



# Remember Men from Whom You Come

## Newsletter Of The Clan MacAlpine Society

The Worldwide Organization For MacAlpines  
2nd Quarter 2015 ~ Volume 32



Kenneth McAlpine

William McAlpin

Michael McAlpin

Sir William McAlpine

Finn Alpin

Sidney Fay McAlpin

Earl Dale McAlpine

Bruce McAlpine

### President's Message

You may have noticed a small change to the website in that we have changed it from "Remember the Death of Alpin" to "Remember Men from Whom You Come." This small change reflects the change in leadership and continued change in Clan MacAlpine.

**A Spark Lit:** The day I met Kenneth McAlpine, President of Clan MacAlpine Society at the Costa Mesa Highland games in 2001, a spark was lit. He suggested I search Ancestry.com for my personal family history. That first weekend I went back two hundred and fifty years. I was hooked and he created in me a dream to become a MacAlpine Armiger and of being one of the nine nobles required by Lord Lyon to hold a derbhfine or "family" convention or "gathering of old."

**Connecting to Family:** This adventure to travel and find my cousins of blood and family of heart has been one of the best of my life. MacAlpine's, whether blood or not, have all become my family. One way or another we are all related. Along the way I received inspiration and guidance from Kenneth McAlpine, Doris McAlpin Russel, William McAlpin, and Michael T. McAlpin. These folks have all played a major part in my family discovery. And I'd be remiss if I didn't mention Robin, my wife, as she was always supportive and helpful in my work.

**DNA Links:** It's exciting with today's DNA technology and the ability to link to family around the world. The DNA links help give clarity on where to look for linking family documents. It helps to answer the question of where to start and when you hit a road block, it may help me to reignite the family search. DNA results helped me immensely.

**Commander: Family Leader:** The world is changing all around us and the Society is also on the verge of change. Most notably we anticipate presenting our choice for MacAlpine Commander. To be part of naming a commander is long-time dream coming true for us as a clan.

We have made such strides since the beginning when Kenneth started the Society. He lovingly kindled the fire that grew to a flame under the excellent leadership of Michael T. McAlpin. These men deserve our praise for all they have done to further the cause of The Clan MacAlpine Society. It is through vision and hard work that we are where we are now. I have always appreciated the way Michael has driven us forward and stepped out so many times to make known who we are and where we're headed. It is with his guidance and mentoring that I ran for President and his encouragement along the way will keep us focused. Thank you for your faith in me as your president and thank Michael and Kenneth for their vision and hard work!

All my best,  
Dale McAlpine  
President of Clan MacAlpine Society



### UNITE! UNITE! UNITE!

#### Society Officers

**President:** Earl Dale McAlpine  
**Vice President:** Mark McAlpin  
**Treasurer:** Kenneth McAlpine  
**Secretary:** Robin McAlpine  
**Member at Large:** Finn Stavnsbo Alpin  
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## Message from the Outgoing President



It has indeed been an honor to serve as the President of the Society, and I wish every success to the incoming slate of officers.

In these many years, we have made great progress, and may well be on the cusp of achieving our objective of official recognition from the Lyon Court.

We have been working towards that goal for somewhat over sixteen years, and a great deal of effort has been expended by all of our officers, members and supporters; countless hours of meetings, travel and hosting events have occurred by many, many people, and it has been a pleasure being with them and getting to know so many of our kinsmen from Seattle to South Africa, and Canada to the Caribbean.

Scotland feels like home to me, and I enjoy every opportunity to be there, and certainly look forward to the Derbhfine in Scotland in September.

I have submitted my name to the Family Council as a candidate for Interim Commander, and if nominated to the Court by the Derbhfine, I will be honored to serve in that capacity.

With continuing commitment to our efforts, and excitement over future possibilities, I wish to thank you all for the support that you have given me.

In kinship  
Michael T McAlpin

## Clan MacAlpine Society Call for Representers Family Convention to be held at Abbotsford House Melrose Roxburghshire September 10, 2016

The Clan MacAlpine Society seeks to gain formal recognition of a Chief of Name and Arms by the Lord Lyon King of Arms. Having an armigerous Chief, MacAlpine would then be constituted and regarded as a clan or family in its own right.

The Convention will be held under the supervision of Mark D. Dennis Esq., Ormond Pursuivant of Arms as the appointed Supervising Officer and representative of the Lord Lyon.

Those wishing to be considered as interim Commander, chosen at a Family Convention as above, should request fuller information from the Secretary of the Clan MacAlpine Society:

By email at: [robinlmc Alpine@yahoo.com](mailto:robinlmc Alpine@yahoo.com)  
or by mail to: Robin L. McAlpine  
3061 Harbor Blvd.  
Ventura, CA 93001, USA



## ELECTION RESULTS

*submitted by Robin McAlpine, Secretary*

Congrats to our new president Earl Dale McAlpine, our new vice president, Mark McAlpin, Kenneth McAlpine (treasurer) and Finn Stavnsbo Alpin (member at large) for remaining in their current roles for another term.

All of the Clan MacAlpine Society officers are volunteers and we so appreciate the time and effort they put in.

I would especially like to thank Michael McAlpin for his leadership the past several years. His efforts and encouragement have gotten us so far in our endeavor to be recognized as a clan.

So congrats and cheers for our Society team.

**The Annual General Meeting (AGM)  
of the  
Council of Scottish Clans & Associates  
(COSCA)  
Saturday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016 2:00 – 4:00 PM  
Chieftain's Tent, Grandfather Mountain  
Highland Games**

Agenda will include:

- ◇ Reports from the officers and committees
- ◇ Comments by visiting clan chiefs who are guests at the GMHG
- ◇ Elections to the Board of Trustees for Officers and Those At-Large Directors Whose Terms Are Up in 2016

All Individual Members-in-Good Standing of COSCA are eligible to vote on matters properly before the membership at the AGM, as are all Dues-Paying Members of those Clan Societies and Other Scottish Associations which are Organizational Members-in-Good-Standing of COSCA for 2016.

**Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada**

I'm pleased to announce that Clan MacAlpine Society has become a member of The Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada (CASSOC). We recognize Jerry MacAlpine of Nova Scotia as our official Canadian delegate.

Joining the (CASSOC) is a very similar to the memberships we hold in Council of Scottish Clans and Associations (COSCA) in the US and the Scottish Australian Heritage Council.

This membership will help connect us with the wider Scottish community to celebrate and promote our cultural heritage. Here we will share the information about our member organization, the Highland Games and things of interest to Scots in Canada. [www.cassoc.ca](http://www.cassoc.ca)



**Come Enjoy COSCAs 5th Clan & Family Caucus Program**

Submitted by Michael T McAlpin



I will be in attendance at the Clan Caucus, if you are in the area and interested, please join me on Thursday July 7, 2016 9:00 am – 4:00 pm at Lees-McRae College, Evans Auditorium in Banner Elk, North Carolina

**Congressman Mike McIntyre (D-NC)** will share his experiences while he was co-chairing the bipartisan Friends of Scotland Caucus in the U.S. Congress and why it remains an important vehicle for Scottish-American outreach to the current Scottish Government.

**Dr. Bruce Durie**, COSCA's Shennachie, and Shennachie for the Name and Family of Durie, will share plans for a Shennachie Network and a Council of Clan Shenachie's.

**John Cochran**, COSCA Secretary and Clan Cochran Commissioner, assisted by COSCA At-Large Trustee **John Cherry**, will lead a panel discussion on COSCA's Small Clans & Lowland Families Initiative, which he chairs.

**Keith MacGregor**, U.S. Representative on the Council of the Clan Gregor Society, Scotland, will join us to share his decades-long research, supported by geneticists at FamilyTreeDNA, Houston, TX, to document the DNA connections of many West Highland clans.

Join us and share your thoughts about the role of the clan societies in keeping connections between Diaspora Scots and our kin in Scotland. A nominal admission fee will be charged to defray setup costs. Continental Breakfast provided. An optional hot lunch will be offered for an additional charge. Registration is required. Please RSVP.



### Achieving arms.....

My own road to achieving a grant of arms started in Oban, August 2004. At the Society's first AGM in Scotland, Our then President, Kenneth McAlpine, explained the various rules regarding how to hold a family convention and that a number of individuals were needed and that they should be Armigers or land owners. It was very interesting and inspiring. Shortly after returning home I became the Society Commissioner for Sweden.

I started to take an even keener interest in all matters related to the subject of Scottish clans and traditions of heraldry etc. I read as much as I possibly could on these subjects. Many times when reading about clans and families, they would inherit a property or a title, which was entailed. Many had to change their names in order to become Clan Chiefs or to hold a barony title. One such example is Macalpine-Downie of Appin. The barony title of Appin is passed down the line with the name of Downie.

A couple of years later only one more coat of arms had been granted to a McAlpine. I wondered why it was not moving faster and decided that I would look into it. As I started communicating with a few armigers about the details, it became clear that this was a lengthy process and that there was more than one way to achieve arms. There were in fact three ways at that point. 1) You could inherit a coat of arms. 2) Matriculate arms in the memory of an ancestor. 3) Own property of a certain size or a barony title. Size did matter, in this case, as it would take 0,25 acre with planning permission for a detached dwelling to achieve a grant of arms, but over 5,5 acres with buildings (and tenants) for a grant with a "territorial designation".

At this point I already had a Danish coat of arms. But in order for it to matter in the context of the Clan Society, it had to be a coat of arms granted and matriculated in Scotland, by the Lyon Court. Furthermore it could not be any coat of arms, but had to depict certain elements and the lay-out had to be similar to the first two or three coats of arms already granted. I contacted Lord Lyon, Robin Orr Blair, by letter to find out more details. After the first letter it became clear that the woodland I wanted to buy could not be used when applying for a grant of arms, even at about 15 acres in size. It had to have planning permission.

Also, having taken the name of Alpin, in memory of an ancestor, I would still have to change it to be behind my Danish last name in order to achieve a grant of MacAlpine arms. Otherwise I would receive the arms for the name of Stavnsbo, and it would not help the Society's effort to raise the number of armigers needed. Lyon Blair made it clear that I had to change the name and it would be best without using a hyphen.

Now it was only a matter of finding a piece of land that fit the bill, which took some time. But, as soon as I had all the paperwork gathered, I sent in my Petition for a grant of arms along with my "schedule of proofs". By now it was June 2008. Although all my communications had been with Lyon Blair, my Letters patent were signed by his successor, Lyon Sellar. The Arms were decided upon by the Lord Lyon.

The motto "Cuimhnich" and the crown in base and boar's head in Chief were my wish. The general design and colours were decided by Lord Lyon. The Arms follow the design of previously granted MacAlpine Arms. The Sword in a bend represents the name of MacAlpine and the Crown and Boar's-Head are symbols relating to the ancient Royal House of Alpin and the Kingdom of Dalriada in Argyll. The livery colours symbolize the Scottish national flag. I received the Letters Patent, by mail, in January of 2011.



In order to share my interest in heraldry with my children, I decided to print out Danish and Scottish coats of arms and attach them to toy figures of medieval soldiers and knights. I made one for each of my children and a few other coats of arms as well. They soon knew who was who among the soldiers and knights. They are now standing guard in our library!

### Blazon:

**Arms:** Azure, on a bend Argent between in chief a boar's head couped and in base an antique crown Or a sword in bend point upwards Azure hilted and pomelled Or.  
**Crest:** A dexter hand Proper grasping a chaplet of laurel leaves Vert between a pair of eared bullhorns parted per fess the dexter Azure and Argent the sinister Argent and Azure.

**Motto:** Cuimhnich

**Grant:** The Court of the Lord Lyon, 3rd December 2010. 75th page of the 89th volume of the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland.

(painted on vellum, by David Allan, Artist at Lyon Court)

## The Story of the Shennachie

*Submitted by Mark SC McAlpin, Vice President and Shennachie Clan MacAlpine Society*

It is with great pleasure I write my first article for the Clan MacAlpine Society newsletter as both vice president and acting Shennachie (pronounced “Shawn o key”). It was suggested as an article that I talk about the role of the Shennachie and my journey towards becoming a certified Shennachie.

When first approached about the role of Shennachie I knew very little of the role, especially as it applied to current days. Of course my response was, “Sounds like a great title; what do I have to do?” After a few email exchanges I was reacquainted with Dr. Bruce Durie, who some may recognize as our advisor in our pursuit of clan recognition.

I still had the same question and hoping for a simple black and white answer, I asked of Dr. Durie, “What do I need to do?” The answer was far from what I expected. “How would you like to be a guinea-pig for the Trained-Up Shennachie idea? It will involve time (over a year or so), money (paying for online courses), sweat of the brow and all that. But you could be the first to go through the process; then I can wave you about like a flag.”

  
**University of Strathclyde Glasgow**

Fast forward a few months, I am enrolled in an Introduction to Scottish Genealogy Online class and an Introduction to Heraldry class at the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, my library on the topics has dramatically increased, I’ve been reading about paleography as it refers to Scottish documents in my spare time, writing a paper on the process of petitioning for Arms from the Lyon Court (my final paper for the Heraldry class), going over my branch of the family tree in hopes of finding something new with new knowledge from my genealogy class, and working with the Derbhfine to have a successful Family Convention and present a unified voice in our selection of a representor for Clan Commander.

I have more classes to take for both a certification in genealogy and a Shennachie certification and will then have the option to work on a post graduate degree.

You still may be asking what does the Shennachie do, what are the roles and responsibilities. Why do I care?

The duties are ancient and traditional, but have to be relevant

to the modern day. In present-day terms, it can be seen as combining the functions of Genealogist, Historian, Orator, Banner-carrier, Herald and Heraldist and Keeper of the White Rod of Chiefship. Nowadays, the Shennachie requires a knowledge of the written word, information technology and genetics, as well as heraldry and the more traditional fields.

The role of Shennachie is to carry out those tasks that record, preserve and illuminate the histories, lineages, honors and archives of the surname group. The Shennachie is part of the Chief’s household and is an ancient position, within both Pictish and Scots traditions, and not to be confused with Bard. (Believe me you don’t want me singing or reciting poetry at the AGM’s). The Shennachie of the Chief’s House sat among the chiefs of families. He pronounced the address of ceremony at Clan and Family assemblies, delivered the orations at the chief’s inauguration, birthday, celebrations and funerals, acted as Inaugurator, chaired the proceedings to choose a new Chief and invested the Chief on appointment or succession.

The mission of the Shennachie is to explore, explain and extend the collective knowledge of the history, lineages, customs, traditions, language, laws and ethos of the Clan or Family and the Chief, and loyally to support the Chief in these matters. This helps foster links within the kinship group and provides continuity - the keeper of the flame.

As such I would be happy to answer any questions that anyone might have, either directly or if enough folks have the same question as a reoccurring article for the newsletter. You can find me on Facebook.





Sacramento Valley

# SCOTTISH GAMES FESTIVAL



## Sacramento Valley Scottish Highland Games in Woodland, California

We had a great time with family and friends at the games in Woodland, CA. In attendance were Dale & Robin McAlpine, Roy & Kate Simpson, Tony & Renee McAlpine Brasher, and Doug, Janet & Ann Marie McAlpine. We had two other McAlpine families visit our tent for the first time at this event.

We arrived for tent set-up early Saturday morning with help from Roy and Kate. We were happy to see that the storm that came through on Friday night had not blown away any of our belongings. The grass was wet, but the day was beautiful. We had very friendly neighbors and got some great ideas for setting up future tents and displays. We marched in the clan parade and they actually announced our name this time. There were loads of vendors, but as always, the lunch lines were terribly long. In spite of that, I think everyone still had a great time and hey, we got beer.

Saturday evening, we all gathered for dinner at a local establishment. We had good food, good family and lots of laughs. It is always so wonderful to get together with our McAlpine family. We had not seen Renee and Tony in quite some time so it was great to have them attend and see Tony on the mend.

We arrived early Sunday morning and really enjoyed the hymns on the breeze from the nearby Sunday morning service. We were just down the row from the harpists and we so enjoyed their music this early, quiet morning. Since we had a long drive back to Southern California on Sunday, we packed up early afternoon so we could get home at a decent hour. Thanks to all who came out. We had a wonderful time.



### Costa Mesa Games

Southern California celebrates Scottish heritage in grand style. We have the typical heavy games and the bagpipes and clans, but we add in the classic cars, the perfect weather and well, you know, that SoCA flair. We are a little different, we admit, but, we are proud of our Scottish roots and we love to party. This year, like so many years in the past, Kenneth McAlpine represented MacAlpine Clan Society at what is now called Scottish Fest at the Costa Mesa fair grounds. This is his report....

We had several MacAlpines visit each day. They were proud to see the name represented and enjoyed learning of our rich traditions. "Thank You" to the Susan McAlpine family for their donation to the Society! Without the support of our many clanspersons, we would not be looking forward to our Family Convention this September.

### Clan MacAlpine Society Kilt Pins

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



The pins are made of silver weighing approximately 1 ounce -  
Dimensions are 4"x 1 1/8"

\$75 USD payable by PayPal or check

Please contact

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

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