



Remember the Death of Alpin

Newsletter Of The Clan MacAlpine Society

The Worldwide Organization For MacAlpines

4th Qtr 2014 Volume 26



John McAlpine



William McAlpin



Michael McAlpin



Sir William McAlpine



Finn Alpin



Sidney Fay McAlpin



Earl Dale McAlpine



Bruce McAlpine

President's Message

2014 was a very active year across the Society. From Sweden to Hawaii, dinners, socials and games were attended in celebration of our heritage. For the many who met in Scotland it was, as always, a memorable event.

Over the last fifteen years, we have held annual meetings in Scotland, Canada, and across the U.S. We have attended games, staffed tents, published newsletters, raised armigers and learned of our great heritage. Over 2,500 kinsmen make up the Society, and they are located in 22 countries.

In 2015 we are asking for the establishment of a Council comprised of those members who are interested in attending the Family Convention, to be held in Scotland, when one is granted by the Lyon Court. The broadest representation of as many branches of the MacAlpines is our goal.

The Council will screen potential candidates or Representatives for Interim Commander, and make a recommendation to the Lyon Court. Once recognized by the Lyon Court, the Interim Commander will act as head of the Clan until a suitable Chief can be found or a new one is elected by the Council and approved by the Court.

We are at the same time calling for Representatives, or those who believe that they have the qualifications and interest to be considered by the Council as a candidate for Interim Commander.

These are critical steps on the path we have worked on for fifteen years.

In this issue you will find information on both the call for Representatives, and the establishment of the Clan Council.

In kinship
Michael T McAlpin
President

UNITE! UNITE! UNITE!

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Clan MacAlpine Society - Call for Representers

One of the main aims of the Clan MacAlpine Society is to gain formal recognition for a Chief of Name and Arms by the Lord Lyon King of Arms, Scotland's chief herald. By implication, having a Chief, MacAlpine would then be regarded as a Clan.

At our first AGM in 2000 we resolved to set into motion the activities that would result in that end. Over the past fifteen years we have made substantial progress.

We now call for Representers, those who believe that they have the qualifications and interest to be considered as a candidate for interim Commander. The interim Commander must be approved by Family Convention (once called a *Derbhfine*), and recognized by the Lyon Court.

The interim Commander would act as the head of the Clan, in the absence of a Chief. The recognition by the Lyon Court of a Commander would recognize Clan MacAlpine as an Armigerous clan. The Commander would serve until such time as a claim to the Chiefly line should come forward, and be recognized by the Lyon Court, or a new Chief be appointed by Family Convention, and recognized by the Lyon Court.

Likely Representers must have their pedigrees drawn up or present existing pedigrees, with full proofs of every generational step. Lord Lyon operates a judicial court, therefore so must Clan MacAlpine. A pedigree with proofs must be presented, along with Y-67 DNA analysis. Representers must bear their own expenses in preparing the required documents and tests. This will not be an exclusive exercise – for example, someone who is legally a MacAlpine by adoption could be considered; however, anyone who has changed surname to thereby become considered for selection will not be considered. Those desirous of responding may send their intent to the Clan MacAlpine Secretary who will coordinate the collection of these efforts, and if required suggest a genealogist who can help.

A period of six months from January 1, 2015 shall be allowed for Representers to come forward. After scrutiny, each Representer's documents will be submitted to the Family Convention members for consideration. Unanimity, or near unanimity on the Representer elected by the Family Convention will be required before submission to the Lyon Court will occur. Those presenting documents for consideration by the Family Convention must agree to be bound by the decision of the Family Convention, without demur or challenge.

In order for any person to be accepted as a Representer, and ultimately as Chief, that person must be armigerous or expect to inherit arms, or if not, to petition for and be granted arms by

Lord Lyon. This petition could occur after the selection is made, as otherwise the armiger would have to re-petition for recognition as Chief, with possible alteration of arms. Anyone bearing arms granted in another jurisdiction (say, England, Ireland or Canada) must be prepared to have those arms accepted or re-granted in Scotland by Lord Lyon.

As we progress, it will likely be necessary to appoint a *Shennachie* to prepare the necessary documents. It will also be necessary to ask Lord Lyon to appoint a suitable person, possibly an Officer of Arms, to supervise and chair the Family Convention.

The Clan MacAlpine Society, by separate solicitation, shall also call for interested parties who meet the criteria to comprise the *Derbhfine* or Family Convention for the purpose of electing the interim Commander. Anyone seeking recognition as Representer, or invited to be considered, will not be eligible to be a voting member of the Family Convention.

The rules for conducting a Family Convention can be consulted at <http://www.lyon-court.com/lordlyon/656.html>.

The Selkirk Grace

Some hae meat and canna eat,
and some wad eat that want it,
but we hae meat and we can eat,
and sae the Lord be thankit.



www.ActivityVillage.co.uk - Keeping Kids Busy

Call for Attendees of a Family Meeting, or Derbhfine

The Society has called for Representatives; those who believe that they have the qualifications and interest to be considered as a candidate for interim Commander. The interim Commander must be approved by Family Convention (once called a *Derbhfine*), and recognized by the Lyon Court.

No date has yet been set for the Family Meeting, nor has application to the Court yet been made.

Qualifications for potential Attendees to the Family Convention: (The number of attendees participating in a Family Convention will be relatively small, of the order of 10 to 25 people maximum.)

Men and Women must be born a MacAlpine (or derivative thereof) and in good standing (e.g. no felony convictions) and at least one or more of the following:

1. Scottish Armigers properly granted or have matriculated Armorial Bearings in Scotland
2. Landowners in Scotland with five acres or more without lien or valued at 350,000 or more pounds sterling
3. Men or Women who are prominent individuals such as academics, judges, barristers/solicitors/attorneys, doctors, politi-

cians, successful business persons, and others who are leaders in their profession or field.

4. Current and past members of the Clan MacAlpine Society.
5. Overseas participants outside Scotland may participate by video link or similar if unable to attend in person. Attending in person is preferable.
6. No more than 2 members per family branch, within the degree of first cousin.

NOTE: Attendees may be required documentation supporting any claims by the Court of the Lord Lyon. Decisions to be determined by an Officer of Arms or other person appointed by the Court of the Lord Lyon.

Those who believe that they are interested in being a member of the *Derbhfine* please contact the Society Secretary, a formal invitation will follow application.

In Kinship,
Robin L. McAlpine
Secretary, Clan MacAlpine Society
RobinlmcAlpine@yahoo.com
(951) 805-2047

Burns Dinner

"When Scotland forgets Burns, then history will forget Scotland" J S Blackie

January 25th 2015 is a Sunday - Robert Burns birthday.

What a great day to gather family and friends, and celebrate the life and poetry of Robert Burns. Whether a traditional grand dinner, or less formal it can be a wonderful experience, and a way of passing down a portion of our heritage.

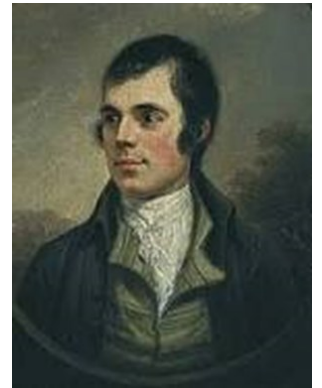
At a grand dinner, guests are piped in by bagpipes to take their places at the dining table. If you don't happen to have a piper in the family, a cd will work.

The Selkirk Grace is read, and supper begins with a soup (Cock-A-Leekie or Scotch Broth are favorites). Now the haggis, is piped in from the kitchen while the guests stand and clap the haggis in.

A reading of Burn's famous poem, "Address To A Haggis", cutting open the haggis with a large knife when they reach the line "an cut you up wi' ready slight"! (for those who can't obtain a haggis, or prefer not to, a meatloaf could be substituted) The haggis is eaten with mashed tatties and neeps (potatoes and turnips).

Then dessert (cranachan is our favorite) perhaps with oatcakes and cheese.

After dinner there will be a toast to the Queen, a "Toast to the Lassies" and a lady makes a toast in reply. A reading of a favorite Burns poem, and finally, closing with everyone singing Auld Lang Syne.



The Search for Chiefs

The revival of interest in Scottish ancestry over the last 50 years has encouraged many clans and families, who had not previously done so, to look for a leader. For many clans this has involved searching for the person most directly descended from the last known chief of the clan.

A large number of clans who had had chiefs in the sixteenth or seventeenth centuries went into decline after 1745. In many cases it has been possible for genealogical research to establish the identity of the last chiefs descendants and thus to find the person with the closest blood link back to the last chief. In other cases this research is either still being conducted or is now being embarked upon.

Once genealogical evidence has been found to identify the person most directly descended from the last chief, application may be made to the Lord Lyon for confirmation that the chiefly Coat of Arms, enjoyed by the last chief, should be confirmed to such a person.

The Lord Lyon reviews the genealogical evidence and must be satisfied that the applicant's descent is correctly proved. If the Lord Lyon is satisfied he recognises the applicant as chief of the clan and confirms him in the chiefly Arms.

All those who were chiefs prior to 1745 had Arms, although they have not all been recorded in the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland which was only started in 1672. The Scottish clan and heraldic systems have always been closely interlinked. Thus a clan which existed in the past will find its chief in the person entitled, under heraldic law, to bear the historic Arms enjoyed by the last known chief.

But the increasing interest in Scottish ancestry has led many families, who had not in the past been regarded as clans in their own right, to look for a leader who could rally the family as a group. While content historically to owe their allegiance as a sept or cadet to a particular clan, such families may now wish to have a distinct identity of their own.

Where such a family is able to prove that it has existed historically as an independent family group, then the Lord Lyon may be prepared to recognise them as a distinct clan or name.

If a person is able to prove descent from an individual who was historically accepted as the head of the main family within this group, then such a descendant might be confirmed in the Arms and recognised by the Lord Lyon as Representor of the name concerned.

The situation may, however, be that a family group has no clear historical evidence of its existence as a group in the distant past. In such a case it may be possible for a group to move towards being treated as a clan or name by various stages.

Since the clan and heraldic systems are so closely linked, the first stage would be for there to be a number of individuals using the same surname to record their own Arms. Once there was a significant number of armigers within the group it would be possible for a derbhfine of the group to convene and make a proposal to the Lord Lyon for the appointment of one of the group as Commander. Regulations have been laid down as to the procedure to be followed in the conduct of such a derbhfine.

If the Lord Lyon is so minded a Commander will be appointed. Once that has happened a 10 year period must then elapse before any question of a chief can be considered.

After the 10 year period a further derbhfine could, if the group desire, be held. This derbhfine could then make a proposal to the Lord Lyon for the appointment of a chief. Again regulations exist for the way in which such a derbhfine should proceed.

From the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs

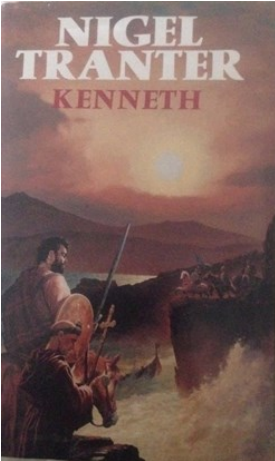


The Clan Commander was anciently known as the Gille-mor or the Ceann-cath, the 'sword bearer' who carried the chief's helmet and sword. The title of Ceann-cath refers to the role of recognized leader in the absence of the Chief.

Good Reads

For the many in our Society that have travelled over the ancient lands, you will find them all in the Nigel Tranter novel. Dunadd, Forteviot, Scone, Iona and many many more.

“Despite having the most ancient line of kings in all Christendom, as the Scots are ever proud to tell you, those were the monarchs of a nation called Alba, or by the Romans, Caledonia. There were smaller monarchies of Dalriada, Strathclyde and Galloway on the fringes, as it were; but Alba was much the greatest. There was no such place as Scotland, however – not until Kenneth mac Alpin made it and named it.



How Kenneth, Norse-Slayer and nation-builder, achieved this, in the ninth century; how he had an even greater vision, the unity of all the Celtic peoples, Irish, Welsh, Cornish, and Manx as well, in the face of the Anglo-Saxon and Norse invaders; how his Scotland came by it's patron saint, the Apostle Andrew; how Norse dragon ships were lured into the notorious Corryvreckan whirlpool; and much else, makes up the story of Kenneth who founded a realm whose people have probably made a greater impact on the world than any other nation of comparable size.

But the awkward, obstinate and enduring Scots are a race of leaders, who can seldom unite sufficiently to govern themselves. Kenneth discovered that, and it continues today. However he did have the Stone of Destiny behind him, that fabled and elusive symbol of authority, which perhaps helped – or so his beloved Eithne assured him.

This is Nigel Tranter at his imaginative best, ranging across the Scotland he loves, picking out the threads of emerging nationhood through a dark and violent world and presenting a nation to itself.”



Nollaig Chrìstheil



Merry Christmas

Clan MacAlpine Society Kilt Pins

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.

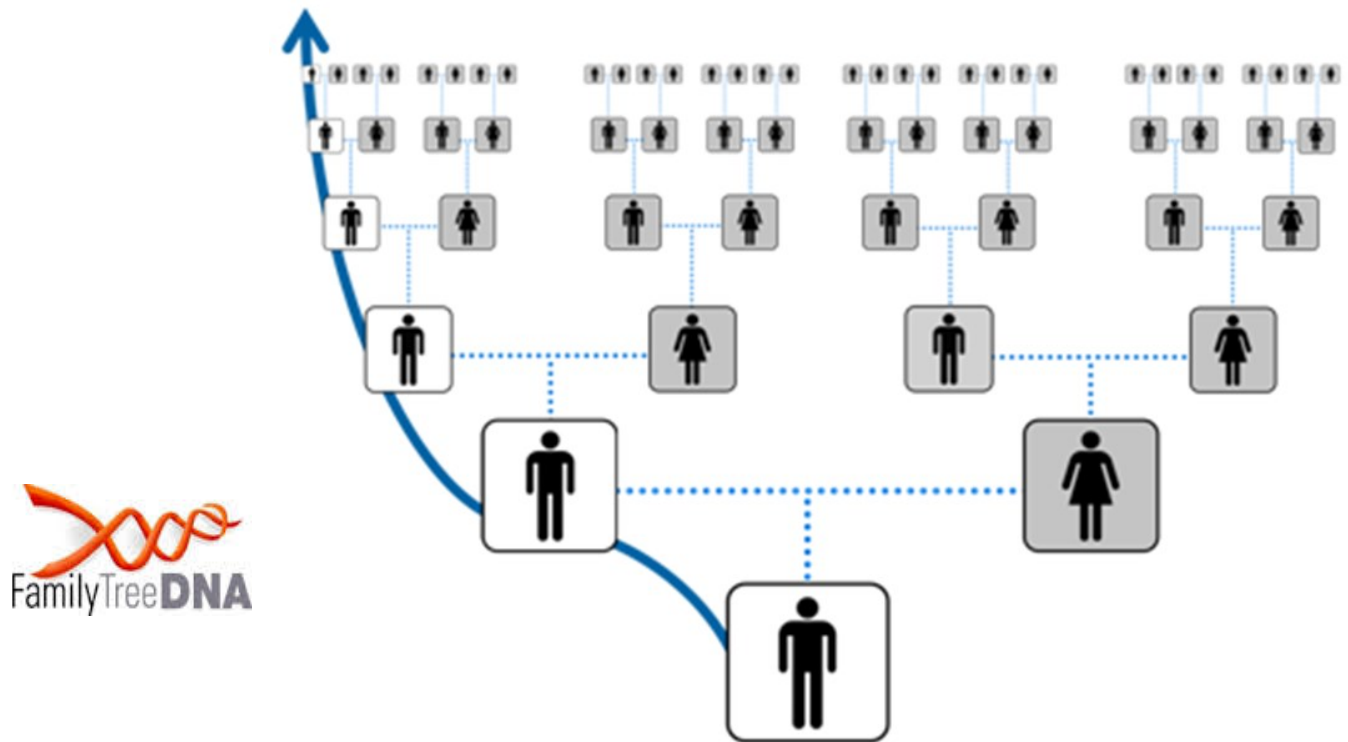
The pins are made out of silver weighing approximately 1 ounce
Dimensions are 4"X 1 1/8"

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

Please contact NotCommonKilt-Pins@outlook.com for questions or purchase

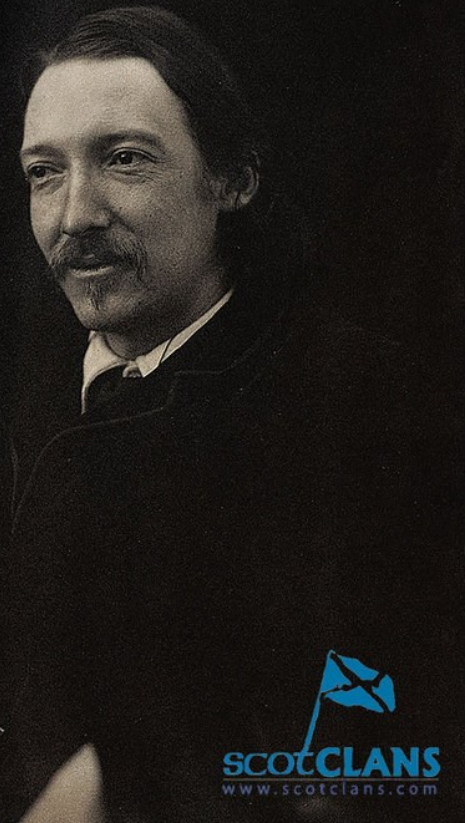


The MacAlpin(e) DNA Project DNA as a tool to trace family history from Family Tree DNA



"The mark of a Scot of all classes is that he remembers and cherishes the memory of his forebears, good or bad; and there burns alive in him a sense of identity with the dead even to the twentieth generation."

Robert Louis Stevenson





2015 Clan McAlpine Society Annual General Meeting

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the games in Las Vegas at the Floyd Lamb State Park. We plan to setup the Clan MacAlpine tent Friday and be ready to host on Saturday. Excalibur is about 26 miles from the park and is mostly a freeway drive. Saturday evening, after the highland games we will have a Clan McAlpine dress dinner back at the Excalibur Hotel (details to follow). The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is planned for Sunday morning, however, we are still waiting on verification of location from the event committee.

Las Vegas Highland Games and Celtic Festival

April 18 & 19, 2015

Floyd Lamb State Park

9200 Tule Springs Rd, Las Vegas, NV

I have a block of rooms reserved as follows:

ARRIVAL DATE: 04/16/15

DEPARTURE DATE: 04/20/15

(Or any portion of these dates)

Room rates are based on single or double occupancy in Tower 1. A \$20 charge is added for any additional occupant regardless of age. We limit the total number of occupants per room to 4 guests. We have an automatic \$20.00 Resort fee plus tax on all reservations. This fee includes: unlimited local and domestic long distance calls, fitness center admission (excluding use of spa, locker room and shower facilities, must be 18 to enter), a free newspaper daily, internet access and free incoming faxes. Your room block is being held as follows:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>RATE</u>	<u>BLOCK</u>
4/16	\$49	40
4/17	\$99	40
4/18	\$99	40
4/19	\$49	40

In order to begin booking your rooms you may click the link below, or you may **contact the Reservations Department at 1-800-937-7777. Please reference Group Code XMCALPINE when calling.** There is a one night deposit due at the time of booking a reservation. You must provide a valid credit card to be charged at that time to confirm the reservation. The cancellation policy is 48 hours prior to the arrival date.



ONLINE LINK:

<https://resweb.passkey.com/go/xmcalpine>

Group Code: XMCALPINE

Any unused rooms will be released back to the hotel on 03/16/15 so please book early if you want to be near the crazy McAlpine group. We look forward to seeing you there.

Best Regards,
Dale McAlpine, Vice President
earlmc Alpine@yahoo.com

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