



Remember Those From Whom You Came Newsletter Of The Clan MacAlpine Society

The Worldwide Organization For MacAlpines
1st Quarter 2017 ~ Volume 35



Kenneth McAlpine



William McAlpin



Michael McAlpin



Sir William McAlpine



Finn Alpin



Sidney Fay McAlpin

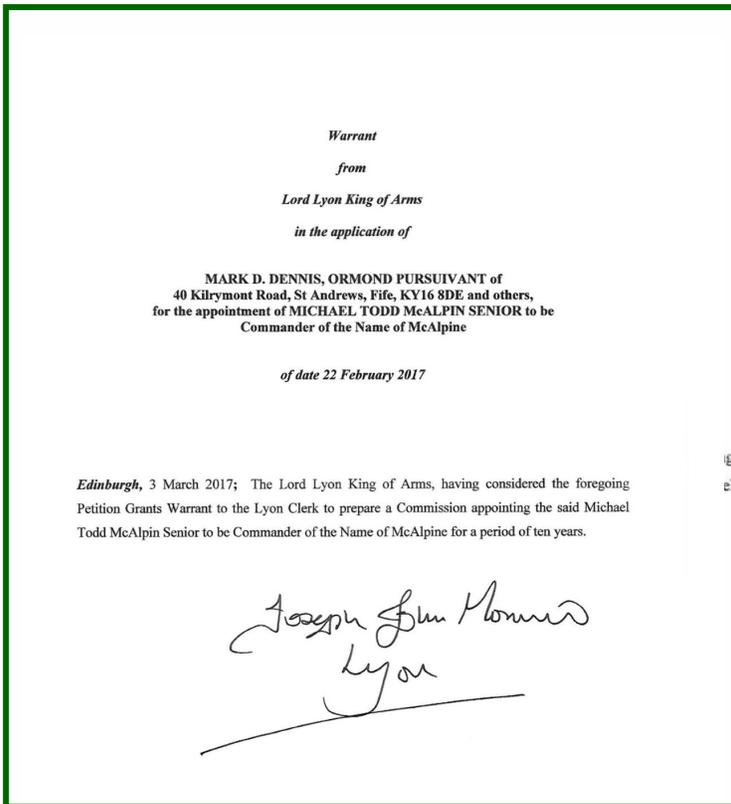


Earl Dale McAlpine



Bruce McAlpine

“Tell the children and they their children”



Clansmen -

I am truly humbled for the honor of being nominated and confirmed as Commander of this unique Family.

For nearly twenty years we have sponsored tents at various Scottish events, published newsletters, met annually, and bonded together our several thousand kinsmen from over 20 countries.

We have both uncovered our history and challenged family legend. We have worked to both discover and preserve our heritage: conducting historical, genealogical and DNA research, capturing the scattered history of our family and of its migration. It is because of an intense and enduring pride in name and family and of that unique trait called kinship that we have pursued this course.

Now recognized by the Court, it gives us a great opportunity to work with vendors who supply fictitious MacAlpine heritage items, kilt pins, Family Crests and fictionalized histories. We will begin to work with these vendors and as we progress, we can correct the misinformation about our history.

Recognition also opens up participation in some events where we have not previously been permitted. More importantly, it is a

formal recognition that we are unique, distinct, different..... If I may say Uncommon. We are not a sept of somebody else, nor a forgotten name.

Special thanks goes to all those who have contributed so much to get us here today; to Kenneth McAlpine who founded this effort so long ago, to the many officers and members who have nurtured it, and sustained this effort. I have had the honor of meeting and enjoying the kinship of MacAlpines at gatherings in Scotland, Canada, South Africa, England, Sweden, and all over the US. I look forward to more in the future.

This is an historic moment for our family, one we shall long remember. For me, it brings to mind Joel 1:3 where the prophet commands us “Tell ye your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation.”

Yours sincerely,
Michael T. McAlpin
Commander

Presidents Message



WOW! These past few weeks have been such an exciting time for us. What a great joy it is to be an officially recognized family/clan and to have Michael T. McAlpin as our Commander. I believe with Michael's leadership our forward movement will continue as a united family. We still have work ahead of us to recognize and clean up websites that have bogus slogans, history and/or merchandise. We will continue to educate the public about who are we, where we came from.

I am looking forward to the MacAlpine Annual General Meeting (AGM), Saturday, August 12, 2017, at the 72nd Annual Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games in Fergus, Ontario Canada. I hope to see many of you there in celebration of our family. This event will be hosted by our Canadian Commissioner Bruce MacAlpine and his wife Donna. The details on lodging and dinner are posted in this newsletter. Plan to be there to help us celebrate.

Due to a second cyber-attack on the The Clan MacAlpine Society website, the site has been upgraded with SSL encryption which will help protect our users and website from future cyber-attacks. You will notice it also has a new, fresh look.

My best,
Earl Dale McAlpine
President of Clan MacAlpine Society

McAlpines Celebrate Robert Burns

Submitted by Roy Simpson

On January 28, the Nevada Society of Scottish Clans hosted their 36th annual Robert Burns Celebration. This was our second year attending this event at Reno's Grand Sierra Resort with attendance teetering around five hundred.

While Janet McAlpine works the registration table daughter Ann coordinates the many event details requiring swift decisions. As usual, we headed for the scotch tasting and began the evening festivities. There were lots of raffles gifts and as usual my wife Kate won, a beautiful handmade necklace.

There were eight of us McAlpines at the McAlpine table. We enjoyed listening to the Sierra Highlanders Pipe Band, the Sierra Silver Strings, and Whisky Before Breakfast (always one of my favorite things to do).

It was a great evening with wonderful people. But, the highlights were the toasts to Scotland's most beloved poet, Robert Burns, toasts to the Lads and Lassies, the Immortal Memory, and interacting with the McAlpines. Oh, and don't forget the haggis.....



Commander

Michael T. McAlpin

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From Falkirk, Scotland, to the West Virginia Coalfields: The MacAlpin Coal Company

Submitted by Martha Endres

Alexander Webster Laing emigrated from Falkirk, Scotland, to Mercer County, Pennsylvania, in 1867 with his wife, Elizabeth MacAlpin Laing, infant son, James, two year old son, John, and three year old daughter, Janet. They had eight more children who were born in Pennsylvania; ten children survived to adulthood.

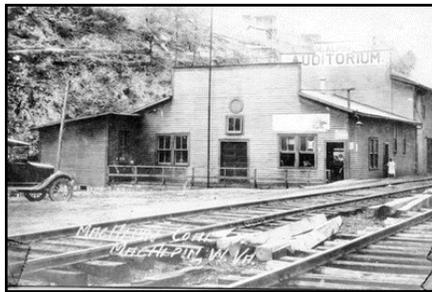


John attended school in Pennsylvania until nine years old and then entered the mines, where he worked underground until age 26. Giving up underground work, he accepted a position as clerk in the store, and was later advanced to the positions of bookkeeper, foreman, and superintendent of various coal mining operations in West Virginia. He was appointed chief of Department of Mines for the State of West Virginia.

In 1908 John organized the MacAlpin Coal Company in Raleigh County, West Virginia, naming it in honor of his mother, whose maiden name was MacAlpin.



The tipple at the MacAlpin Mine (used to load extracted coal for transport into railroad hopper)



The office of the MacAlpin Mine

The company operated on a 1,500 acre lease employing 248 workers. Haulage was by electric motor and mules, and mining done by pick and machine.



The Company Store at the MacAlpin Coal Mine



The miners used scrip to make purchases at the company store. The scrip was in the form of small metal tokens rounded like coins, stamped in various denominations.

Coal Mining is inherently dangerous, with cave-ins, explosions, asphyxiations and fires particularly hazardous. Tragedies touched most families involved in mining. The danger continues today.

Article Continued on Following Page.

The Explosion October 22nd, 1928

SIX MINERS MEET INSTANT DEATH IN BLAST AT McALPIN

Beckley, Oct. 22 (AP) -- Six miners met death today in an explosion in the MacAlpin Coal Company's mine at McAlpin, ten miles from here. Their bodies were recovered tonight by rescue crews.

Rescue crews who located the bodies six hours after the explosion occurred, said that the mine was not seriously damaged and that but little difficulty was experienced in reaching the explosion area, approximately two miles from the drift mouth.

The blast according to Robert Lilly, state mine inspector, who led the rescue crews, occurred when a miner in removing slate fired ten sticks of dynamite without tamping the explosive.

The miner, Lilly said, who failed to place the explosive in a hole before firing the shot, was B. B. BURKHOLD, who was working at the time in number four room on eight right entry way.

Approximately sixty miners were employed in the immediate vicinity of the explosion, company officials said, but only those close to the spot where the actual blast occurred were affected. One man was taken from the mine, overcome by gas but was expected to recover. Rescue crews later located the bodies of six other men and said that all of the men in the mine had then been accounted for.

A narrow escape from death was experienced by three other miners who were working in a room adjoining that in which the explosion occurred. They heard the blast and felt the air becoming bad. Unwilling to chance an attempt to leave the mine, they rushed into another room where they bratticed off the bad air with rocks and lumps of coal and awaited the coming of rescue crews.

"I can remember it as though it were yesterday. It was a dust explosion, since the mine had never shown any methane gas reading. One of my classmates at Mark Twain School suffered the loss of a brother in that explosion. Sitting at the Mark Twain School, where I was a student, one could look out the window across a little valley to the mountain on the other side of the Virginian and C Railroads and there on that mountain was the opening of the drift mine, owned by the MacAlpin Coal Company.

When the blast went off, no word of mouth was needed to tell the people that something was wrong at the mine. The running and shouting of the men outside the mine was dreadful news to those in view. It happened about 2:30 in the afternoon on an overcast day, weather being almost always adverse when a mine disaster happened. There were 60 men inside the mine who were unhurt, because the blast was confined to a small area. It was decided that a miner had used a "dobie" shot which blew him several feet down the entry. The five other victims presumably died from afterdamp or asphyxiation from smoke and fumes. By 8:30 that evening, all bodies had been brought from the mine. I can recall being at the foot of the hill leading to the mine that evening, when miners' wives boiled coffee over fires built at the foot of the hillside and served it to the rescue men and to other workmen and onlookers. I shall never forget the tearful faces of women who were wives or mothers or sisters of the men who were in the explosion. Relatives at the scene asked to see the bodies that were brought to the outside of the mine to get a glimpse or to identify their kin. The weeping and wailing of wives and mothers and children were a sight that never leaves one's memory."

Congressional Record

March 14, 1995

104th Congress, 1st Session

Issue: Vol. 141, No. 47 — Daily Edition

Senator Robert C. Byrd, West Virginia

Photos courtesy of *Coal Towns of West Virginia Volume Two*, Mary Stevenson, 2003 Quarrier Press; Distributed by West Virginia Book Company; books purchased at <http://www.wvbookco.com/ProductDetails.asp?ProductCode=coaltowns2>

McAlpin AGM ~ August 12, 2017

Our AGM this year will be held in Fergus, Ontario Canada, on August 12, 2017, hosted by Bruce and Donna McAlpine. We hope to have a great turn out.

Discount accommodations have been arranged at:

Holiday Inn Express & Suites Geulph
540 Silvercreek Parkway
North, Guelph, Ontario, N1H 6N3
Phone – 519-824-2400
Fax – 519-824-2450

Our group rate is: \$179.99 per night + tax. To receive the discount make sure to mention you are with “Clan MacAlpine Society” when booking your room. A block of 12 rooms have been set aside. Arrival Date for August 11, 2017 – Departure for August 13, 2017 (2 nights). You will have up until July 11, 2017 to guarantee a room.

Your stay will include a complimentary Hot Breakfast Buffet each morning, as well as an Indoor Pool and Jacuzzi Spa, Free Parking, Fitness Centre, Business Centre, Guest Laundry and an Elevator. Check-in time is 3:00 pm and check out is 11:00 am
Room Types Available:

TQNN – Two Queen size beds, Non-smoking
KEXN – King Bed Executive, Non-Smoking

Our AGM dinner will be on Saturday, August 12, 2017 at 7:00 pm at:

Breadalbane Inn
487 St. Andrew Street West,
Fergus, Ontario
The cost is \$42.00 pp



Three Course Dinner:

Starter Choices

- 1) Potato & Corn Chowder with roasted red pepper & Chives
- 2) Traditional Caesar Salad with House-made Garlicky Dressing
- 3) Garlic & Shrimp with white beans, salsa verde & microgreens

Main Choices

- 1) Grilled Natural Beef Sirloin (with rochdale gold whipped potatoes, with seasoned vegetables, red wine & balsamic jus)
- 2) Marinated Chicken Supreme (Calabrian roast chicken with onions & tomatoes served over orzo with seasonal vegetables)
- 3) Lasagna alla Napoletana – vegetarian (fresh pasta, spinach and mozzarella in house-made tomato sauce)

Desert Choices

- 1) Renowned Chocolate Fudge Cake with warm fudge sauce and vanilla ice cream
- 2) Rustic Carrot Cake with cream cheese icing and sweet carrot jam
- 3) Budino house-made pudding, with layers of whipped cream and spice walnuts

Please contact Robin if you plan to join us for dinner. She will track those attending and advise on payment.

Flowers of the Forest

In Memory of "Warrior Kai" Angus Jasper McAlpin

June 27, 2014 - March 14, 2017



A Celebration of the brave life of "Warrior Kai" Angus Jasper McAlpin was held on Saturday, March 18th, 2017 at 2:00 PM at Sequoyah High School Gymnasium with Reverend James Graham III and Ryan Mackey conducting services. Musical selections include pipers, and clan songs by live artists. A Viking Farewell will be held at Cherokee Landing following services for this valiant warrior, who so bravely fought cancer and never lost his heart to the end. Online condolences for his family may be left at www.reedculver.com.

This warrior's tale began on June 27th, 2014 in Muskogee, OK, when he joined his father, Gary L. McAlpin and his loving mother, Mariah Vermeulen-McAlpin. This clan consisted of his brothers, Ian, Liam, Noah, and Blaise, and two sisters, Annika and Kiana. Kai hit the ground running and has blazed a trail all of us should work as hard to complete.

He was a Cherokee speaker and attended Cherokee Nation Child Development Center Immersion School, and he was a happy student, loved his class mates and learning. Kai also held membership in the Squirrel Ridge Ceremonial Stomp Grounds in Kenwood, OK, attended the Unitarian Universalist Church and the First United Methodist Church both of

Tahlequah, OK. He was an active member in the Incipient Canton of the Wyldewode SCA Medieval Reenactment Group. He was so proud of being a lifetime member of the Tornado Alley Sea Hawkets and was an Honorary Cherokee Nation Marshal.

He loved every moment he had to be with his family, running and playing, watching football and hockey, and was ready to demonstrate his skills at stomp dancing and sword fighting. Kai came up against his adversary, cancer, and true to his spirit, fought cancer with everything he had. In spite of fatigue, he mustered his famous smile and loved all those who spent time with him. Most importantly, he brought about the awareness and attention to childhood cancer funding and research, because children only receive 4% of cancer funding and research. Kai passed from this life to his eternal life on March 14th, 2017 at his home, surrounded by those who knew and loved him most of all, his clan. Until we meet again Kai, remain strong!

Kai has gone home to join his loved ones waiting there for him, grandmother Rita Wyvonne Guthrie and Great Grandparents Lenard Guthrie, Emery Courtney, and Hendrik and Pietertje Vermeulen.

Kai will live on in the hearts of his family, parents Gary and Mariah McAlpin of Tahlequah, Ok, and his brothers and sisters, Ian McAlpin, Liam McAlpin and Kiana McAlpin of Tahlequah, OK and Noah Hicks, Annika Hicks and Blaise Hicks of Ottumwa, IA. His maternal grandparents include Gale and Cornelis Vermeulen of Oskaloosa, IA, and Great Grandma Norma Courtney of Oskaloosa, IA, paternal grandparents include Wayne McAlpin of Sheridan, WY and Great Grandma Phyllis Guthrie of Siloam Spring, AR, as well as many aunts, uncles, cousins and a host of friends and loved ones who have seen Kai through his brief journey in life.



Celebrating the Bard in Stockholm

Submitted by Finn Stavsbo Alpin

Burns' Supper, Stockholm 2017 . . . "Same procedure as every year!"

The Caledonian Society's annual Burns' Supper was held at the Officers Mess of the Royal Dragoon Guards on Saturday the 21st of January. This year we had the honour and privilege to welcome our Society Commander, Michael T. McAlpin to our Burns celebration. We are all grateful that Michael came all this way to be with us.

We all met at Lotta & Tommy's place in the afternoon for "pre-drinks." This has become another great Stockholm tradition. We arrived at the Officers Mess at 17:30hrs and had a chance to mingle and buy the all-important lottery tickets before the Piper led us in for dinner.

After the welcome speech, the "Loyal Toasts" to the Sovereigns of Sweden and the UK, were given by HE the British Ambassador, David Cairns and the Chieftain of the Caledonian Society, Stan Milne. From there, the evening progressed following the usual programme: "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, the Officer hosting the evening, Lt Col Braunstein, gave the "Toast to the Horse," preceded by his usual, but interesting anecdote. Always an interesting sight, as people will stand with one foot on the chair and the other on the table, symbolizing the horse and stirrups, while giving the toast. Once again the toast was a success as no one fell from the table!

The menu: "Haggis & Neeps" with whisky, "Roast Lamb & Tatties", with salad and wine, finishing off with dessert, "Brandied Figs" with Ginger Cream and Port. While the main room was changed from dining to dancing room, we had coffee and drinks in the many adjoining lounges of the Officers Mess. There are a number of fine portraits in each room as well as a collection of weapons and trophies.

With nine members attending this year, we had the largest number of MacAlpine Society participants ever and more Tartan there than any other Clan Society! All members were wearing the Clan MacAlpine sanctioned kilt pin; a gift from our special visitor. The night ended with the usual highland dances.



I am happy to report that we followed up on another of our great Stockholm traditions: winning the lottery, which, as always, took place between dinner and dessert. This year we won three prizes. First one to win was Christian, followed by myself. At the end of the Lottery, with one prize remaining, a large bottle of Bowmore, the winning ticket was held by Michael! Once again, we collected the main prize!

This year will be remembered as the year that Michael came to visit, saw how we do Burns Night and how he grabbed the largest bottle of whisky! I hope we will be able to do this again next year, with the motto: "Same procedure as last year? Same procedure as every year!"



Society members from left to right: Christian Sjögren, Tommy Lénberg, Lotta Lénberg, Ronny Lindergren Leizel Alpin, Finn Alpin, Michael McAlpin, Sophie Goetzinger, Fredrik Goetzinger and host, Lt. Col Braunstein

Celebrating The Immortal Bard

Submitted by **Michael T McAlpin**

Burns Dinner is one of the Scottish highlights of the year. This year it was very special for me.

Finn Alpin has coordinated the Clan MacAlpine Society's Burns Dinner activities for years, and at our September meeting in Scotland he was gracious enough to extend an invitation for me to join the festivities.

Finn picked me up Friday at Arlanda Airport in Stockholm Friday afternoon, where we met up with Ronnie Lindegren who had taken the 4½ hour train ride up from Gotheburg.

We had a grand evening at Finn's home, where Leizel treated us to a wonderful meal, and we enjoyed kinship and a few cocktails afterward.

On Saturday, we toured nearby Strängnäs Cathedral where King Karl IX is interred.



We then toured the Arsenalen Museum, which displayed Swedish Armour and is filled with vehicles; both wheeled and tracked, from the early 1900's to modern machines.



Then back to Finn's to change for the dinner, and on to Tommy and Lotta's for a gathering and pre-dinner drinks.

The Burns Dinner was held in the beautiful Officer's Mess of the Life Guards Battalion.



The Cavalry Barracks of the Life Guards Battalion

The haggis was piped in, and we had a splendid dinner, then retiring for a few cocktails and were regaled with stories by the Colonel of the Battalion. After dinner there was lively Scottish Country dancing.



Sunday was at leisure with Finn and his family, and Leizel made another great meal. Monday's early flight back home took with it many fond memories of this great outpost of our Society.

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 for questions or purchase

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