

Remember the Death of Alpin

Newsletter Of The Clan MacAlpine Society

The Worldwide Organization For MacAlpines

1st Qtr 2014 - Volume 23



John McAlpine



William McAlpin



Michael McAlpin



Sir William McAlpine



Finn Alpin



Sidney Fay McAlpine



Earl Dale McAlpine



Bruce McAlpine

President's Message

I was delighted to speak with Canadian Armiger Bruce McAlpine (now of Illinois) recently. The Canadian Arms of Lt. General Duncan Alastair McAlpine passed to Bruce from his father. Bruce has given his support to our cause, and we will proudly display his Arms on our banner and website.

I have heard from many that will be at the AGM in Scotland. It should be a great time to see everyone and take in the beauty of the countryside. As there are no Highland Games in the Kilmartin area, we will be taking several tours of the Kilmartin Glen, and over to the ancient burial ground of the MacAlpine Kings at Iona. Historian Bill Potter will be joining us and will give several interesting lectures. We will also have a special treat with Patricia Roberts once again playing her clarsach and singing.

In addition to the tours and kinship during the event, there are several business issues to attend to, including the election of officers, a few changes to our Constitution and other matters.

The Clan MacAlpine Society 2014 Annual Meeting has been timed to allow those who are interested to attend the grand events celebrating the 700th Anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn. If you are thinking of attending, tickets and information can be found at: www.bannockburnlive.com/tickets

It is noteworthy that in this issue you can see Clan MacAlpine Society activity from Sweden to Nevada to Hawaii, along with preparations for Scotland.

In kinship,

Michael T McAlpin
President

UNITE! UNITE! UNITE!

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Secretary: Robin McAlpine
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Proposed Changes to the Clan MacAlpine Society Constitution

Submitted by the Secretary, Robin McAlpine

Our Constitution is in need of a few updates. I would propose that the following be approved at the AGM. Please note deletions are in parenthesis and italics and additions are in red.

4.5 Each Officer and Elected Committee Member shall be elected at an Annual General Meeting for a term of up to *(three)* **four** years and shall be eligible for re-election. A Committee Member who fails to attend three consecutive meetings of the Committee either in electronic format or physical meeting without due cause and notification will be deemed to have resigned from the Committee.

4.6 *(Not later than the 15th day of January in each year the)* **The** Secretary shall send by post or email, **newsletter or social networking** to every Member of the Society a statement showing the vacancies for Officers and Elected Committee Members which at that time can be foreseen as bound to be available for filling at the next Annual General Meeting (*; and the statement shall be accompanied by a nomination paper covering every such vacancy*).

4.7 To be valid, a nomination shall be received *(by the Secretary by the 31st day of March following)*, **prior to the Annual General Meeting**. *(shall be in writing (whether or not on the form provided) and shall be signed by the proposer, seconder and candidate, the last signifying readiness to stand.)*

4.8 If the number of candidates for any appointment necessitates a vote, a voting paper showing the names of the candidates and the proposer and seconder of each shall be sent to every Member of the Society with the notice of the Annual General Meeting.

4.9 Every Member of the Society in attendance **at the Annual General Meeting** will have one vote. *(Voting may be either by post or electronic format, in the case of postal votes using the envelope supplied with the voting paper, which shall be opened at the Annual General Meeting, or by bringing the voting paper to that Meeting.)*

Elections – a note from the Secretary

It has been five years since our last election of officers at the AGM in Southern California.

We will call for elections at this year's AGM in Scotland, to be voted on by those present.

All officers will serve a four year term. To maintain continuity of the activities of the society, we will stagger terms for elected officials. Nominations will be opened as follows:

President - two years to allow a stagger
(next one, four years)

Vice President - (four year term)

Member at Large - (four year term)

Treasurer - two years to allow a stagger
(next one, four years)

Secretary - (four year term)

Nominations should be directed to the secretary, Robin McAlpine at robinlmc Alpine@yahoo.com

Kilmartin Glen from King Kenneth's Fort Dunadd



Your wee bit hill and glen

Celebrating Robert Burns

Burns' Supper, Stockholm 2014.

Submitted by Finn Alpin

As usual, the annual Burns' Supper was held on the Saturday closest to the Birthday of Robert Burns. A rare treat that it actually fell on the 25th January this year. The Caledonian Society of Sweden has held the Annual Burns' Supper at the Officers Mess of the Royal Dragoon Guards for many years and the programme remains the same.



After the welcome speech, we have the "Loyal Toasts" to the Sovereigns of Sweden and the UK, given by HE the British Ambassador. From there, the programme is the same as the world over: "Piping in the Haggis" and "The Address to the Haggis", followed by "The Selkirk Grace", "The Immortal Memory" and "The Address to the Lassies" and "The Reply from the Lassies". Finally, and because

this is a Cavalry Mess, the Officer hosting the evening, Lt Col Christian Braunstein, will give the "Toast to the Horse", preceded by a short speech. This is always an interesting sight, as people will stand with one foot on the chair and the other on the table, while giving the toast.

Through all this entertainment we still find the time to enjoy our "Haggis & Neeps" with whisky, "Roast Lamb & Tatties" (with salad and wine) finishing off with the usual dessert, "Brandied Figs" with Ginger Cream and Port. While the main room is being changed from dining to dancing we take coffee in the many lounges that make up the Officers Mess.



There are a number of fine portraits in each room as well as a collection of weapons and trophies to admire. The night ends with the famous dances: "Dashing white Sergeant", "Gay

Gordons", "Strip the Willow" and more. Same procedure as last year and same procedure as every year!

I am glad to report that another tradition has become a part of the evening's entertainment: Our winnings at the lottery, which takes place between dinner and dessert. We of the McAlpine Society usually number around 6 – 8 people. The total number of guests is 80 to 90 people. Yet we keep winning the main prizes! List of winners so far: 2007 Finn Alpin, 2009: Ronny Lindergren, 2010: Leizel Alpin, 2011: Sven Gustavsson, 2012: Lotta Lenberg, 2013: Finn Alpin and yet again 2014: Finn Alpin! I attribute the fact that I won only to the circumstance that Ronny Lindergren could not be with us on the night! He never walks away from a Burns' Night with-out a prize! The main prize is usually a large bottle of a fine whisky. Other prizes are gift certificates, perfumes, books and various other things relating to the subject. I am hopeful that we will be gathering for yet another Burns' Night next year and that we can bring home a few more prizes!

Reno's Robert Burns Celebration

Submitted by Janet McAlpine

McAlpine father and daughter were presenters at Reno's Robert Burns Celebration. Doug presented the northern Nevada 2014 Scot of the Year Award while daughter, Ann Marie was the announcer for the raffle drawing.



We had a great time with 7 of our McAlpine family in attendance and 485 people attending the event.



The room at the Grand Sierra in Reno was gorgeous. What a marvelous birthday party for Robert Burns. Plans are already in the works for next year's event.

Notable McAlpines

Lieutenant General Duncan Alastair McAlpine (1922-2010)



Duncan McAlpine grew up in Montreal during the Depression. In 1940, soon after he turned 18, he entered the venerable granite armoury of the Royal Highland Regiment of Canada (Black Watch) to offer his services in the war against Nazi Germany.

Fighting as an infantry officer Duncan McAlpine was leading a 50-man patrol when he and his men came under machine-gun fire. It was September 1944.

After taking cover from the hailstorm of bullets, the young Mr. McAlpine, a junior infantry officer planned his assault on the enemy position.

After the objective was taken he looked down at his uniform. To his horror, he noticed a German bullet had cut its way through his jacket and underwear, grazed his neck and cut off his pistol holster. In the heat of battle, he hadn't felt a thing.

The incident was written up in the Toronto Telegram soon afterward. "It wasn't comfortable, but we've all had experiences like that," Mr. McAlpine told the reporter. "I had to buy new battledress. My old one was no more good, so I sent it home to my mother and told her to look at what the moths did."

That insouciance was typical of Mr. McAlpine in both peace and war. Known as a gentle man, he never raised his voice as he climbed the ranks to the top of the postwar Canadian army.

After the war he joined 1st Canadian Highland Battalion as a company commander in Germany, and subsequently

served as a company commander in 1st Battalion, RHC in Camp Aldershot, Nova Scotia.

Following a tour of duty at NATO Headquarters in Fontainebleau, France, he assumed command of 2nd Battalion, RHC in West Germany in 1963 and continued in command when 2nd Battalion returned to Gagetown, New Brunswick in 1965 and when it deployed to Cyprus in 1966.

Between tours at National Defense Headquarters Canada, he commanded the Combat Training Centre in CFB Gagetown in 1970, and Canada's military contingent to the International Commission for Control and Supervision in Viet Nam in 1973. He was appointed Commander Canadian Forces in Europe in 1975.

By the time he retired from the regular army, he wore a chest full of medals as one of Canada's few lieutenant-generals on the active list.

After his military career, he worked for a period for Brascan Corporation and the Ontario Hospitals' Association before moving to Kingston, Ontario.

In Kingston, he was active in the university and his church, as well as finding time for his lifelong love of history. He also was a trustee for the Salvation Army, and Chairman of the Board of the Ontario Hospital Association. He was awarded the Silver Acorn from Scouts Canada.

By the end of the 1990s, Mr. McAlpine was back in the uniform of his beloved Black Watch when he was appointed the regiment's honorary lieutenant colonel. He later became honorary colonel, reporting on the unit to the colonel-in-chief, Prince Charles. Despite his age, Mr. McAlpine attended as many events as possible.

On Nov. 10, 2009, Mr. McAlpine wore his Black Watch ceremonial uniform, complete with kilt, medals, white spats and sporran, when he greeted Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall at the regiment's historic armoury on Bleury Street in Montreal.

Carrying his claymore in his left hand, the insignia of commander of the Order of Military Merit hanging at his neck, Mr. McAlpine saluted his colonel-in-chief before the prince presented new colours to the regiment.

It was a glittering occasion. Mr. McAlpine, beaming proudly, was front and centre, where he belonged, 70 years after he first walked in the door to join up.

Hawaiian Scottish Festival

Submitted by Dave Stevens

The 33rd Annual Hawaiian Scottish Festival was held April 5th and 6th, 2014 at McCoy Pavilion at Ala Moana Beach Park in Honolulu.



This is a completely enclosed venue with multiple outdoor stages, air conditioned rooms, open-air rooms, fountains, pools, well kept restrooms, and beautiful landscaping! The pavilion is right on the beach.

The dance contests were held in the main air conditioned theatre and the athletic events were held just outside the pavilion at Ala Moana Beach Park.

It was a perfect day. It never got over 82 degrees and we always had a light breeze from the ocean. Wonderful food was available and, since this was an enclosed venue, beer, wine, and scotch were also for sale.

The Clan MacAlpine was well represented, and helped visitors find their family names on the clan map and look up some of their history on the internet.

Flowers of the Forest



Ann Gilpin (nee Dobson)

It is with sadness that we hear of the passing of Ann Gilpin, beloved wife of our UK Commissioner John Gilpin. Passed on March 29th, in hospital at age 62. Ann was from Acomb, York. She had been dealing with a number of illnesses for many years. A loving wife of John and a well loved auntie to all the family.

"She was my love, my life, my Ann". "Thank you all for being there for me and more importantly being there for my Ann"

Steven McAlpin of Oxnard CA



We are also saddened by the loss of Steven "Steve" Dale McAlpin, age 54, of Oxnard, CA who passed away Saturday, April 12, 2014. He was born February 12, 1960 in Friend, Nebraska, the son of Dean and Mary McAlpin. He grew up in Friend, Nebraska and Mineral Wells, Texas. After high school he joined the U.S. Navy and served 11 honorable years; and after he served 22 years with Calleguas Municipal Water District as the Water Control Supervisor.

Steve is preceded in death by his father Dean McAlpin and brother Jim McAlpin. He is survived by his wife, Mary McAlpin, children Davina and Ian McAlpin, four grandchildren Joseph McAlpin, Kailani Castellon, Josiah and Aubrey McAlpin and long-time companion Nancy Nguyen

Over the years, Steve made many friends, all of whom the family would like to thank for the generosity, compassion and kindness during this difficult time.

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 for questions or purchase



MacAlpine AGM, Scotland 2014 Agenda

6/24/2014, Tuesday - Arive Kilmartin Area

Check in hotel or B&B 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. Tour the church & 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.

1630 – AGM Kilmartin House Museum
Hugh Peskett will be available for discussion

1800 – Social Time Kilmartin House Museum



1900 – Dinner and Entertainment at Kilmartin House Museum.

Venison Stew - Tarts (Greek, Scottish cheese etc) Roasted Vegetables Rosemary Roast potatoes Gardeners Pie - A Pasta Dish - Salad Bowls - Mixed Olives - Cheese and Meat Platters Homemade Special Bread Vegetarian Soup - Red Pepper Pate Smoked Salmon Pate Melon and Parma Ham Nibbles - Lemon Bread and Butter Pudding - Treacle Tart - Chocolate Pots - Fruit Salad - Meringues - Apple Dutch Cake
The above served with choice of ice cream, custard or cream - Tea, coffee or mints

£20.00 or \$35 USD

A Cash Bar will be also be available for wines, lagers, and ales and spirits.

Patricia Roberts will play the Scottish Harp (Clarsach), and sing traditional songs



06/26, Thursday

We will be leaving our lodgings to arrive at the Oban Ferry in time to park your vehicle and catch the 9:50 Ferry from Oban to Craignure on the Island of Mull. (must be at the ferry terminal at 9:20, a full 30 minutes prior to departure).



It is a 45 minute ferry ride from Oban to Craignure. We will disembark the ferry and board a private coach for the 35 mile trek across Mull to the small ferry at Fionnphort, which will take us on the 10 minute ferry ride to Iona. We should arrive at Iona about noon, and will take time to have some lunch or a snack at one of the locations on Iona (or you can bring a box lunch). We will have about two hours on the island where Historian Bill Potter will lead the tour, and explain the importance of St. Columba in bringing Christianity to Scotland.

We will have a walking tour of Iona Abbey, and St Oran's Chapel. This chapel stands in its own burial ground, Reilig Odhrain, thought to be the final resting place of 48 Kings of Scotland and Norway. Oran was a relative and disciple of St. Columba.



Departing Iona, we will take the short ferry ride back to Fionnphort, and board our coach for a visit to Duart Castle, a restored 14th century castle that is the home of Clan MacLean. From Duart Castle, we will make a short stop in the colorful village of Tobermory before returning to the Ferry at Craignure for the 7:00PM crossing back to Oban, arriving at 7:45 PM.

Coach Fare, Ferry expense and entrance to the Castle will be about \$50.00 USD (£30).

07/28, Friday

Self-directed travel of Scotland

The Procurator Fiscal of the Lyon Court



*Alexander M S Green,
M.Theol (Hons), LL.B, LL.M,*

The Lyon Court is a standing court of law which regulates heraldry in Scotland. It is fully integrated into the Scottish legal system and has both civil and criminal jurisdiction. The procurator fiscal appears in any proceedings before the Lyon Court on behalf of the Lord Advocate.

Persons or corporations who display heraldic devices to which they do not have a lawful right commit an offence under Scots Law. The use of symbols and devices which may be classed as a part of the system of heraldry (popularly called coats of arms etc...) is strictly controlled in Scotland.

There is a Public Register of Arms and all such symbols must be recorded if they are to be legally used in Scotland.

There are penalties for infringing such rights and it is the duty of this office to deal with those issues relating specifically with heraldry because of its unique and important role in Scots culture particularly in relation to the clan system.

This Office regularly deals with complaints concerning alleged infringements of the Law of Arms from a variety of sources. Many of these concern unregistered 'DIY' heraldry but also usurpation of registered arms. Each complaint is investigated on its merits and it is always a matter of the procurator fiscal's absolute discretion to decide whether to prosecute infringements. If the procurator fiscal decides to act he will do so by letter, warning or, if necessary, by way of prosecution before the Lyon Court.



An Update From The Council of Scottish Clans and Associations:

“We are assured from the very top boss of VisitScotland that Bannockburn Live is now set. During a productive and informative meeting last week COSCA was given assurance that we will see no further changes to the overall Bannockburn Live program – except to make it even better. Visit Scotland Chairman Dr. Mike Cantlay has followed that discussion with an open letter confirming that the Saturday/Sunday Bannockburn Live festival is ON – politics or no politics.



Once we really got VisitScotland to give us some up close and personal glimpses into what is being planned we are itching to get to Scotland in June. Plus, we have been working closely with the Clanranald Trust and we will

be posting fascinating insights into the several years of the planning, research and incredible creativity and dedication of this amazing group and the National Trust For Scotland in bringing this once in a lifetime event to all of us.

We are working with Clanranald Trust, NTS and VisitScotland to put together a package for Monday that is truly dedicated to the clans and clansfolk who will travel to Scotland to be a part of it all. And make

no mistake about it – the clans are part of show as the Clan Village will be an important part of the festival.

So let's allow the politics to go on as it will – we have our Heritage event at Bannockburn. After all, Bannockburn is in Scotland and the people of Scotland have a wee decision just ahead of them. We will watch and listen from the Clan Village under the shadow of King Robert and the Black Douglas and all of the men and women who made September's decision possible some 700 years ago.

Clan MacAlpine Society Information

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