3 children, John (Jack), Mae, and Jean, all born in Unity, Sask.

Jack lived most of his life in Unity (with brief stops in Regina & Winnipeg), working in the local Credit Union and Farm Implement dealership. Jack had a son, who had a son, who had a son but that is for the next chapter!



## THE BATTLE OF CULLODEN

The Battle of Culloden was fought on Drumose Moor 16th April, 1746. The graves of the gallant Highlanders who fought for Scotland and Prince Charlie are marked by the names of their clans.



Immediately after the conclusion of the battle, the Kings soldiers, under command of their officers, traversed the field, stabbing with their bayonets, or cutting down with their swords, such of the wounded of the defeated clans as came under their notice.



Donald MacAlpine, was in the second line, in the Duke of Perth's Regiment. Wounded, he was taken prisoner on the field, and then reported as dead. He is believed buried in the Mixed Clans Section of the Graves.



## President's Message

*Continued from page 1*

The Lord Lyon has indicated that leading members of the family bearing the Family name (Women who were born a MacAlpine, but have changed their surname (i.e., marriage) are also eligible) be admitted to the Family Convention. Although not specifically defined, this may include:

- Scottish Armigers (those with properly granted or matriculated Scottish Armorial Bearings).
- Substantial Landowners in Scotland.
- Eminent men (or women), and prominent individuals such as academics, judges, barristers/solicitors/attorneys, doctors, politicians, successful business persons, and others who are leaders in their profession or field.
- The Lord Lyon has also indicated that, "... there must be flexibility here in defining a 'Leading Member'." This seems to indicate that the Court of the Lord Lyon on a case-by-case basis will evaluate members of the Society and others to determine eligibility.
- Overseas participants outwith the jurisdiction (outside

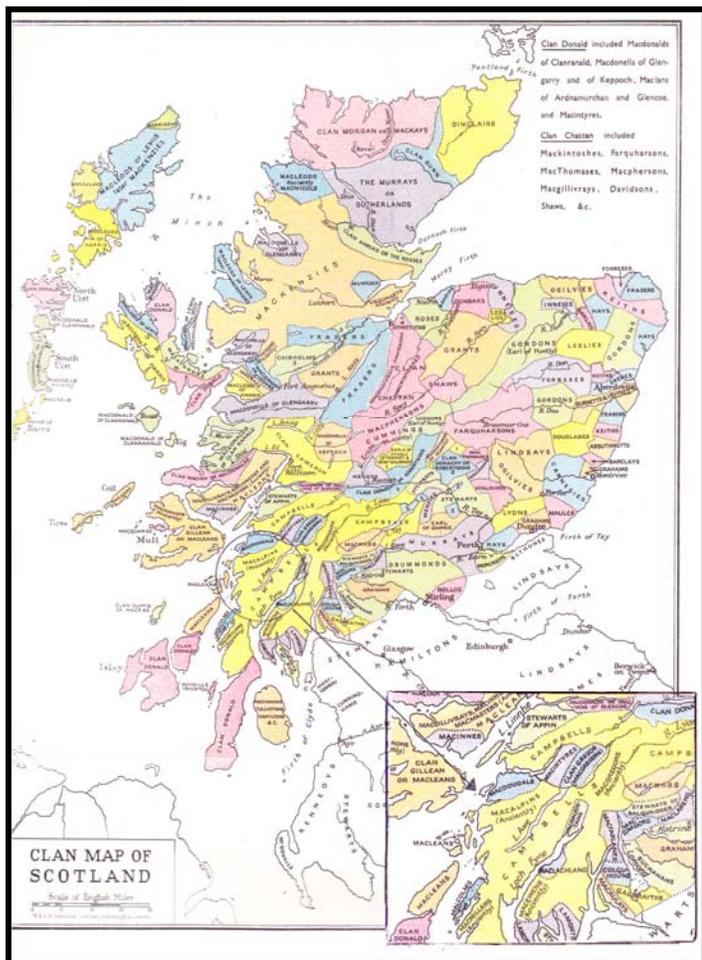
Scotland) may participate by video link or similar if unable to attend in person. The Court of the Lord Lyon desires a broad geographical representation of attendees at the Family Convention to represent the family demographic.

The process of soliciting for attendees will be discussed at our Annual Meeting at Grandfather Mountain, and will roll out through our email list, web site, and Facebook page over a period of months.

As we consider gathering the names of those who would attend the Family Meeting, or Derbhfine, we must also continue to grow our numbers, particularly in Scotland, and consider the qualifications and requirements of an interim Commander.

It should be noted that the Lord Lyon is unlikely to recognize a person recommended by a Family Convention as Chief or Head of a Family or Name, unless that recommendation is unopposed or, at the very least, has been approved by a substantial majority of the Family Convention.

In Kinship,  
Michael T. McAlpine



### Clan MacAlpine Society Information

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