



# Remember Those From Whom You Came

## Newsletter Of The Clan MacAlpine Society

The Worldwide Organization For MacAlpines  
1st Quarter 2018 ~ Volume 39



Kenneth McAlpine



William McAlpin



Michael McAlpin



Sir William McAlpine



Finn Alpin



Sidney Fay McAlpin



Earl Dale McAlpine



Bruce McAlpine

## Commander's News

*Much of Scottish history is the stuff of legend. Clan versus Clan, Highland Charges and such. Dramatic, daring, romantic.*

*But the other stories, the daily life, the homesteads, the more mundane details of carving out a living in a rugged terrain contribute to the makeup and character of the people.*

*The deeper we explore and extract the details of our ancestors, the more we understand what shaped them. Records show that there are over a hundred place names associated with MacAlpines in the Kilmartin, Knapdale, Glassary area. There are some that still have standing structures; others that been excavated. All are fascinating. There are numerous locations that can be directly traced to our known forebears, and it begins to make up a wonderful mosaic of our collective history. Other connections can be linked through our DNA project. Exciting stuff.*

*Many will remember touring the area during our 2004 AGM, and again after the Gathering in 2009. The Kilmartin Museum was our gracious host for our 2014 AGM. We toured Dunadd, the Cairns, cemeteries where our ancestors are buried, and churches where they were married.*

*We have made a substantial gift to the Kilmartin Museum, and established a special relationship with them.*

*We will continue to look for opportunities to strengthen our bond with the area, and to support efforts to uncover additional snippets of our past.*

*Yours Aye,  
Michael T McAlpin  
Commander*



# President's News

## MacAlpin's all over the world celebrated Robert Burns

### Robert Burns Dinner Celebration in Sweden



From left to right: Christian Sjögren, Åsa Hamrén, Carl-Fredric Ramström, Charlotte Jädeby, Tommy & Lotta Flinck Lénberg, Leizel & Finn Stavnsbo Alpin)

### Robert Burns Dinner Celebration in Georgia



From left to right: Michael & Carolyn McAlpin, Michael & Michael Jr.



Michael McAlpin, Jr, and Piping in the haggis.

*More Robert Burns Continued on Page 3*

### Commander

Michael T. McAlpin

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**Robert Burns Celebration Dinner In Canada**



From left to right: Bruce McAlpin carrying in the haggis behind the piper, One for the Bruce, Donna & Bruce McAlpin, The Bruce.

**Robert Burns Celebration Dinner in France**



Ronan Ansquer (left) piped in the Haggis at the Burns dinner in Gemanos, France

**Robert Burns Celebration Dinner in Nevada**



From left to right:  
 1. Robin & Earl Dale McAlpine  
 2. Ann Marie, Janet, Doug, Robin, and Earl Dale McAlpine, Lenelle McAlpin, Paul McAlpine, and Ian McAlpine

Robin and I had a wonderful time in Reno at the Robert Burns Celebration. We had an extra day in town and enjoyed a visit at Doug & Janet's home for brunch. We so appreciated their hospitality and the short time we had with them. We were able to fit in a quick trip to the mall and a snack before we headed back to our hotel. Thank you so much Janet and Doug. We had a great time. Hope to see you again next year.

In Kinship,  
 Dale McAlpine

# MacAlpine DNA Project

Submitted by Stu Pike

For McAlpines into genealogy, DNA has become a powerful tool to break down brick walls and unravel mysteries hidden by the fog of time. But it's only a tool, that's most useful with a robust pencil and paper family tree.

As a starting place to learn about genetic genealogy consider ISOGG, The International Society of Genetic Genealogy, <https://isogg.org/wiki/> founded in 2005 by DNA project administrators who shared a common vision: the promotion and education of genetic genealogy. Their mission is to advocate for and educate about the use of genetics as a tool for genealogical research, and to promote a supportive network for genetic genealogists. The Wiki was established for the benefit and education of the genetic genealogy community. For example: **Genealogical DNA testing myths**

This article attempts to dispel some of the **genealogical DNA testing myths**.

## **Myth #1: Do we need to dig up our ancestors to get their DNA?**

No! Their DNA is contained within your DNA, to some extent. For males, the Y-chromosome is passed from father to son on down through the generations. Males and females also receive mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) from their mothers, which also contains the DNA of their direct maternal line. However, only females will pass mtDNA on to their children.

## **Myth #2: Is the DNA collected by a blood test?**

No. Commercial DNA testing companies utilize saliva/buccal cell sampling via swabs and various other collection containers.

## **Myth #3: Can an insurance company or employer use my DNA test against me for insurance or employment purposes?**

The U.S. recently passed legislation known as the Genetic Information and Non-Discrimination Act (GINA) to protect citizens from genetic information being used against them for insurance or employment purposes. The U.K. has already passed similar legislation - the Human Tissue and Privacy Act of 2004.

## **Myth #4: Do my DNA results reveal any medical conditions?**

The section of the Y-chromosome used for genealogical DNA testing is non-coding DNA, in that it does not recombine (mix) or have any known uses other than to fill the spaces in between your genes. However, because this DNA does not mix, and it changes very slowly (mutates) it's beneficial for use in genealogical applications. The autosomal DNA test from 23andMe includes health and trait reports. Autosomal DNA tests for genealogical purposes are also offered by Ancestry DNA and Family Tree DNA (the Family Finder test), but neither company provides any medical information. However, it is sometimes possible to extract some health and trait information by analyzing the data with one of the autosomal DNA tools such as Promethease.

As the McAlpine DNA Project administrator, I'm glad to work with the McAlpine clan to answer questions members may have. Ping me at [stupike08@yahoo.com](mailto:stupike08@yahoo.com)



# Northeast Florida Scottish Games

Submitted by: Peter & Staci Alley

As we have done for many years, we woke up on a fine, sunny February day. We drove from Jacksonville, Florida to the Clay County Fairgrounds in Green Cove Springs to enjoy a day at the NEFL Highland Games.

Upon arriving, we proceeded through the gates with our pre-purchased tickets, making our way to find some fine Scottish fare and some Irn Bru. While enjoying our shortbreads, we watched some of the preliminary athletic events. We then moved on to browse through the massive vendor area looking for some Clan McAlpine and Clan Andrews treasures while also researching Clan Andrews. There are lots of things for the entire family to enjoy so you can make plans to spend the entire day there. There are numerous entertainers, bands, exhibits, and pipers. There is also a petting zoo area with chickens, goats, horses, and miniature highland cows and demonstrations such as fencing, frisbee dogs, piping, dancing, and an Outlander experience. Don't forget to say hello to Angus McScot, the huge inflatable mascot of the games!



We made our way to the main arena to watch the parade of the Clans which is always a huge attraction to the proud people of Scottish descent. After the games were officially declared open, we checked out Albannach, one of the featured groups to perform. I purchased a stuffed highland cow for my wife which we brought home. Our Pomeranian adopted it right away. Also, at Wild Bills soda, you can purchase a mug and get free refills for the day, if you have a mug from a previous event they were at, the refills are \$5.00 for the day! So if you ever get a chance to come to northeast Florida, try and plan your trip to coincide with the Games, you won't be disappointed!



# MacAlpine's out in full force at Robert Burns Celebration in Reno

Submitted by Ann McAlpine, Reno, Nevada

Though Reno had experienced weeks of unseasonably warm weather, February 10<sup>th</sup> brought cold, winter winds to the valley. That didn't stop 470 braw, bonnie Scots from arriving at the Grand Sierra Resort decked out in their kilts and tartan finery for an evening of whisky, music and ceremony celebrating Robert Burns. Revelers were welcomed and treated to a corsage of striking white heather.

As chair of this year's Robert Burns Celebration, I was proud to host a table of ten this year, eight of whom bear the name of McAlpine. It was great seeing that McAlpine tartan coming down the aisle during the opening ceremony as my father, Doug McAlpine, was one of the past Chiefs of Nevada Society of Scottish Clans that kicked off the event. Earl Dale and Robin McAlpine, President and Secretary of Clan MacAlpin(e) Society travelled from southern California to join us in celebration. We were honored to have Earl Dale introduced as a visiting clan dignitary.

Shortly before 6:00 the Sierra Highlanders Pipe Band led everyone to the dining room where the evening progressed with verse, toasts, and music. And, of course, we all joined in with a verse of Auld Lang Syne. It was an evening filled with tradition, heritage, and most importantly, friends and family . . . and yes . . . HAGGIS!



We had a grand time and loved sharing it with fellow McAlpines. Following the festivities, we gathered together for a picture. Attending, besides Earl Dale and Robin, were Lenelle McAlpin, Doug and Janet McAlpine, Ann McAlpine, Paul McAlpine, and Ian McAlpine.





**2018 Clan MacAlpine Society AGM  
will be held at the  
46th Annual Stone Mountain Highland Games  
October 19 - 21, 2018**

Preparations are already underway, and we look forward to seeing all of you in October! We will kick off the Games with entertainment and dinner at 6:00PM on Friday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. We are excited to announce we have reserved the Robert Burns Cottage of Atlanta for our venue! The Cottage is located at 988 Alloway Place in Atlanta.

**Event details to follow!**

**Hotel accommodations:**

We have blocked rooms at the Courtyard by Marriott Decatur Downtown/Emory, 130 Clairemont Avenue, Decatur, GA 30030

Room Rate is \$149 plus tax. It is suggested you book early! Please Open the following hyperlink for more information on reserving accommodations: [McAlpine Room Block Marriott Hotel](#)

Note: Accommodations closer to Stone Mountain can be secured but note that Friday traffic in Atlanta getting to the Burns Cottage will be difficult, so we chose a location closer to the Burns Cottage as the Saturday drive to Stone Mountain will be quicker.

**Atlanta Burns Cottage  
Site of our 2018 AGM Dinner**

On January 25, 1896, the anniversary of his birth in the year that was the centenary of his death, the founders of the Burns Club of Atlanta held their inaugural meeting at the Aragon Hotel. This group of men met annually to celebrate Robert Burns, and in 1907 incorporated for the purposes of raising funds through issues bonds, the proceeds of which would be used to build a permanent clubhouse. The Atlanta Burns Cottage was due to the significant efforts of many of the leading men of Atlanta.



*The Burns Cottage of Atlanta*

***Providing a tangible glimpse of the life, times, interests,  
programs and legacy of enjoyment of the works of The Bard.***

## Flowers of the Forest

### Sir William McAlpine, 6th Baronet

January 12, 1936 – March 4, 2018



Sir William McAlpine, 6<sup>th</sup> Baronet has always been supportive of the work Clan MacAlpine Society was doing to become recognized as a clan in our own right and we are sincerely saddened to hear of his passing.

Sir William and Lady Judy McAlpine, attended the 5<sup>th</sup> Clan MacAlpine Society Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in Oban Scotland, 2004. While there, he met with

Lord Lyon King of Arms of Scotland to receive guidance on the process to gain Clan recognition.

Sir William followed the Society activities by receiving our quarterly newsletter and his Coat of Arms has been proudly displayed on our newsletter header since 2010. The Society often sought his input and opinion on our road to be recognized as a clan and effort to name a Chief.

April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Sir William was one of the signers of the petition we presented to Lord Lyon Morrow, and a supporter for Michael T. McAlpin to be named Commander for the family convention held in Scotland, 2016.

Sir William was one of our best known MacAlpine's world-wide and we always appreciated his wisdom and support. He will be sorely missed.

In Kinship and sorrow,  
Dale McAlpine  
President, Clan MacAlpine Society



### William Paul McAlpin

May 4, 1946—January 18, 2018

STATESVILLE- On a cold day in December 1966, William Paul McAlpin was called into the United States Army for service to his country. Bill was assigned to Fort Bliss, Texas and later to Vietnam. In November of 2017, Bill was diagnosed with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease). It was determined that Bill's ALS was a result of his being exposed to agent orange while serving in Vietnam. Despite this devastating diagnosis, Bill was very proud of his service to his country. His loyalty never wavered even as his body became weaker from the effects of this horrid disease. On a cold day in January (January 18, 2018), Bill was called to his heavenly home by our Lord and Savior.

After returning from Vietnam, Bill married his lifelong love, Jan. Together they completed educations, built homes, and were richly blessed with two great children, Jennifer and Matthew. Bill began a career at Kewaunee Scientific. Bill loved working for Kewaunee so much that he stayed 27 years. He retired as chief of project management. He was known to go to work early and stay late. Many people said "If you want to know anything about Kewaunee, ask Bill McAlpin". He traveled extensively while working for Kewaunee and only left to start his own business, McAlpin Landscaping, Inc. Bill enjoyed his business immensely and ran it successfully for 20+years. He continued to be active in his business until his health no longer allowed.

Bill was very dedicated to the fire service. He was a charter member of Ebenezer Volunteer Fire Department. He was named Fireman of the year along with many other honors. He was named fire chief at Ebenezer and served on the board of directors. Bill retired from Ebenezer after 26 years of faithful service to his community.

Bill was the son of Rev. Paul McAlpin and Mamie Arney McAlpin. He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, and six sisters. Jan's parents, Worth and Nell Sharpe also preceded him. He was a great husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle and friend. He loved his family with all his heart. Bill is survived by his wife, Jan; his daughter Jennifer and husband Jim; his grandson and namesake William James, born on January 11, 2018; his son Matthew and fiancée Karyn and a special little girl, Haidyn. Ronnie Everidge, a Vietnam veteran was a very special friend to him. Special recognition must be given to Layla Ruth, a long haired dachshund who was his constant companion. He was buried at Hebron cemetery and honored with full military and fire service honors. To God be the glory.

# The Argyll Boar

Submitted by Mark S.C. McAlpin  
Sennachie Elect

Have you ever wondered why we use the boars head as the logo for our clan? It's amazing what we can find on the internet about the history of our clan from what others have researched over the years.

Some 2,000 years ago, a fort and power center for the royals, prominently rose from the floor of the Moine Mohr (an expanse of bog that carpets the southern end of Kilmartin Glen). Today this geographic center of the old Kingdom of Dál Riata is known simply as Dunadd. In Gaelic, Dunadd means, "fort on the river".



Dunadd fort would likely have been an impressive sight. Imagine, if you can, a fort on top of the hill (pictured left). High walls, gates and fortifications to keep unwanted visitors out. Dwellings for living and shops for stone and metal work. Further ramparts would have been used to divide the kings from the commoners. Something you might see in the movies, yet, very real.

If you were to climb Dunadd today, you would see a footprint carved into the rock (pictured center). This symbol is possibly the most reminiscent symbol of Scottish Kingship, as this is here that the kings of Dál Riata, from Aedan to Kenneth MacAlpin, were inaugurated.

At the highest point of the hill is a stone carving of a wild boar (pictured right), believed to have been carved in the seventh or eighth century.

Sir Thomas Innes of Learney Lord Lyon King of Arms from 1945 to 1969, in his signature work "The Scottish Tartans" states that the MacAlpines are a Royal Clan, the most ancient in the Highlands, and that the ancient crest was a boar's head."

This is the very reason, nearly twenty years ago, the Clan MacAlpine Society chose the boars head on a crown as the society logo. Since we have no chief, we are not entitled to use a crest, which would include a torse (braided wreath), and a strap and buckle.

The Argyll Clans of Campbell and MacTavish also utilize a Boars Head. Since these clans do have a chief, they are entitled to use a torse, as well as a strap and buckle.



McAlpine

Campbell

MacTavish



Strap & Buckle



Torse

# Kilmartin Glen

Submitted by Joan McAlpine, Member of the Scottish Parliament

Dalriata is the cradle of Scotland, where the kings of old were anointed. By far the most famous and significant of these was 9th century Kenneth MacAlpin, Coinneach mac Ailpein in modern Gaelic. While the details are disputed by historians, many believe he began his reign here, standing on the footprint stone atop Dunadd hillfort, before moving east to Denkeld. Now members of the MacAlpin Clan Society have given generously to the museum which tells the story of Dalriata and its ancient peoples.



In February, together with my partner, Stuart Paterson, I was delighted to join clan representative Ian McAlpine and his wife Margaret in handing the £2500 cheque to Dr. Sharon Webb, the director of the Kilmartin Museum. The museum inspires and educates people by interpreting, explaining and conserving the internationally important archaeological landscape, artefacts and natural heritage of Kilmartin Glen near Lochgilphead. It is currently raising funds for a major refurbishment, which the clan money will help make possible.

Like most Scottish schoolchildren, I grew up believing Kenneth MacAlpin had, almost overnight, united the Pictish and Scottish people to form a new kingdom of Alba. Modern historians believe that this was a more complex and slower process than a great victory in battle. It is likely the Kenneth MacAlpin was Pictish and Scots by birth and the shared line became a shared people. Work is developing all the time and increasing our understanding. For example, Dr. Webb explained that many of the findings by archeologists at Dunadd showed that trade was taking place with partners hundreds of miles away. This was a sophisticated society.

I have fond memories of Kilmartin Glen, having visited with my children many years ago. And yes, my footprints fitted very neatly into that Dunadd rock, which many believe to be the original Stone of Destiny on which Scottish kings were crowned.

The wider clan network has grown recently thanks to the wide reaching Scottish diaspora. Its success reflects the huge amount of goodwill towards those of Scottish descent. The modern clan movement is a wonderful way of expressing that goodwill. Clann means children. In Celtic society the clan was bound together by a kinship tradition, military service to the chief and, fundamentally, land. A foundation stone of clan society was also "obligation" by that I mean a sense of shared responsibility. That sense of obligation is given modern expression in actions like fundraising by the children of the Clan MacAlpine Society today. With their generous donation to Kilmartin, McAlpine clan members are giving something back to the land that begot them, the ancient place that is so special in their history. I was honored to be a part of that.



## Donald MacLaren ~ New Convenor of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs

Donald MacLaren of MacLaren, Chief of Clan MacLaren (on left)

Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor (on right).

The MacGregor has finished his run as the Convenor of the Standing Council.

# MacAlpine Placenames in Kilmartin/Knapdale/Glassary



Achahoish	Burntisland	Keills
Achantheanbhaile	Campbell Oib	Kilcalmonell
Achnahorach	Carsaig	Kilmahumaig
Achnamara	CastleSween	Kilmartin
Ardbeg South	Clachan	Kilmichael Glassary
Ardnackaig	Clachbrech	Kilmichael Inverlussa
Ardnaw Knap	Cosandrochaid	Kilmory Knap
Ardrishaig	Cove Knap	Kilmory Oib
Ardrishaig/ArdrishaigFarm	Croitcoimby	Kilmory/Oib Estate
Ardrishaig/Campbelton Rd	Cuilnashemag	Kintallan
Ardrishaig/GaribaldiLodge	Culcruich/Duntroon Est	Knap
Arinafadbeg	Daltote Cottage	Knap Estate
Arinafadmore	Danarnack/DannaCloiche	Knapdale
Ashfield	Danna	Laggan
Attichuan	Danna Mid	Leachnaban
Auchavallich	Danna New	Leachy
Auchinduine	DannanaCloiche	Lothead
Auchnafield	Drimdrissaig	North Knapdale
Baralochan	Droineach	Oakfield
Barbae	Dunardry	Oib Estate
Barbae Dounie	Garoib	Oib, North Knapdale
Barbae Ross	Garoib/Oib Estate	Scotnish
Barbreack	Gigha Ardminish	South Knapdale
Barmore	Gigha Chancerioch	Stronchullin
Barnagad	Gigha Kelp Shores	Stronefield
Barnashalig	Gigha Kilchattan	Stronfield Knap
Barnluasgan	Gigha Kinerarach	Tarbert
Barradarroch	Glassary Parish	Tayindroinan
Barrimer	Glenasaul	Tayinloan
Beallachnabratha	Glenlivan	Tayvallich
Bellanoch	Glenralloch	Tighandaim
Bellanoch Estate	Graham Oib	Turbiskill
Blarantibert	Invernial Farm House	Ulva
Brenfeorline	Keillbeg	Woodhouse



## Alister McAlpine's Lament

*The lowlands o' Scotland will  
ne'er be my hame,  
Tho' fresh and fair is the gowany lea,  
The lowlands o' Scotland will  
ne'er be my hame,  
It will ne'er be like my ain countrie.  
In the lowlands o' Scotland nae hills are seen  
Rising wi' snaw-white taps sae hie,  
And the heather is burnt,  
and the rose it is fa'en,  
That bloomed sae sweet in my ain countrie.  
The lowlands o' Scotland  
will ne'er be my hame,  
And there's no a hame on earth for me,  
The clans are a' broken and I am alane,  
Thinking upon my ain countrie.*

by Robert Allan. Source: R. A. Smith's The Scottish Minstrel (published between 1820 and 182



As you may recall, we will be holding an election this year. The positions coming to end of term are Treasurer and Secretary. Please start sending your nominations to me, [robinlmc Alpine@yahoo.com](mailto:robinlmc Alpine@yahoo.com).

You may nominate yourself, but if you nominate someone else, please make sure they are willing to do the duties required of the position.

Give me a holler if you have any questions.

Robin

## 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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