



Remember Those From Whom You Came

Newsletter Of The Clan MacAlpine Society

The Worldwide Organization For MacAlpines
3rd Quarter 2017 ~ Volume 37



Kenneth McAlpine



William McAlpin



Michael McAlpin



Sir William McAlpine



Finn Alpin



Sidney Fay McAlpin



Earl Dale McAlpine



Bruce McAlpine

Commander's News

The Fergus Games were very well run, we had a great turnout, and thanks to all that pitched in with the planning and preparation. Being one of the Honored Clans was a special treat.

The many events like this where we participate are opportunities for us to socialize with the many represented Clans, contribute in preserving our heritage, and attract new members. We had several MacAlpines discover our Tent and they were delighted to see us. It is always interesting to find the close connections to the Kilmartin/Knapdale area and this event was no exception, with several new members bringing their ancestral trail to show us the common linkage.

As we look forward, there are many areas that we need to refine. We have the potential to introduce a scholarship for Scottish heritage, dancing, piping or other areas that preserve our heritage. More information will be coming out on this topic, along with guidelines etc. We also discussed a few opportunities to give back something to Scotland, perhaps a contribution timed with a future AGM in Scotland. A small group will develop this, and report back.

We need to take a look at what membership means, and whether or not there are dues. If we are to support either of the above projects, is it through dues, or voluntary contributions, or both. Several attendees volunteered to delve into this and come up with recommendations. We will also look at the cost and benefit of creating a 501c3 non-profit entity and see if that makes sense for us.

Going forward, it is important for us to consider how we style ourselves. Looking at our various banners we have several different naming conventions. We need to develop a Convenors kit, with a banner, standardized forms, passport stamps, and other materials necessary to host a tent. Additionally, as we work with external websites, we should have a uniform name. Do we keep the "Society" in the name, or drop it? Looking at how other recognized Clans and Families address themselves, a majority refer to the Clan XXX Society or Association. Several are outliers, styling themselves as Family, Tribe, or no designation, while the rest show Clan XXX only.

Regarding the use of Mac or the abbreviated Mc, there are no Clans listed in the List of Recognized Clans using the abbreviated form, neither is anyone using it in ScotClans, or Electric Scotland. Of the Clans represented on the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, there is only one using the abbreviated form.

We have carried the name MacAlpine, and the motto "remember the Death of Alpin", which should it be, Alpine or Alpin.

Our aspiration is to someday have a Clan Crest. How would it look? Other Clans use the "Remember the death of Alpin". Do we maintain that? Should we adapt the ancient "Hills and Streams and MacAlpines" in either English or Gaelic.

These are important questions, and should be considered carefully, without making light-switch changes, but perhaps migrating in the direction of what might be a future crest.

Yours Aye
Michael T McAlpin

President's News



Wow what a wonderful time we had at the Fergus Highland Games in Fergus, Ontario Canada. We were welcomed as one of the featured clans and given a very large clan tent. During the parade of clans we were led in by the fabulous pipe bands at the front with the other featured clan, Clan MacTavish, whose chief was present at the games. Our Commander, Michael McAlpine was seated on the review stand with the other officials and dignitaries of the games. I felt so much pride being recognized as a real family of Scotland.

While hosting the clan tent we met several MacAlpin families and The Durham Regional Police Pipes and Drums, whom wear our tartan. They stopped by the tent for a photo op under our banner. We introduced our lost sheep tic-tac-toe game to the kids that stopped by our tent. The game was well received by all and the little ones love receiving treats for finding the sheep. We just made it through the weekend with just enough treats to give away as prizes.



At the AGM we were serenaded by a piper as we started. We had much to cover in our meeting, created spinoff committees to work on several items we discussed.



The AGM dinner at the Breadalbane B&B, was in full dress Prince Charlies and the ladies looked most elegant.

We started our evening with music from the pipes by another young piper. We had a wonderful meal and donated prizes were raffled throughout the evening. Fun was had by all. Commander Michael T. McAlpin was presented with a beautiful

wood carving of himself and a stunning sword. Both presented as gifts from society members. Special thanks to our hosts, Bruce and Donna, who took excellent care of us at the games. They provided us with delicious home canned foods, made by Donna, and plenty to drink. We so appreciated their hospitality.

In Kinship,
Dale



Commander

Michael T. McAlpin

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A Basket-Hilt Sword

Mark McAlpin
Society Vice President, Shennachie Elect



The Commander, Michael T McAlpin, receiving his sword from Michael McAlpin and Dale McAlpine. The sword was a gift from the society.

The Highlands were deemed to be both rebellious and lawless by the contemporary British establishment. After the end of the Jacobite Rebellion at the Battle of Culloden in 1745, it was illegal to carry claymore swords, a symbol of the Highlands. The first Highland regiments were originally raised from clans openly loyal to the status quo to police the area. Due to a pressing need for personnel, new Highland regiments were raised to fight in imperial wars. However, the loyalties of the Highlanders were often deemed suspect, and perhaps because they needed to combat these accusations the regiments were often noted for their fierceness. The Claymores, or “great swords” were seen as a mark of distinction by Scottish officers over the slenderer sabers used by their English contemporaries. As a broad, heavy weapon the swords were a symbol of physical strength and prowess, and a link to the historic Highland way of life.

The 78th Regiment of Foot, 2nd Highland Battalion was raised in 1757 by Simon Fraser in response to the Government’s need for men to fight the French in North America in the Seven-year war, known in North America as the French and Indian War. The boundary between British and French possessions in North America was largely undefined in the 1750s, and the two nations eventually sent troops to enforce their claims. The 78th regiment were issued with a musket and the basket-hilted Highland broadsword.

In December 1777, John Campbell of Barbreck received letters of service from King George III to raise a regiment of infantry in the county of Argyll for service in the regular army. Campbell had held a commission in the old 78th. Campbell raised the 74th Highland Foot. Most regimental officers were commissioned in 1777 and received a musket and the basket-hilted Highland broadsword, this included Neil McAlpin, our Commander’s ancestor.



Neil McAlpin 74th Highland Foot and Pinch of Snuff by William Delacour

Recently, at the family dinner following the AGM I had great the pleasure and honor of co-presenting to our Commander an Eglinton basket-hilt sword on behalf of the House of MacAlpine. A sword is traditionally the insignia of the chief’s or commander’s office, whether in time of conflict or time of peace. In heraldry, the sword indicates the bearer to be just and generous and in pursuit of honor and virtue.

The Eglinton sword features a real ray skin, wire-wrapped grip, intricate basket hilt and a double fuller carbon steel blade. The pinch-of-snuff basket hilt in this sword is best known, and gets its name, from its depiction in William Delacours painting Pinch of Snuff (c. 1760) which shows Malcolm Macpherson of Phoness who, at the age of 67 joined the 78th as a Gentleman Volunteer, and distinguished himself in battle. The pinch-of snuff hilt belongs to a group of mid-18th C. Scottish basket hilt backswords, of which about a dozen examples are known.

Kilmartin Museum

Submitted by Ann McAlpin, Roy Simpson and Ian McAlpine



At our 2017 annual general meeting in Fergus, Canada, a motion passed to contact the Kilmartin Museum in Kilmartin, Scotland for information on providing a financial contribution. We contacted Meg Haig, Redevelopment Project Officer, and received in response many details about ongoing and projected programs.

Kilmartin is the ancestral home of the MacAlpin clan. MacAlpins who have had their DNA traced have found roots in this area. In its twenty year operation, the Kilmartin Museum has done much to preserve areas surrounding the museum and native historical artifacts. It continues to educate visitors, local residents, and schoolchildren.

We encourage everyone to join in this fundraising effort to show our appreciation to the Museum's educational programs. Additionally, we have an anonymous donor willing to match our contributions of up to \$1000.00. We can assist the Museum and strengthen our ties to Kilmartin. Donations for this fundraising event will close December 4, 2017 in order to present a check to the museum this calendar year. A Kilmartin Museum logo has been placed on our Facebook page where donations can be made.

Clan MacAlpin Society

Meeting Minutes

August 12, 2017

I. Call to order

Earl Dale McAlpine called to order the regular meeting of the Clan MacAlpin at 1510 on August 12, 2017 at Fergus, Ontario, CA.

I. Roll call

Robin McAlpine conducted a roll call via sign in sheet. The following persons were present: Laura McAlpine, MaryAnn and Jeff Baker, Michael McAlpin Jr., Mark SC McAlpin, Dave Homer, Roy and Kate Simpson, Kenneth G McAlpine, Donald Ross McAlpine and son Donald, Eleanor McAlpine, Carolyn McAlpin, Mike McAlpin Sr., Ann McAlpin, Richard J Campbell, Bruce MacAlpine, Robin McAlpine, Earl Dale McAlpine (and one person whose signature could not be read)

I. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Robin McAlpine read the minutes from the last meeting. The minutes were approved as read.

I. Open issues

- a) There were no open issues from the last AGM

I. New business

- a) Greetings from Society President Dale. We have come a long way and are making progress with our new website. Mark SC McAlpin has agreed to take care of the website moving forward. We are making progress getting third party websites updated with real and correct information.
- b) Discussion regarding using “Hills, Streams and MacAlpins” as motto vs. “Remember the Death of Alpin” We need to have consistency in all materials we use across the clan and society sponsored tents. We have about 10 tents per year manned by family members. We discussed creating a package that would be used by all conveners for clan tents. Same banners, MacAlpine/MacAlpin (It was Kenneth Alpin, not Alpine), same content, newsletters, sign-in sheets, etc. Also discussion as to whether or not to help persons sponsoring tents with fees from the society. (How do we raise said fees?)
- c) AGM – 2018 – Possibilities discussed: Livonia, MI in Aug, Hawaii, Apr or Stone Mountain GA. Generally we send out a Survey Monkey for member to complete for consensus on where to hold the next AGM. The folks voting are generally the ones in attendance at the AGMs. Bruce MacAlpine suggested that since we have never been approved to have a tent at Stone Mountain because we are not an official clan, that it only makes sense to hold our net AGM there, in Michael McAlpin’s home area, to celebrate that we are now and clan, have been and that Michael is our commander. We took a vote of all in attendance and it was a unanimous decision to hold our 2018 AGM at Stone Mountain, GA. So there it will be. We also talked about when we might go back to Scotland for an AGM there. It will likely be 2020 or 2021. So, start your Scotland savings account.
- d) MaryAnn Baker led discussion on membership. We need to formalize the membership process. We currently have 943 on FB, 518 receiving the newsletter, roughly 3000. How do we formalize the process, collect dues, and keep up with members? A committee was put together to work on membership issues and come up with suggestions. The committee consists of MaryAnn, Donald Ross, Mike McAlpin Jr, Roy and Mark.

Continued on Page 4

- e) Donald Ross addressed the meeting on the subject of scholarships. We would like to give back and make a difference for young people who desire to pursue Scottish Highland Dancing or bag piping. Scholarships could be used for lessons, or clothing, competition fees, camps, etc. A committee was shaped to work on formalizing the process of providing scholarships. Donald Ross, Mike and Robin will work on this.
- f) Ann presented on the subject of giving back to Scotland. It was discussed that we would like to support something in the Kilmartin area, specifically since that is the area of our forefathers. There was a suggestion to donate to the museum where we had our AGM dinner in 2014. Ann and Roy will work on this and come back with ideas.
- g) When discussing the subject of raising funds, we discussed creating a 501c3. Being a non-profit would allow folks to claim donations as a tax deduction. This would be helpful if we desire to make a difference with scholarships and such.
- h) Word from the Commander: We have come a long way since Kenneth started this quest in 2000. Our work going forward is to standardize who we are, Mac v Mc, Alpin v Alpine. We want to reach out to the Scottish community, support youth Kilmartin, and meet with far reaches of our Society to lend encouragement. It is entirely possible that someone else could come forward as a contender for chief. There is no guarantee it will be Mike. We need to continue our work on the internet, getting the correct information out there, get the merchandise that is not of our clan off sites that are selling. We are making progress.

VI. Adjournment

Earl Dale McAlpine adjourned the meeting at 1600.
 Minutes submitted by: Robin McAlpine
 Minutes approved by:

152nd Consecutive Scottish Pleasanton Games, September 1 & 2



Robin and I, along with Alpin, hosted the Clan MacAlpin tent at the 152nd Highland Games and Gathering in Pleasanton, CA. There were 73 clans participating, making this the largest gathering of Scottish clans in California.

It was great to visit with Renee & Tony Brasher. We have missed them.

On Saturday we manned the tent until temperatures reached 115° F. at which time we retreated to the air conditioning of our hotel. On Sunday we were ready to try again but only lasted until noon. Unfortunately the heat wave kept many folks from attending and rightfully so. We were so disappointed with the low attendance of children as we were prepared to give away loads of treat with our lost sheep game.





COSCA's 6th Clan & Family Caucus Program

Thursday July 6th, 2017 (9:00 AM – 4:00 PM)

at Lees-McRae College, Evans Auditorium

Banner Elk, NC

Submitted by Michael T McAlpin

For six years the Clan MacAlpine Society has attended the COSCA Clan Caucus. There is always a good exchange of views on items pertinent to today's Clans and Societies. This year we had an interesting view expressed by Andrew Morrison, Viscount Dunrossil. He brought forth the notion that it is the Highlands, and the Highlanders that define Scotland. The Games, the Garb, the Tartans and the traditions of Scotland are all inextricably linked to the highland culture, and maintained by the diaspora around the world.

The Marquis of Huntly, Chief of the House of Gordon spoke on the importance of the Clan Organizations in North America and Australia, and commented on the strength of the various Clans and Societies outside of Scotland.

JoAnn Tuskin gave a report on the activities of CASSOC (Clans and Societies of Canada) of which the Clan MacAlpin Society is a member. JoAnn displayed some very effective tools that they have on their web site.

There were several panel discussions on technical assistance available from COSCA for small clan and family associations, and for all member organizations wishing to apply for their tax-exempt status. As always, a real benefit of these caucuses is the ability to meet and exchange ideas with other attendees. It was a great honor to be introduced as the new Commander of the MacAlpin(e)s by the chair, who offered me the opportunity to speak about our recent success and the steps we have taken over the years that led to our success.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Council of Scottish Clans & Associates (COSCA)

Saturday, July 9th, 2017 (1:30 PM – 3:00 PM)

Chieftain's Tent, Grandfather Mountain Highland Games

Reports from the officers and committees

Comments by visiting clan chiefs who are guests at the GMHG

Elections to the Board of Trustees for At-Large Directors Up in 2017

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 2017.



Neil MacAlpine, of Fingal, Ontario, Canada

By G.E Hall, Banting Institute, Toronto January 6, 1931

A Man of Honor and Character

Fingal is a small town on the shores of Lake Erie where the Talbot Settlement was located. In the years between 1816 and 1818, Scottish settlers came to the Talbot Settlement.

This is the story of Neil MacAlpine of Lochgilphead, Argyllshire, Scotland, the pioneer patriot, who saved the Talbot Settlement when it was threatened by famine.



Neil MacAlpine was one of the early settlers in the neighborhood of Fingal. Being a man of means, he farmed somewhat extensively for those days, and when market prices did not suit him, he was in a position to hold his products until another season.

One year the frost killed all the wheat in the Talbot Settlement. Neil MacAlpine had three thousand bushels in his granary. At first he exulted in the prospect of selling the wheat profitably, but one day when he was in St. Thomas, he suddenly saw matters in a new light. Word was brought to him that the local miller wished to see him. When Neil MacAlpine went to the mill, the miller said, "You have some wheat, haven't you?" "I have three thousand bushels." The miller made him an offer which startled Neil MacAlpine: "Why," he exclaimed, "that is more than you can get for it after it has been ground into flour. What are you going to do with the wheat?" "I am going to sell it for seed grain to the settlers".

"It dawned on Neil MacAlpine what that would mean, and as he told about it afterwards, the cold sweat broke out on him. His grain might be used to extract blood money from the struggling settlers who were threatened with famine. His mind was made up at once. He hurried home and developed his plan. The next day, being on the Sabbath, and he being an elder of the Kirk, he dressed and went to church early. Standing beside the gate, he whispered to each pioneer as he passed through: "You can get seed grain at my place --- bushel for bushel. For each bushel you take at seed-time, you will bring back one bushel after harvest."

"He made this offer to every member of the Presbyterian Church. When he went home after the service, he remembered that he had made his offer only to Presbyterians. In the settlement there were many people belonging to other churches, so he put his sons on horseback and sent them to the others --- the Baptists, Anglicans, Roman Catholics and Methodists. A young man stood by the gate at each church and whispered to the worshippers as they entered: "You can get seed grain from my father --- bushel for bushel. For each bushel you take now, you will bring back a bushel after harvest."

"On Monday morning the settlers thronged to Neil MacAlpine. The boys were in the granary measuring out the wheat and filling the bags, and as each settler with his precious store of seed grain came past the house, Neil MacAlpine would hold up his hand and ask: "How many bushels?" --- When they told him the amount, he would add: "Remember now, bushel for bushel. For every bushel you are taking you are to bring me back a bushel after harvest."

For three days the procession passed Neil MacAlpine's door to the granary and back until all the grain was distributed and every family in the settlement had seed wheat. This great-souled act accomplished the good man's purpose, and to this day there are old people in Fingal who are saying: "It happened so many years after or before Neil MacAlpine saved the settlement."

"The story continues about an Irish family which had been helped by Neil MacAlpine many times. A man speaking to the Irishman about the famine said: "You were Catholics, were you not?" "We were." "But Neil MacAlpine was a Presbyterian." Drawing himself up to his full height, the Irishman replied: "On Sundays he was a Presbyterian, but on week-days he was a neighbor."

The spirit of comradeship, good will, philanthropy and leadership, developed in the clan leaders years ago, has been one of the outstanding characteristics of the MacAlpine Family.



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Longs Peak/Estes Park Colorado Scottish Festival

By Gordon MacAlpine

My wife, Barbara, and I recently returned from Scotland, where we celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary. Barbara asked if I would like a special gift, and of course I requested a two-handed broadsword.

After searching, she found a sword she thought would be safe for my use. Upon our return to Estes Park, we attended the Longs Peak Scottish Irish Festival. There I learned it's not "your" sword that's unsafe or dangerous; it's the other person's sword.



The Other Kilmartin

KILMARTIN SCOTLAND:

This was the centre of the kingdom of Dalriada, which the Scots established when they landed from Ireland in the 6th century. Stones and circles near the village testify to Bronze Age activities centuries before the Dalriadic Scots arrived. Ancestral home to hundreds of MacAlpin(e)s from the area surrounding the Kilmartin Glen, South Knapdale, North Knapdale and Kilmichael Glassary.



KILMARTIN-CANADA

Kilmartin was a Highland Scottish, Gaelic-speaking community settled in 1855 in Ontario, Canada. Most of the early settlers came from Argyllshire: Kilmartin Glen, South Knapdale, North Knapdale, and Kilmichael Glassary. There are nearly 70 McAlpines buried in the Kilmartin Cemetery.



Grandfather Mountain Highland Games

The weather was beautiful on top of the mountain at Grandfather Mountain, NC for one of the best-attended Highland games in the country.



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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