



Remember Those From Whom You Came

Newsletter Of The Clan MacAlpine Society

The Worldwide Organization For MacAlpines
4th Quarter 2017 ~ Volume 38



Kenneth McAlpine



William McAlpin



Michael McAlpin



Sir William McAlpine



Finn Alpin



Sidney Fay McAlpin



Earl Dale McAlpine



Bruce McAlpine

Commander's News



Nollaig Chridheil, Merry Christmas

What a wonderful year! We have achieved formal recognition, worked on our communications, and increased our presence at various Scottish events. These Games and Festivals are our cultural heritage; without support, they will fade away and what we have endeavored to preserve will be lost to our children and grandchildren.

I would urge you to consider attending some event, or to hold a small Burns Evening in your own home. It is vital we pass on our heritage to our children.

We had a very enjoyable AGM in Canada, and have created a handful of working committees looking at membership, scholarships, and we have raised a good sum for the Kilmartin Museum.

This year I have had the privilege of visiting our kinsmen in Scotland, England, Canada, Sweden and several states in the US. I look forward to further developments for our family.

Yours Aye,

Michael T McAlpin
Commander



President's News

When do you wear your kilt? Highland Games, family pictures, and family events?

I love to wear my kilt every time I get the chance. Of course at the events mentioned above, but also on formal nights when we cruise, dressy company events, like Christmas parties, weddings; well, about anything that calls for a suit or jacket and tie. I have one each of the McAlpin(e) ancient and modern tartan kilts. Robin also has a tartan skirt and a new tartan dress she wears to many events. This past year my kilt saw plenty of action:

- ❖Cruise, Seattle, Washington to Alaska, elegant dinner night
- ❖Costa Mesa Highland Games
- ❖Scotland to witness Michael T. McAlpin receive his Commission Letter as Commander of Clan MacAlpine
- ❖Pleasanton, CA Highland Games
- ❖Fergus Highland Games, AGM and Dinner
- ❖Cruise New York, NY to Nova Scotia Canada, elegant dinner night
- ❖Stone Mountain Highland Games
- ❖Robin's company Christmas dinner party
- ❖My company Christmas dinner party
(not all events are pictured)



If you've always wanted a kilt of your own, this is a great time to order one, while the £ is at all-time low. Currently 1£ is equal to \$1.34 USD (when this article was written). When I purchased my Kilts the exchange was the opposite, about 25% more. Be proud to show your heritage and our tartan.

All the Best,
Dale McAlpine

Commander

Michael T. McAlpin

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Dál Riata

Dál Riata was a Gaelic kingdom that included parts of Western Scotland and Eastern Ireland. At its height it encompassed roughly what is now Argyll in Scotland and part of County Antrim in the Irish province of Ulster.

The name *Dál Riata* is derived from Old Irish. *Dál*, meaning "portion"; *Riata* is believed to be a personal name. Thus, the name refers to "Riada's portion" of territory in the area.



Map of Dál Riata at its height, Pictish regions are marked in yellow.

There are multiple and conflicting accounts of the creation of Dál Riata. The Duan Albanach (Song of the Scots, written in the 1100's) tells that the three sons of Erc—Fergus Mór, Loarn and Óengus—conquered Alba (Scotland) around 500 AD. Other references offer a different, and probably older, account wherein Dál Riata was conquered by Irish Gaels led by a certain Reuda.

Of the multiple versions, the story of Dál Riata moves from myth to something nearer to history in the mid sixth century, when the kingdom reached its height under Áedán mac Gabráin (r. 574–608), then coming under serious threat from the Picts, whilst the Irish portion was under attack from other Irish Kingdoms, ultimately the Dál Riata lands in Ireland were lost.

A number of kings are named in the Duan Albanach, and in royal genealogies, but their accuracy is highly questioned.

Many believe that Cináed mac Ailpín (Kenneth MacAlpin) was king of Dál Riata before becoming king of the Picts in 843 merging the Pictish Kingdom and Dál Riata to form the Kingdom of Alba or Scotland.



Past President Kenneth McAlpine Awarded Prestigious Honor



At the Annual Meeting of the Society of Scottish Armigers held October 18, 2017, our founding President, Kenneth McAlpine was awarded the prestigious honor of Fellow of the Society of Scottish Armigers. Kenneth was treasurer of the Society of Scottish Armigers from its inception in 2008 until October of this year. Congratulations Kenneth.

A Fellow of the Society of Scottish Armigers is an honor awarded to those men and women possessing Armorial Bearings recognized in Scotland, who are of nobiliary station as defined by Scottish tradition and selected by a board to consider service and other factors of benefit to the community.

Govan Sarcophagus

Located in the Govan Old Parish Church in Glasgow is a massive coffin featuring carved hunting scenes and warrior figures. Found in the church graveyard in 1855, the sarcophagus was brought into the church in 1908.



Govan Old Parish Church

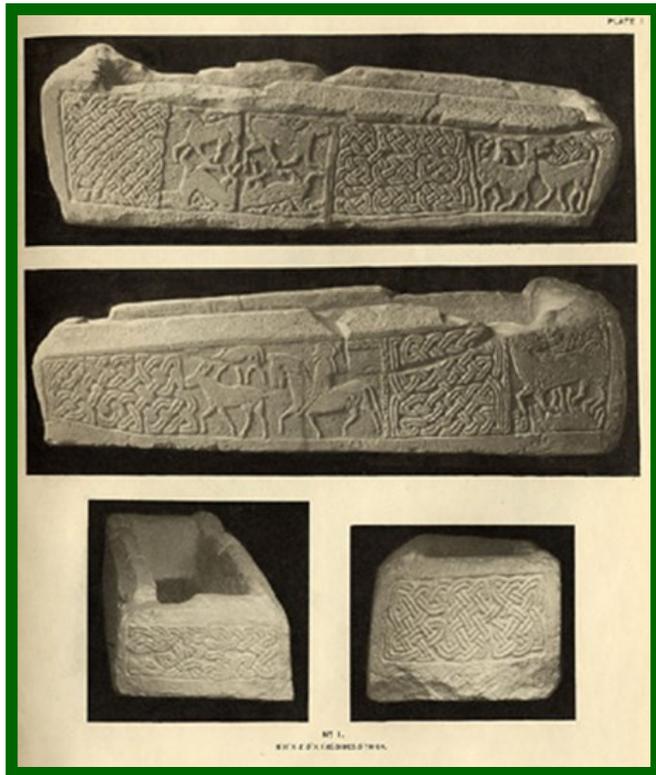
Carved from solid stone, it is supposed to be the sarcophagus of Constantine I, the son of King Kenneth MacAlpin. After Kenneth's death, his brother Domnall MacAlpin, succeeded him, and then his son Constantine ascended to the throne in 862.

Constantine I's reign witnessed increased Viking invasions. He died fighting during one such invasion and is buried at Oran's Mound on the island of Iona.

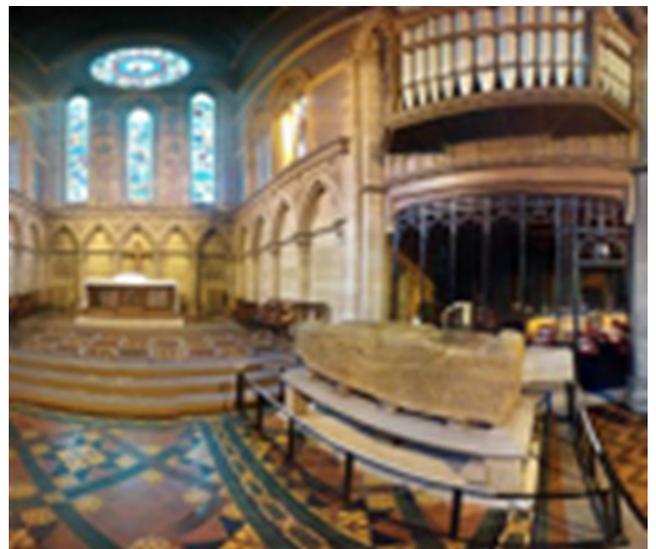
There is much that is not known about the early kings, and much of what has been written is contradictory.

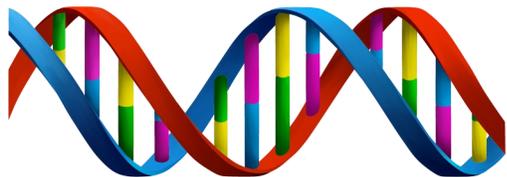
Alternatively, the sarcophagus may have been intended to hold the mortal remains of the founder of the medieval Church of St Constantine, which was built on the site where the Govan Old Parish Church stands today, or another version is that it was made to hold the remains of one of the early Kings of Strathclyde.

Regardless of its origin, it was carved in the second half of the ninth century, and is a splendid example of the period.



The four sides are decorated with panels depicting animals and a horseman chasing two stags.





The MacAlpine DNA Project

Submitted by Stu Pike

The MacAlpin(e) DNA Project aims to take advantage of genealogical DNA tests to help pursue family history research. By determining the genetic signature of each McAlpine family line, it is possible to tell which McAlpine family lines are related and which are not.

As many of you know, DNA testing is a powerful new tool to the field of genealogy. Surname or Y-DNA will track the McAlpine name back to your father, your grandfather, your GGrandfather, etc. It's a male only test, as only males have the Y chromosome.

The McAlpine surname has many different subgroups today that are not genetically related to each other. By looking at the markers we can often, but not always, tell which twig of the surnames you belong to. This will allow you to piggyback off another member's tree and push your tree back in time.

<https://www.familytreedna.com/public/mcalpindna/default.aspx?section=ycolored>

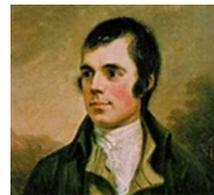
More recently autosomal DNA, or atDNA has revolutionized female and male testers allowing people to identify lost cousins, who have also tested, 4-5 generations back. Combined with a robust paper trail, DNA can reveal twigs hidden by the fog of time and break down brick walls.

Often the key to genetic genealogy is having a robust paper trail, so don't give up paper and pencil genealogy. Finally, many people report being baffled by the terms, jargon and science used in DNA testing. As the administrator of the project, I can help you decide which test is best to take, answer questions, or point you to online resources. Here is a great wiki to start. isogg.org/wiki

Email me at: stupike08@yahoo.com



Robert Burns Bard of Ayrshire



Burns Night can be traced all the way back to a supper held by the friends of Robert Burns on July 21st, 1801. They had gathered together on this day because it was the fifth anniversary of his death and they wanted to honor him.

This first Burns Night was held at Burns Cottage. That year, the Burns Club was founded and a supper was arranged on what the founders thought was Robert Burns' birthday—January, 29th. However, they then discovered records which showed Burns' birthday was actually on January 25th. Since then, Burn's Supper has been celebrated on that day.

What a great day to gather family and friends, and celebrate the life and poetry of Robert Burns.

Whether a traditional grand dinner, or something less formal it can be a wonderful experience, and a way of passing down a portion of our collective 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 always a 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.

There is no time like the present to arrange for your Burns dinner. Many of these events sell out. In the next issues of our newsletter we will seek your photos from the event you have, host or attend. Share them with us.

The Deserted Townships of North Knapdale

By 1800 the North Knapdale estate, containing the settlement of Kilmory Oib, had been purchased by Neill I Malcolm of Poltalloch. (Note: Robin Malcolm of Poltalloch, Chief of Clan Malcolm, visited our Clan Tent at the Stone Mountain Games) The Malcolms of Poltalloch were a long established mid Argyll family who had made their fortunes in the 18th century, particularly under the auspices of Neill I Malcolm. Much of their fortune derived from their plantations in Jamaica and trading in commodities such as sugar, rum, cotton, cattle and slaves.

By the late 18th century Neill I Malcolm had centered his business activities in London, investing in, among other things, properties in London and estates in Lincolnshire. In Argyll much of their accrued profits from their successful commercial ventures were spent actively purchasing local estates, usually from indebted Campbell landowners, these including the estates of Duntroon, Dunadd, Dunardry and Kilmartin. By 1800 the Malcolm's had also purchased the neighboring Arichonan estate and the nearby settlements of Bellanoch, Barndaimph, Barnluasgan and Crinan.



Many MacAlpines became tenants on the Malcolm estates and undoubtedly some of the remaining structures were home to our ancestors. An inventory of the Malcolm estates taken in 1802 at Kilmory Oib lists, among others, Dugald McAlpine and family, with a new structure, two barns and a small cottage, working the land as joint tenants with several other families.

Under Neill I Malcolm as part of estate improvements, there appears to be a move towards the consolidation of joint tenancies into single farms, particularly on his Kilmartin estates with an increased specialization in sheep or cattle. These consolidated farms were let under long leases at relatively high rents.



Neill I Malcolm may have also considered similar 'improvements' with farm consolidation on his Oib Estate as it was proposed to remove 34 farmers and day laborers from the Estate just after its purchase in 1798. This process of eviction continued, sometimes through the increased use of short annual leases open to competitive bidding (rack renting). The adoption of short leases can perhaps be detected in the constant name changes in people listed in various historic sources.

Ruins at Kilmory Oib

Between the 1841 Census and the 1851 Census, the people of Kilmory Oib and their neighbors are involved one of the most notorious episodes of forced eviction in Argyll, with farm consolidation and the removal or reallocation of tenants continuing unabated.

While there are no documentary references to the sites final abandonment/clearance and the reasons for it, we can assume people made way for sheep as some of the houses are converted into a sheep pens.

On 4th April 1848 the tenants were served with a "Summons of Removing" and told that their leases were to be terminated that Whitsunday, 27th of May and they should: '... flit and Remove themselves, their Wives, Bairns, Families, Servants, Subtenants, Cottars, Dependants, goods and gear, issued by the Poltalloch Estate.

This "Summons of Removing" directly led to confrontation between the tenants and their neighbors on the one side against the Poltalloch Estate, the latter eventually backed by the local constabulary. The depositions to the court as a result of the affair state that between 100 and 200 people were involved in opposition to the removing authorities, which if true would represent a substantial percentage of people from the surrounding settlements. Many were indicted for 'Mobbing and Rioting and Deforcement'.

The Poltalloch Estate was not oblivious or necessarily unconcerned about the displaced people now deemed redundant on their estates. Neill III Malcolm for example offered the possibility of settling on his estates in southern Australia and Canada with the possibility of assisted overseas passage.

For further information see The Deserted Townships of Kilmory Oib & Arichonanand and Kilmory Mill available at the Kilmartin Museum.



2017 Kilmartin Museum Fundraiser

Submitted by Roy Simpson

At our last annual general meeting in Fergus, Canada, a motion by Ann McAlpin passed to contact the Kilmartin Museum in Kilmartin, Scotland for information on providing a financial contribution. Ann contacted Meg Haig, Redevelopment Project Officer, and received in response many details about ongoing and projected programs worthy of our support. Kilmartin Museum has done much to preserve areas surrounding the museum, its native historical artifacts and continues to educate visitors, local residents, and schoolchildren.

We started a fundraiser on our Society Facebook page early October targeting an aggressive two month effort to raise and turn over proceeds by year end. During the fundraiser, Ian McAlpine contacted Joan McAlpine, a member of the Scottish Parliament, to participate in the official presentation. While we hoped for a broader participation of small donations, we received a modicum of larger ones. We are extremely happy to report that we collected \$ 3,365.00, roughly 2500 pounds. Thanks go out from the fundraiser committee to all for your support and we hope that rather than a one-time effort this can be an annual ongoing ritual.

Greetings from The 2017 Stone Mountain Highland Games!

Submitted by Michael McAlpin Jr.



Sir Winston Churchill said “Of all the small nations of this earth, perhaps only the ancient Greeks surpass the Scots in their contribution to mankind.” What a great quote, and I can’t think of a better reason to gather and celebrate Scottish Culture!

October 19-21st 2017 Clan McAlpine hosted our first ever tent at the 46th Annual Stone Mountain Highland Games. The Games were well attended and Clan McAlpine was received warmly and with open arms...and even gifted with a fine bottle of Scotch for our tent from the Stone Mountain Games. Many Clans welcomed us, and congratulated our formal recognition by Lord Lyon. Several special guests graced our tent, including the Chiefs of Clan Cochrane and Clan Malcolm, and Viscount Dunrossil, Chairman of the Society of Scottish Armigers.

The Clan McAlpine AGM will be held October 20th 2018 at the 47th Annual Stone Mountain Highland Games. I would like to extend a personal invitation to all to attend and continue our support of Clan McAlpine. We are planning a dinner, entertainment, and special guests for our 2018 AGM. Save the Date!



Reno Celtic Community Celebrates A Heritage Weekend

Submitted by Doug McAlpine

October 7th and 8th turned out to be a beautiful weekend for Reno Celtic Celebration. The McAlpine family was out in full force to participate in this annual event. Paul helped with the set-up and takedown while Doug and Janet, proudly wearing their MacAlpine badges, helped man their local society tent where visitors stopped by either to soak up being Scottish or to seek help in trying to determine what clan they belong to, what their tartan looks like, or try to locate what part of Scotland their families may have come from. Our most important goal for the weekend was to make contact with Scots throughout our community who have an interest in their heritage. Ann Marie kept busy promoting our local Robert Burns Celebration that she is once again chairing this year, spreading cheer, and taking pictures of the event. It is great fun being with people who share in our heritage.

We hope that if you have the opportunity to participate in a Highland Games near you, don't miss out on the opportunity to volunteer to help. Who knows, you might even encounter another of your fellow clan members.



*Nollaig Chrìdheil agus
Bliadhna mhath ur!*

*Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year!*



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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