



# Remember the Death of Alpin

## Newsletter Of The Clan MacAlpine Society

The Worldwide Organization For MacAlpines

4th Qtr 2013 ~ Volume 22



John McAlpine



William McAlpin



Michael McAlpin



Sir William McAlpine



Finn Alpin



Sidney Fay McAlpin



Earl Dale McAlpine.

## President's Message

Congratulations to Earl Dale McAlpine on the receipt of his arms from the Court of the Lord Lyon. His article in this newsletter gives great insight into the effort of obtaining his Armiger status.

David Sellar, Lord Lyon has retired, and Her Majesty has appointed Dr. Joseph Morrow as the new Lord Lyon. We will be reaching out to the new Lyon for guidance on our efforts.

The Derbhfine committee has assembled the qualifications for attending the Family Meeting (when one is granted by the Court). Assuming no changes are made by the new Lyon, these will become a part of our petition to the Court. We will now ask that the committee begin the process of soliciting members to attend. If you are interested in being represented on the Derbhfine, please reach out to Dale [earlmcAlpine@yahoo.com](mailto:earlmcAlpine@yahoo.com) Mary Ann [wizad3@yahoo.com](mailto:wizad3@yahoo.com) or Mark [m\\_mcalpin@hotmail.com](mailto:m_mcalpin@hotmail.com) The desire is to have as broad a representation from the various branches and geographies as is possible.

Thanks to Mark McAlpin for designing the Society kilt pin, and arranging production and distribution. I was delighted to have received mine.

Our 2014 Annual General Meeting will be held in Kilmartin, Scotland on Wednesday, June 25<sup>th</sup>. In addition to the meeting, a tour of the area around Kilmartin Glen will be conducted, and for those interested, a tour will also be offered to Iona, the ancient burial ground containing the graves of many early Scottish Kings, including Cináed mac Ailpín, "Kenneth I of Scotland"

Preparations are being made, but will require a good idea of the number of people planning on attending. If you are planning on attending, please let me know at [mc539@aol.com](mailto:mc539@aol.com) or 770 753 9844

In Kinship

Michael T. McAlpin  
President

## UNITE! UNITE! UNITE!

### Society Officers

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**Treasurer:** Kenneth McAlpine  
**Secretary:** Robin McAlpine  
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## Clan MacAlpine Derbhfine Attendee Qualifications

Hello MacAlpine Clan Men & Women,

We, the committee (Mary Ann MacAlpine Baker, Dale MacAlpine, Mark McAlpin) are now closing the window for request for comment on the qualifications of the Derbhfine. Thank-you to everyone who sent comments.

If you follow World Clan MacAlpine Society's Facebook page or our newsletter regularly you are likely already aware the Society is in the process of assembling a petition to the Court of the Lord Lyon for permission to hold a Court supervised Family Meeting or Derbhfine. The purpose of the Derbhfine is to recognize an interim Commander, gaining Court recognition of the Clan. The Court will then require, at its sole discretion, a period of time, to allow any hereditary claimant to the title of Chief of the Name to step forward and submit a documented bloodline to the past Chief or a cadet line. If no hereditary bloodline can be identified, the Clan can submit a proposal for a new Chief to be legally recognized.

We will begin the process of soliciting MacAlpines that fulfill the Attendee Qualifications with the view of submitting their names to the Lyon Court as a part of our formal petition.

The next steps are expected to be as follows:

- The Lord Lyon will assign an Officer of Arms who will review prospective attendees qualifications. Assuming 10 or more individuals are authorized by the Officer of Arms to attend the meeting we can move forward.
- A final list of acceptable attendees, who will be known as the Derbhfine Council will be forwarded to the Society president.
- The president will setup an informal teleconference between the Council members to choose the first Commander of the Clan.
- The Clan MacAlpine Society would commission such assistance as needed to begin preparatory work to petition the Lyon Court for a Family Convention (where neither blood link to a past Chief nor Representative of a cadet line can be identified but it is wished to propose a particular person of the surname as Commander).
- The formal Derbhfine meeting in Scotland will be scheduled at least a year and a day in advance to allow maximum personal attendance from overseas attendees.

Planning for a 2015 or 2016 Derbhfine, the process will be conducted by a Lord Lyon Court solicitor in Edin-

burgh. The Derbhfine meeting is not a forum for debate, but is largely ceremonial and the decision of a Commander would have already been made and agreed upon by the Derbhfine Council by a simple majority vote during their informal teleconference meetings. Once the legal, formal processes are complete, The MacAlpine Clan will be formally and legally a recognized Clan of Scotland.

### References:

#### 1. The MacAlpine Derbhfine Attendee Council Member Qualifications

The qualifications of the Derbhfine are based on regulations from the Lyon Court and follow in step with qualifications laid out by other clans who have recently held Derbhfines, thus not all suggestions could be incorporated. The final qualifications are posted below:

- A. Scottish Armigers properly granted or matriculated Scottish Armorial Bearings. (Born a MacAlpine or variant spelling).
- B. Landowners in Scotland with five acres or more without lien or valued at 350,000 or more pounds sterling, who were born a MacAlpine or variant spelling. More recently someone who simply holds title to property in Scotland. There is no written heraldic law as to the definition a 'landowner', and as such it appears to be determined on a case-by-case basis by the Court of the Lord Lyon.
- C. Men or Women that are prominent individuals such as academics, judges, barristers/solicitors/attorneys, doctors, politicians, successful business persons, and others who are leaders in their profession or field. A new concept introduced by David Sellar, Lord Lyon King of Arms in the "Guidelines for holding a Family Convention.
- D. The Lord Lyon has also indicated that, "*there must be flexibility here in defining a 'Leading Member'.*" This seems to indicate thatcroft holders, tenant farmers, current and past members (who become current before final approval of their petition) of the Clan MacAlpine Society, and others will be evaluated by the Court of the Lord Lyon on a case-by-case basis. This is a new concept introduced by David Sellar, Lord Lyon King of Arms in the, "Guidelines for holding a Family Convention.

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**Clan McAlpine Derbhfine  
Attendee Qualifications  
(Continued from Page 2)**

- E. Women who were born a MacAlpine or variant spelling, but have changed their surname (i.e., marriage) are also eligible to attend the Family Convention.
- F. Attendees are not required to file a formal petition. Documentation supporting any claims may, or may not be required by the Court of the Lord Lyon. Decisions to be determined by the Officer of Arms, Court of the Lord Lyon.
- G. Overseas participants out with the jurisdiction (outside Scotland) may participate by video link or similar if unable to attend in person. In fact, the Court of the Lord Lyon desires a broad geographical representation of attendees at the Family Convention to represent the family demographic.
- H. Only two Attendees per family is permitted by consanguinity, including marriage, within the degree of first cousin.
- I. It is anticipated that the number of attendee council members participating in a Family Convention will be relatively small, of the order of 10 to 25 people maximum.

The officers of the Clan MacAlpine Society will start collecting applications from perspective attendees with the posting in the Clan Society Newsletter.

In Kinship,  
Dale, Mary Ann, Mark



**McDonald and Rees  
A New Powerhouse in  
Scottish Ancestral Research**

Several notables who have given the Clan MacAlpine Society guidance in the past have joined up to reconnect Scots across the world with their ancestral homeland.

Dr. Bruce Durie, Lord Jamie Sempill and David Broadfoot have teamed together to provide a new approach to Ancestral research. Combining Genealogy, DNA and customized travel plans that tie together a personalized history. If you are considering researching your roots, stop by their website at [www.macdonaldandrees.com](http://www.macdonaldandrees.com).

**Lord Lyon, King of Arms**

The office of Lord Lyon King of Arms dates from the 14th century. The position may incorporate the much older Celtic office of royal Seanchaidh or of King's Poet with responsibility for keeping the royal genealogy and attending the inauguration (later coronation) of the King.

The Lord Lyon is the sole King of Arms in Scotland. He is Head of the Heraldic Executive and the Judge of the Court of the Lord Lyon which has jurisdiction over all heraldic business in Scotland.



*Mr. David Sellar  
The 37th Lord Lyon*



*Dr. Joseph Morrow  
The 38th Lord Lyon*

Her Majesty the Queen on the recommendation of the First Minister of Scotland has appointed Dr Joseph Morrow as the new Lord Lyon King of Arms.

An advocate, with degrees in Theology and Law, Dr. Morrow has been a student of heraldry for more than 30 years.

He has held a number of professional positions outwith the legal field including Convener of the Development Department of Dundee City Council, Board Member of Scottish Enterprise Tayside, Board Member of the Angus and Dundee Tourist Board, Chair of the Dundee Waterfront Development Board, Chair of the Trustees of the Tayside Superannuation Fund and Vice Chair of the Court of the University of Abertay.

In 2009 he was appointed as a Vice Lord Lieutenant for the City of Dundee and in that capacity has regularly received members of the Royal Family to the City. He is an Incumbent of the Chapel of Glamis Castle.

Dr Morrow has a special interest in ecclesiastical history and 35 years' experience of the practical application of ceremonial within a variety of settings including State, Civil, Military and Ecclesiastical areas of Scottish life.

## A Journey To Arms

By Earl (Dale) McAlpine, Jr.

On 26 May 2002 my journey begins with my very first visit to the, Costa Mesa Highland Games. Our friend, David McIntosh who was hosting a clan tent, walked us over to the Clan MacAlpine Society's tent where I met the society president Kenneth McAlpine. He told me about the society and his Coat of Arms. I asked him if I could get one too. Kenneth explained that I needed to start with Ancestry.com to research my family line. So the next day I got busy and researched back to



1730 to my 5X great grandfather Alexander McAlpin. I felt like Sherlock Holmes and I was hooked. The next step was to find proofs such as family birth, death and marriage certificates. It was here that I hit my first brick wall. It took quite some time to find my great-grandfather's death certificate as it was not in the county records where we thought he had died. The sleuth in me came out and I persevered and we found him through the state records.



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I was so excited to be part of a family. I was all in and bought my first MacAlpine kilt in the ancient colors, flashes, ghillie brogues, sporrans, sgian dubh, and kilt hose. I continued my research on and off via the internet and picked up

"leafs" and nuggets. My research lead me to Doris McAlpin Russell an author that might have some advice so I wrote her a letter in April 2007.

The next mile stones happened May 2007 at the Pomona Highland Game where Kenneth showed me a book titled McAlpin(e) Genealogies 1730 – 1990 Alexander McAlpin of South Carolina and Georgia and his descendants. Very quickly I was able to identify my branch of the family in this book by Doris McAlpin Russell. I went in search of a copy of the book. Doris spent 20 years and self-published so it was not easy to find. By this time all copies were sold and the library copies had not been returned.

28 May 2007 a wonderful man by the name of Michael McAlpin of Georgia had a copy of the book and offered to



Then in 29 May 2010 at the Costa Mesa Highland Games Clan MacAlpine AGM, Robin and I decided to become more involved with furthering the mission of the society and became board members. More research...



2011 Fergus Canada AGM and more research! (picture to left)



2012 Pleasanton California AGM and by now you know, more research...

No wait! After my latest submittals of proofs, the Lord Lyon's court on November 19, 2012 approves my Letters Patent for my 4X Great Grandfather Thomas William David McAlpin!!!

I read over the document, made a few changes and started thinking about how I wanted my arms to look. What should my motto be and how would I represent my family?

The Motto "CUIMHNICH AIR NA DAOINE O'N D'THAINIG THU", Continued on Page 5

*A Journey to Arms . . . Continued from Page 4*

which means “Remember the men from whom you came”. After ten years of research on my ancestor’s, I felt that this was my motto.

For the crest I chose something that represents my grandfather, my father, my brothers and me. As young boys, every year we would go deer hunting with our father, like he did with his father. Now that both my father and grandfather have passed on, these memories are important to me and mark a common bond between us. So, I chose a California deer to represent those days of my youth with my family.

I sent these requests to the court and asked for them to include the Lord Lyon’s and his courts arms at the top and my 4X grandfather’s coat of arms to the left of mine. I also selected which of the four court artisans I wanted to do my artwork. All that was left to do was submit payment and wait the court artesian to create.

So in January 2013, I transferred the required funds and in February the court assigned my Letters Patent to the courts artist. They informed me that it would take about three months to complete just in time for our AGM at Grandfather Mountain. In May we found out that my artist became sick and needed recovery time. By June I was 4<sup>th</sup> in line.



*Grandfather Mountain Highland Games 14 July 2013 AGM.  
Robin & Dale’s kids from West Virginia.*

November 27, 2013 the artesian was done and my package was in the mail by December 4. Well, between first class airmail, Her Majesties Royal Mail and USPS it arrived January 6, 2014 at my old address. I was so relieved as I had worried about it for weeks.

I picked it up on the way to work from our old address and could not open it until I got home to Robin. Over ten years with Robin’s support and others mentioned above this would not have happened. It’s an honor to be the seventh armiger of Clan MacAlpine Society.



One  
Happy  
Boy!!!



In the future I will translate my coat of arms and the letters patent.

In Kinship,  
Dale

**Clan MacAlpine Society Kilt Pins Now Available For Purchase**

The pins are custom designed by Mark McAlpin, incorporating the elements of the boar’s head, the pine tree, the crown, and the sword, all of which are linked to the MacAlpines, and appear prominently in MacAlpine Heraldry.

The pins are made out of silver weighing approximately 1 ounce  
Dimensions are 4”X 1 1/8”

Price is \$75 USD and is payable by PayPal or check

Please contact  
[NotCommonKiltPins@outlook.com](mailto:NotCommonKiltPins@outlook.com) for questions or purchase



Draft Agenda

6/24/2014, Tuesday

Arrive Kilmartin Area  
Check in to hotel of your selection. Area list to be provided.



6/25/2014, Wednesday

0900 - Tour of Kilmartin Glen, Dunnadd Fort, Standing Stones, and Cairns

Lunch

1300 - Meet in the church at Kilmartin. Historian Bill Potter will speak on the history of the Scottish Reformation, and tour the church and graveyard.



1500 – Carnasserie Castle Tour - Carnasserie is a ruined 16th century [tower house](#), noted for its unusual plan and renaissance detailing. It is located around 2km to the north of [Kilmartin](#). Historian Bill Potter will speak on History program on the 1685 West Country Rebellion (the Monmouth Rebellion). During the rebellion, John McAlpin of Kilmartin was convicted of participating in the rebellion.



1600 – AGM Kilmartin House Museum

1700 – Social Time Kilmartin House Museum

1900 – Dinner and Entertainment at Kilmartin House Museum. Patricia Roberts will play the Scottish Harp (Clarsach), and sing traditional songs (Patricia played for us in 2004 in Oban)



06/26, Thursday

Tour to Iona including a history of Iona where St. Columbo brought Christianity to Scotland in 563, and where 25 kings are buried, including the MacAlpine Dynasty. We will stay the night on the Island of Mull.

Tobermory Distillery tour

Dinner



07/28, Friday

Self –directed travel of Scotland



# The MacAlpine Tartan

By John Gilpin

Tartans originally utilized the dyes that were available in the local area, and for many centuries the patterns were loosely associated with that area, and more associated with the weavers of the area than any distinct clan or family. There is some argument regarding just when tartans became associated with specific clans, some experts suggest mid 15<sup>th</sup> century, others insist a much later date.

In *A Description of the Western Islands of Scotland*, published in 1703, it is noted that Scottish tartans could be used to distinguish the inhabitants of different regions. He expressly wrote that the inhabitants of various islands and the mainland of the Highlands were not all dressed alike, but that the setts and colours of the various tartans varied from isle to isle. As he does not mention the use of a special pattern by each family, it would appear that such a distinction is a modern one

After the last of the Highland Rebellions in 1745, the English passed the Highland Dress Act, which became law August 1<sup>st</sup>, 1746 prohibiting the wearing of the tartan, or kilt.

## *Abolition and Proscription of the Highland Dress*

"That from and after the first day of August, One thousand, seven hundred and forty-six, no man or boy within that part of Britain called Scotland, other than such as shall be employed as Officers and Soldiers in His Majesty's Forces, shall, on any pretext whatever, wear or put on the clothes commonly called Highland clothes (that is to say) the, Philabeg, or little Kilt, Trowse, Shoulder-belts, or any part whatever of what peculiarly belongs to the Highland Garb; and that no tartan or party-coloured plaid of stuff shall be used for Great Coats or upper coats, and if any such person shall presume after the said first day of August, to wear or put on the aforesaid garment or any part of them, every such person so offending ... For the first offence, shall be liable to be imprisoned for 6 months, and on the second offence, to be transported to any of His Majesty's plantations beyond the seas, there to remain for the space of seven years."

The law was repealed in 1782. as follows:

On July 1st 1782 Royal assent was given to *Repeal of the Act Prescribing the Wearing of Highland Dress* and a proclamation issued in both English and Gaelic announced:

"Listen Men. This is bringing before all the Sons of the Gael, the King and Parliament of Britain have forever abolished the act against the Highland Dress; which came down to the Clans from the beginning of the world to the year 1746. This must bring great joy to every Highland Heart.

You are no longer bound down to the unmanly dress of the Lowlander. This is declaring to every Man, young and old, simple and gentle, that they may after this put on and wear the Tuis, the Little Kilt, the Coat, and the Striped Hose, as also the Belted Plaid, without fear of the Law of the Realm or the spite of the enemies."

The naming and registration of official clan tartans began in 1815 through the efforts of the Highland Society of London, and continues today under the Scottish Register of Tartans.

The MacAlpine Tartan predates 1906, and is a registered tartan. In W & A.K. Johnstone's 1906 book *Scottish Tartans* it is noted that the color green sometimes symbolizes prairies or forests, blue can symbolize lochs and rivers, and the color yellow is sometimes used to symbolize various crops.

We have two distinct MacAlpine tartans registered. The one you will probably know best is, reg. No 1914 by W. & K.A. Johnstone dated 1906, but believed to predate this designation. 1914 is the tartan most of you are to be seen wearing in our picture. gallery.



The second, reg. No 2024 by F. Adams dated 1908. 2024, though very similar to 1914, contains no blue having been replaced by black.



The only company producing this variant, that I know of, is House of Edgar in a 13oz cloth from their "Old and Rare," range of tartans. This is woven in a single width of 28" on a shuttle loom and hence you would need a full 8 yards for a Kilt. Other producers tend to use modern weaving machines such as the Sulzer which produce a 56" width with a tuck-in selvedge. This requires just 4 yards but has to be cut and joined by the kilt maker. It has to be noted that there are several surviving artisan weavers who can produce anything you would like.



In addition, Lochcarron Mills also produces our tartan utilizing Weathered colours. (Sometimes also called Withered.) This is supposed, and I repeat SUPPOSED, to represent cloth that has been buried underground or in Peat for many years. This turns the greens to brown and the blues to a light blue/grey.

## Flowers of the Forest



### **Lord McAlpine, Conservative Party Fundraiser, Dies Robert Alistair McAlpine, Baron McAlpine of West Green May 14, 1942 - January 17, 2014**

Lord McAlpine, the former Conservative Party deputy chairman and the peer who raised millions for the Conservative party, has died at the age of 71.

His family announced that the peer, who had previously been an aide to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, died peacefully at his home in Italy.

Lord McAlpine of West Green raised millions during his time as treasurer of the Conservative party and his efforts were rewarded by a life peerage in 1984.

Paying tribute, David Cameron said: "My thoughts are with Lord McAlpine's family - he was a dedicated supporter of Margaret Thatcher and the Conservative party."

Robert Alistair McAlpine left school at 16 and started work on a building site for the firm founded by his great grandfather, Sir Robert McAlpine. Such was his business acumen that in five years he was appointed a director of the firm.

Mrs. Thatcher appointed him a joint treasurer of the Conservative party in 1975. After the 1979 General Election she gave him added responsibility as deputy chairman of the party, a post he held for four years.



Lord McAlpine with Margaret Thatcher in 1975 (PA)

Grant Shapps MP, the current Conservative Party chairman, said: "Lord McAlpine made a huge contribution to public life. A man of true integrity in business and politics. My thoughts are with his family."

Lord McAlpine was also known as a benefactor of the arts and his interests ranged from modern paintings and sculpture to the welfare of aborigines in Australia, where he had an estate.

He was a member of the Arts Council, chairman of the Theatre Investment Fund, trustee of the Royal Opera House and a director of the Institute for Contemporary Arts.

**The most remarkable sculptured monument in Britain  
A tribute to King Kenneth?**



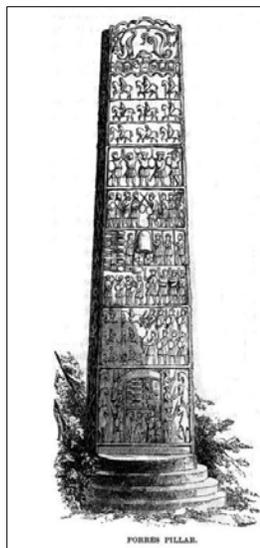
SUENO'S  
STONE

Sueno's Stone stands over 6.5 metres (about 21 feet) high and is a Picto-Scottish standing stone on the north-easterly edge of Forres, Scotland. It is the largest surviving Pictish stone of its type in Scotland.

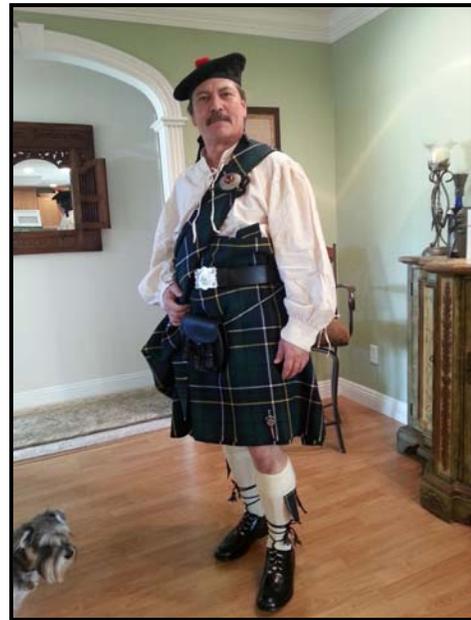
Radio carbon dating at the site produced dates of charcoal fragments to between AD 600 and AD 1000.

There is general agreement that the stone dates to between the 9th and 10th centuries[ and greater accuracy is probably not possible. The examination of the carvings has been carried out to compare the style and also to interpret the figurative and historical significance. The Irish crosses of the 10th century are similar with their interweaving patterns and crowded panels of figures.

One hypothesis is that the figures depicted in the battle, parade and decapitation scenes is the army of Kenneth MacAlpin (Cináed mac Ailpín), the scene being the representation of Kenneth's demonstration of his military and legal authority over northern Pictland. The two side panels have sinuous vine patterns populated with men as depicted in the Book of Kells. This suggests a date of between AD 800 and AD 900.



**California Kinsman Roy Simpson  
Wearing the Great Kilt**



This kilt goes by many names: Great Kilt, Feileadh Mor, Breacan Feile, Big Kilt, Belted Plaid.

Essentially, it is just a length of double-width tartan. The length can vary from 4.5 to 9 yards, but 6 or 7 yards is the most popular choice. The Great Kilt shown here is 7 yards.

Very different from the more popular pre-pleated kilts, this style of kilt has to be pleated by hand each time you put it on.

**Clan MacAlpine Society Information**

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**Contributions:** Can be made payable to:

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