



Remember Those From Whom You Came

Newsletter Of The Clan MacAlpine Society

The Worldwide Organization For MacAlpines
3rd Quarter 2018 ~ Volume 41



Kenneth McAlpine



William McAlpin



Michael McAlpin



Sir William McAlpine



Finn Alpin



Sidney Fay McAlpin



Earl Dale McAlpine



Bruce McAlpine

Commander's News

The Society has been very active over the summer months with events in Scotland, Canada and across the U.S. I have had the good fortune of attending many of these, and it has been my pleasure to meet so many at these events, and to enjoy their enthusiasm.

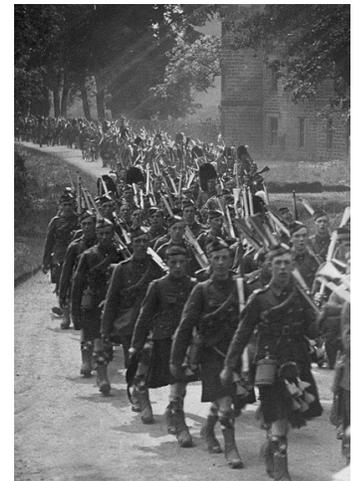
Spending time in Scotland at the Shennachie event and then in the beautiful countryside was a special treat, and then on to the Kilmartin Glen where we continue to discover more about the old homesteads.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held at the Stone Mountain Highland Games in October. There is an exciting venue set up for it and I look forward to seeing many of you there.

By the time this newsletter is published, it will be just weeks away from November 11th. Whether referred to as Remembrance Day, Armistice Day, or Veterans Day, its origins reflect upon the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. The date and time of the armistice ending WW I, **100 years ago this year**. Living in Canada in the early 1960's, the reverence for this day was drilled into every child in every classroom. Poppies were handed out and worn. At 11:00 AM, a two-minute silence was always observed.

It is fitting that we all remember those from all countries that suffered through this tragedy.

Yours Aye
Michael T McAlpin, Commander



Commander: Michael T. McAlpin

Society Officers:

President: Earl Dale McAlpine

Vice President: Mark McAlpin

Treasurer: Janet McAlpine

Secretary: Robin McAlpine

Member at Large: Finn Stavsbo Alpin

Newsletter Editor: Janet McAlpine



President's News



Dear Family,

With our first highland games of the year behind us, Robin and I look forward to the months ahead hosting tents and meeting family.

Pleasanton, CA – September 2&3

We had a wonderful time at the Pleasanton, CA highland games. The Clan Village was moved to a walnut grove and each clan had their own tree. With shade and lots of space. We had the best weather ever! We were so happy to have Renee & Tony visit with us at the clan tent. Last year it was so hot and we really didn't have a chance to visit much. We really enjoyed hearing what they are up to and celebrating our heritage together. We also had three other families stop by and show interest in receiving the newsletter. Funny, I believe all three had McAlpin grandmothers. Robin was happy to make the rounds to visit with the clan village attendees and shop vendors. This is always her favorite part of the day. I found the perfect coffee cup for my bird lady (a Christmas robin). We couldn't attend the games and not enjoy Malaren's ginger and shortbread cookies. Overall, it was a very rewarding weekend.

Seaside Games, Ventura, CA – October 12 - 14

Looking forward to the Seaside highland games the 13th & 14th of October, but dreading the long drive ;-).

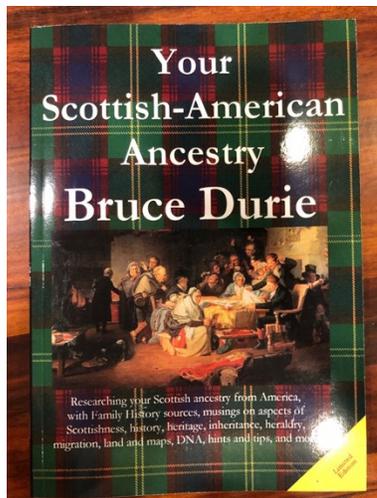
We are one of the sponsoring clans. As a member of the Ventura Chamber of Commerce, Robin has had an opportunity to chat with the games directors. We will be attending a dinner Friday night and for the weekend, I will be manning the tent as Robin runs her vendor booth. Robin has also volunteered to help with manning the sales table on Friday night. We love spending time with our local Scottish families. (And...this would be a great location to hold an AGM, hint from Robin).

Stone Mountain, GA – October 19 - 21

It's hard to believe a year and a half has passed since Michael T. McAlpin was commissioned as the commander of our family. This year, we hold our AGM for the second year as a recognized Scottish Family. I look forward to our AGM, no matter where held, because this is where we gather with our family of MacAlpin's. It is a family reunion that we enjoy so much year after year. That said, I hope see you all at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) Stone Mountain October 19 - 21, 2018.

In kinship,

Dale McAlpine, President



Good Reads . . .

Your Scottish-American Ancestry

Part I - Musings on Things Scottish Part II - Researching your Scottish ancestry from America, with Family History sources, musings on aspects of Scottishness, history, heritage, inheritance, heraldry, migration, land and maps, DNA, hints and tips, and more.

Written by Bruce Durie, considered worldwide one of the top Scottish genealogists and heraldists. "In this idiosyncratic, informed, entertaining and always educational book, Bruce Durie takes the reader through the minefield of researching your Scottish ancestry from the American perspective. This is the book no aspiring American Scot can afford to miss!"

Celebrated Pipe Band Set To Mark 90 Years

August 19, 2018

By SHELLEY TOPP , North Canterbury News , Amberley, New Zealand



McAlpines North Canterbury Pipe Band will celebrate 90 years of bagpipe playing this October.

The band began in 1928 with a group of eight pipers and three drummers from Leithfield, Sefton and Amberley performing at a weekend of festivities celebrating the Borough of Rangiora's 50th anniversary.

There are currently about 25 active members, aged from 13 to 70, plus with some younger members learning bagpipes and drums.

There is a strong emphasis on family involvement, with many wives, husbands, brothers, sisters, sons and daughters all active, including many long-serving members and life members.

The band has been fortunate to have strong, continuing support from sponsors over the years.

"The band would like to thank McAlpines Rangiora Ltd for their continued support for 42 years," Anna says.

Members would also like to thank the community over the last 90 years for its support, and Conroy Removals Ltd for its help with travel costs to contests, the Rangiora RSA, and many other organisations that have helped the band over the years.

Without such support the band would not be able to attend contests, she says.

MacAlpines Celebrate Heritage at Highland Games

**169th Annual 2018 Historic Greenmead Park, Highland Games
in Livonia Michigan - August 3rd & 4th
Clan MacAlpin(e) Society Tent hosted by Matthew McAlpine**



The Livonia, Michigan are the oldest continuous games in North America. Founded in 1849, on preserving Scotland's heritage through arts, customs, dress, literature, and Highland games like the Highland dance, piping and drumming, heavy athletics and tug o' war. They also had Clan Cultural Center in (Clan Row), genealogy tent, historical reenactments, and kids games.



Dr. Mark Young (left) visited the tent. Elliot McFarland, (right) stopped by the tent and introduced himself and hopes to see us at Stone Mountain Highland Games.



Little Scotty being driven around

PORTLAND HIGHLAND GAMES

**Saturday, July 21, 2018
at Mt. Hood Community College in Gresham, Oregon,
the Portland Games have been annual occurrence for 66 years.**

Preserving our culture and heritage and passing it on to the children is so much a part of the Scottish community. It was such a



special occasion to watch our own Clan MacAlpine Society members Aliza and Addie Cummins dance at the games.

..... And the Games Continue

**Fergus
Scottish
Festival**
& Highland Games

The Family of Bruce MacAlpine attended the 2018 Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games and were proud to showplace our family in the March of the Clans and with a Clan Tent. For those unfamiliar with this festival, it was the site of the 2017 MacAlpine Family Society Annual General Meeting.

On the Friday evening of the games, we enjoyed our first taste of fish and chips with a side of deep fried haggis and an Iron Bru. For accompaniment to our great meal, we experienced The Red Hot Chili Pipers raise the roof. We followed that up with a trip to the Highland Pub to delight in the Glengarry Boys and pint.

Our new banner shone bright as we opened our Clan Tent in Heritage Village Saturday morning. Gavan was prepped and eager to stamp the passports of the many kids visiting the village and Donna had goodies for the young and the young at heart. Several MacAlpines stopped by to connect and have a wee dram. As the day continued on we took in some heavy events, sword fighting, mass pipes and finished the day off with a rousing performance by Albanach.

A great time was had by all.



Gavan Elmhirst and Donna MacAlpine.



71st Annual Pacific Northwest Scottish Highland Games at Enumclaw

**Scotland comes to the Pacific Northwest
at this great Highland games event.**

It was a beautiful Seattle day at the 71st Pacific Northwest Highland Games held July 28th and 29th.

Pictures below include, J.D. McAlpine and family, Commander Michael McAlpin, and Sennachie elect Mark McAlpin, all having a great time at the games. Also pictured is Secretary of State for Washington (retired) Ralph Monroe with Mark.





TIME TO RSVP!

The 2018 Clan MacAlpine Society AGM Dinner will be held in conjunction with the 46th Annual Stone Mountain Highland Games. Dinner is scheduled for 6 pm, on Friday, October 19th!

Our 2018 AGM Dinner is on track! All RSVP's are accounted for that have been submitted. If you plan on attending, and have yet to RSVP, please contact Michael McAlpin, Jr. at mmcalpin73@gmail.com no later than 9/25. Dinner is \$60 per person, and can be paid by cash/check the night of the event or by donating to the Clan MacAlpine Society easily found on the website at www.clanmacalpine.com.

We have lined up some great entertainment, to include:
• *Special Guest Speaker* • *Whisky Tasting* • *Scottish Music*

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.

Hotel accommodations:

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

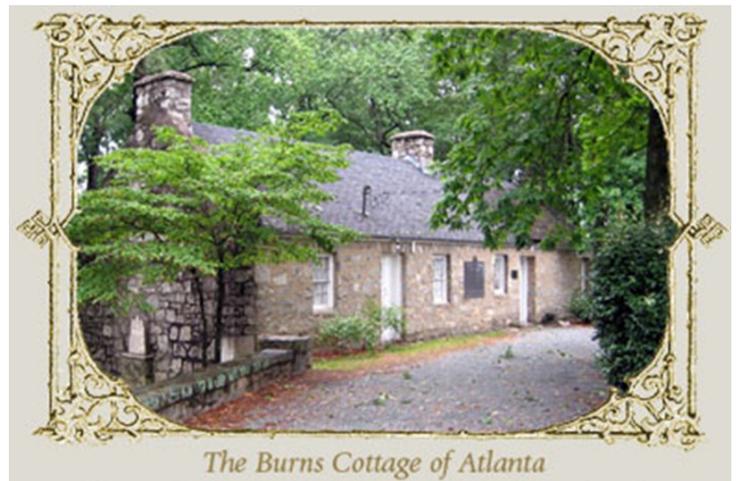
Room Rate is \$149 plus tax. It is suggested you book early! The block ends on September 28th, or upon reaching capacity. Please open the following hyperlink for more information on reserving accommodations:

[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 63rd Annual Grandfather Mountain Highland Games and Gathering of Scottish Clans

Submitted by Martha Whitlock Endres

“We do not remember days, we remember moments.” Cesar Pavese



I shall not soon forget our visit to the 2018 Grandfather Mountain Highland Games (GMHG) held at MacRae Meadows near Linville, North Carolina, July 12th through 15th (www.gmhg.org).

My husband, Kelley, and I traveled from our home in Charleston, West Virginia, via the Blue Ridge Parkway. Kelley is of Irish, Welsh, English, and French descent; he has the good fortune to connect to Clan MacAlpine by marriage. I am a MacAlpin through my paternal line. My grandmother was Margaret (Laing) Whitlock, whose parents, Alexander Webster Laing (1841 – 1914) and Elizabeth MacAlpin (1840-1929) from the Glasgow area emigrated to America, settling first in Pennsylvania in 1867 and then moving to Southern West Virginia, including to McAlpin in Raleigh County, named by their son, John, in honor of his mother. None of these grandparents was alive when I was born.

This was our third visit to the GMHG. In 1997 and 2014 we camped there with our daughter, Anne *MacAlpine*. If you camp at the GMHG, be forewarned that the infamous marshmallow wars among the clans are a late night tradition. During this trip we stayed in a motel in nearby Boone.



Clan Tent with Society members, Teala and Eamon Pennel

The GMHG are quite well-organized; staff coordinated thousands of visitors. Shuttle buses from parking lots in Boone, Linville, and Newland transported folks relatively quickly to and from the mountain each day to reduce traffic and parking challenges. Shuttle buses didn't run in the evenings.

We spent Saturday and Sunday reveling in Scottish culture and enjoying every aspect of the GMHG. We visited clan tents, listened to bagpipers and drummers, learned about Scottish culture including the Vikings' influence, ate traditional Celtic food, shopped for Scottish items, cheered arriving distance runners, saw border collies herd sheep and ducks, gathered at ceilidhs, and watched Highland athletic and dancing competitions. There were interesting activities for all ages from wee bairns to elderly people and great camaraderie among visitors to the GMHG.



Martha, Kelley and Michael enjoying a wee dram at the games

Meeting and talking with our clan commander was a wonderful part of the weekend. Michael McAlpin welcomed us and was unceasingly patient as he answered our myriad questions. What a brilliant historian he is! We are grateful to Michael for his fervor and extraordinary generosity to The Clan MacAlpine Society. Because of his hospitality, we enjoyed this weekend even more than our previous trips to the GMHG.

Of special importance is the book *MacAlpin(e) Genealogies 1730-1990* by Doris McAlpin Russell which Michael displayed at our clan's booth. I was able to research my Morrison, MacAlpin, Laing, and Whitlock ancestors on the 'McAlpin Coal Mine in West Virginia' page.

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Council Of Scottish Clans and Associations (COSCA) Annual Meeting

July 14, 2018

John Bellasai, COSCA President, introduced the two visiting Chiefs, Madame Margaret Frances Boswell Elliott, 29th Chief of Clan Elliot and The MacThomas of Finegand, Chief of Clan MacThomas. Both Chiefs stressed the importance of the North American Clans and Societies in preserving Scottish Heritage, and were very impressed with the size and enthusiasm of the North American Games.

Steve Quillan, Vice President of the Grandfather Mountain Games, spoke briefly noting that there were 114 Clan and Society Tents, continuing the trend of increasing interest in the Games. Pre-Sales tickets were also up 14% over the prior year, another positive sign.

John Bellasai, COSCA President reviewed the new slate of officers and asked for their approval by acclamation, all were approved. John discussed the need to develop a Strategic Plan for COSCA to insure that COSCA is delivering on the needs of the membership. Some areas to be addressed are more current newsletters, better on line access and future Clan Caucuses.



Grandfather Mountain . . . Continued from page 7

The worship service Sunday morning was lovely. It was poignant to watch the Kirkin' O' the Tartans and hear the speaker reverently call the names of the Flowers of the Forest, our MacAlpine cousins who had passed away since the last GMHG.

The event I enjoyed most was walking in the Parade of Tartans on Sunday with Michael and Kelley. It was a profound experience to represent generations of our Clan MacAlpine.

We visited the Boone area on Sunday evening and dined at the Dan'l Boone Inn. En route home on Monday we stopped by the Exhibition Coal Mine in Beckley, Raleigh County, West Virginia.

As John Muir said, "The mountains are calling and I must go." I have been bitten by the bug and shall visit the GMHG again. It is a consummate experience for people with Scottish heritage and pride. Attending the GMHG was almost as good as being in Scotland.

Thank you, The Clan MacAlpine Society, for supporting the 2018 Grandfather Mountain Highland Games!



The Deserted Townships of Knapdale and Kilmartin Glen

MacAlpines lived in many places in the Kilmartin Valley. One of those places was the once thriving village of Kilmory Oib about 8 miles south of Kilmartin.



Built in the late 16th century, and situated on the banks of Loch Collie-Bharr, the remaining seventeen structures once housed farmers and fishermen. Some of the remaining structures were once homes, others were places of work, some were for spinning, and cooking, and others were for keeping cattle safe and warm during the winter months. Corn was grown in the nearby fields, and then dried in kilns.



The Ell-wand

The symbol of the Shenechie is the ell-wand (Scottish Gaelic: slat thomhais).

Once used to measure cloth and other commodities in the market-places, it was used as a part of the Scottish weights and measures system. Its use insured that all parties were fairly represented, and it is symbolic of justice and fairness.

The Scottish ell is approximately 37 inches, The Scottish ell was standardised in 1661, with the exemplar to be kept in the custody of Edinburgh.

It was used in the popular expression "Gie 'im an inch, an he'll tak an ell" (equivalent to "Give him an inch, and he'll take a mile" first published as "For when I gave you an inch, you tooke an ell" by John Heywood in 1546).

Scottish measures were made obsolete, and English measurements made standard in Scotland, by act of parliament in 1824 .

Pictured is MacAlpine Shennachie Elect, Mark McAlpin holding an Ell-wand, with Bruce Durie

The Dean Tavern at Newtongrange

The village of Newtongrange was built to house the miners that worked the coal pit at the Lady Victoria Colliery. The colliery was named after Lady Victoria Alexandrina Montagu Scott, the wife of the chairman of the company (1890–1900), the 9th Marquess of Lothian.

The shaft ultimately extended over 1600 feet deep, and at the height of production, produced 2,000 tons of coal per day, utilizing a workforce of 1765 people, 1360 of which worked underground. The miners worked hard, and were thirsty people, hence the introduction of the Dean Tavern, a Gothenburg pub.

The “Gothenburg” pubs were modeled after a system first used in Gothenburg, Sweden. The Taverns were owned by a trust, and profits were to be used to benefit the local community. The town treasury was to control this income and use it to provide libraries, museums, parks and other community facilities.



They were not to be attractive or welcoming in order to discourage drinking. The sales of spirits was not to be encouraged. No credit was given and betting and gambling were banned, as were any form of game or amusement (even dominoes).

The local coal companies were often a source of funds to establish these systems in Scotland. Once a very popular model, there are only four Gothenburg style pubs remaining. The Dean Tavern is perhaps the best example of them.

The mine closed in 1981 but today houses the National Mining Museum.

Society member Ian McAlpine completed part of his underground training as an apprentice Mines Surveyor at the Lady Victoria Colliery when it was still producing coal.

Justifiably proud of the Dean Tavern, Ian has been a trustee at the Dean for over twenty years.



The Birlinn

Submitted by Mark McAlpin

As 6-man outrigger race season ends, and I prep for the end of the season endurance race, I couldn't help but have thoughts of what kind of ships our ancestors had used in Scotland. One always hears of Viking long boats, as made popular by TV shows. Surely in a land surrounded by water there had to be an equivalent.



There was. Scotland had the birlinn. The birlinn was a wooden vessel propelled by sail and oar, used extensively in the Hebrides and West Highlands of Scotland from the Middle Ages on. The birlinn was clinker-built and could be sailed or rowed. It had a single mast with a square sail.

Smaller vessels of this type might have had as few as twelve oars, with the larger West Highland galley having as many as forty. For over four hundred years, down to the seventeenth century, the birlinn was the dominant vessel in the Hebrides.

In terms of design and function, there was considerable similarity between the local birlinn and the ships used by Norse incomers to the Isles. In an island environment ships were essential for the warfare which was endemic in the area, and local

lords used the birlinn extensively from at least the thirteenth century. Though the surviving evidence has mostly to do with the birlinn in a naval context, there is independent evidence of mercantile activity for which such shipping would have been essential. There is some evidence for mercantile centers in Islay, Gigha, Kintyre and Knapdale, and in the fourteenth century there was constant trade between the Isles, Ireland and England under the patronage of local lords. Otherwise the chief uses of the birlinn would have been troop-carrying, fishing and cattle transport.

The birlinn appears in Scottish heraldry as the "lymphad" (a corruption of *long fhada* (longship) in at least 20 different coats of arms. Most notable among these is the Duke of Argyll.

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

Clan MacAlpine Society Information

Website: www.macalpineclan.com

Mail: Clan MacAlpine Society
3061 Harbor Boulevard
Ventura, CA 93001 USA

Contributions: Via PayPal at www.clanmacalpine.com
Or made payable to:
Clan MacAlpine Society
c/o Janet McAlpine, Treasurer
3530 Parque Verde Lane
Reno, NV 89502 USA