



# Remember Those From Whom You Came

## Newsletter Of The Clan MacAlpine Society

The Worldwide Organization For MacAlpines  
1st Quarter 2019 ~ Volume 43



Kenneth  
McAlpine



William  
McAlpin



Michael  
McAlpin



Finn  
Alpin



Sidney  
McAlpin



Earl  
McAlpine



Bruce  
McAlpine

## Commander's News

What a wonderful story we have to tell.

Clustered in the beautiful Kilmartin Glen, the MacAlpines have a rich history that is just now being compiled. Stories of rebellions, clearances, migrations, a WWII aircraft carrier, coal mining in Scotland, owning Coal mines in West Virginia, grand hotels, department stores, Arctic Expeditions and more. With each new discovery, we add so much to our combined heritage. These stories should be documented and shared with our children.

It is with pleasure that we can look at the expanding number of events MacAlpines are hosting, and more importantly, the increasing number of our kinfolk that are taking an active role in these events. At Hogmanay events, Burns Dinners and Highland Games, our members continue to be quite active. We have many folks vacationing about Scotland this year, and there are many MacAlpine points of interest that they will be seeing.

Engaged membership is the lifeblood of our effort, and I wish to thank all who contribute their time. There are always opportunities to be involved in many different aspects of our efforts.

As we unearth more of our own past and connect with more MacAlpines through our DNA project and other research into our history, we find out more about where our ancestors lived, how they lived and what became of them.

I look forward to meeting more of you and hearing your stories throughout 2019.

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 Stavnsbo Alpin

**Newsletter Editor:** Janet McAlpine

## President's News



Dear Family,

Greetings! I can't believe the first quarter is already gone. We have been so busy already.

Family members of the Clan MacAlpin/e Society hosted tents at Central Florida Highland Games, January 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> for the first time. We received a warm welcome from the games organizers and we met many extended family who attended the games and stopped by the tent to learn more about their family history and Society's goals., Staci & Peter Allen co-hosted to learn about setup & running their own tent using the new sponsored "Host Tent Startup Project" at the Florida Northeast Highland games February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019.

On the personal side, I am happy to announce my retirement after over 33 years with the Southern California Edison. Robin & I have bought a motorhome and plan to travel the United States, Canada and Alaska. We hope to attend / host as many Scottish Highland Games along our way in

"Make Your Own Sunshine" motorhome. Let us know if you want to meet up in the year ahead. You can follow our travels on Facebook at "Make Your Own Sunshine, LLC".

That having been said, I will have more time to commit to the Family and look forward to meeting as many of you along our travel's. These past few months have been stressful and busy, so retirement should give me a bit more time to attend to my Society duties more faithfully.

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the Pleasanton Scottish Highland Games, Saturday, August 31<sup>st</sup> – September 1<sup>st</sup> and Robin & I are hosting the Society's tent this year, hope to see you there!!!

In Kinship,

Dale McAlpine, President

## 2019 AGM to be at The Pleasanton Highland Games



**Watch for details in upcoming emails regarding the 2019 AGM that will take place in Pleasanton, California at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton, California on August 31—September 1, 2019 (Labor Day weekend). Mark your calendar and watch for details on The Pleasanton Highland Games.**



## The MacAlpine DNA Project

By Stu Pike g-grandson of  
Maude E McAlpine B 6 Aug 1872, Iowa City, Iowa

The McAlpine DNA Project aims to take advantage of genealogical DNA tests to help pursue McAlpine family history research. By determining the genetic signature of each McAlpine family line's Y-chromosome, it is possible to tell which McAlpine families are related and which are not. In turn, this can enable us to determine the origin of each McAlpine family. We invite all McAlpine family lines to participate, no matter where, and no matter how young or well established they may be. Additionally, we welcome all variants of the McAlpine surname, including MacAlpin and others.

A man's patrilineal or direct father's-line McAlpine ancestry can be traced using the DNA on his Y chromosome. The Y chromosome, like the patrilineal surname, passes down unchanged from grandfather to father to son. Only male McAlpines can take the Y test. (i.e., their father's father's ... father's father should have been a McAlpine) and/or carry the McAlpine name themselves. A man's test results are compared to another McAlpine's results to determine the time frame in which the two individuals shared a most recent common ancestor or MRCA. If their test results are a perfect or nearly perfect match, they are related within a genealogical time frame. The choice of which company to use is easy because only FTDNA offers Y testing and it's recommended to test at least 37 (good) to 67 (better) markers. <https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/mcalpindna/about>

The other very common genetic genealogy test offered by Ancestry, 23andMe, MyHeritage and FTDNA can be taken by males and FEMALES. Called autosomal (atDNA) these test are often advertised on TV and are useful to find lost cousins, who have also tested, 4-5 generations back. These test are most useful for genealogist with family trees.

Finally most genealogists are self-taught about genetic DNA and there are now bountiful resources to come down the learning tree. Individual blogs, Facebook, YouTube and wikis all offer guidance and assistance. Here is a curated list to help beginners:

[https://isogg.org/wiki/Beginners%27\\_guides\\_to\\_genetic\\_genealogy#Videos\\_and\\_webinars](https://isogg.org/wiki/Beginners%27_guides_to_genetic_genealogy#Videos_and_webinars)



## The Royal Tattoo Returns to Sydney

The acclaimed international spectacular, the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, will return to Sydney at ANZ Stadium, Sydney Olympic Park in October 2019.

One of the greatest shows on earth, featuring more than 1200 performers from around the world, heads to Sydney direct from its annual season on the esplanade of Edinburgh Castle, Scotland, where it continues to boast sell-out performances entertaining more than 220,000 people each summer.

The Sydney show, which is set against the backdrop of a full-size replica of Edinburgh Castle, will blend a thrilling mix of music, ceremony, military tradition, theatre and dance from the world's best-massed pipes and drums. It will feature traditional Scottish favourites including pipers, fiddlers, highland dancers and precision drill teams, together with representatives from around the globe, as well as members of the Australian Defence Force.



## Look for the Clan MacAlpine Society tent at these events.

Clan MacAlpine Society will be visible at many Highland Games during 2019. When attending the games, be sure to take time to look for the MacAlpine tent and meet some of your fellow clan members.

GRAND VALLEY HIGHLAND GAMES



AND CELTIC FESTIVAL

Join us at the Grand Valley Highland  
May 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
Mesa County Fairgrounds at  
Veterans Memorial Park  
2785 U.S. Highway 50  
Grand Junction, CO 81503

Look for the MacAlpine  
Tent



Join us at the Alma Highland  
Festival

May 25, 2019

Alma College,  
Alma Michigan

Look for the  
MacAlpine Tent



The Arms of AUBIGNY-SUR-NÈRE

Join us at the AUBIGNY-SUR-NÈRE  
Franco Scottish Festival

July 12-14, 2019

AUBIGNY-SUR-NÈRE, FRANCE

Look for the  
MacAlpine Tent



Join us at the Grandfather  
Mountain Highland Games  
July 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019

MacRae Meadows  
Grandfather Mountain  
Linville, N.C. 28646

Look for the  
MacAlpine Tent



ST ANDREWS SOCIETY OF DETROIT  
HIGHLAND GAMES

Join us at the Saint Andrews Society  
of Detroit Highland Games

August 2-3, 2019  
Greenmead Historical Village  
20501 Newburgh Rd.  
Livonia, Mi 48152

Look for the  
MacAlpine Tent



LONGS PEAK SCOTTISH-IRISH HIGHLAND FESTIVAL

Join us at Longs Peak Scottish- Irish  
Highland Festival

Sept 6-8, 2019

Fairgrounds,  
Estes Park Colorado

Look for the  
MacAlpine Tent

And over Labor Day weekend join us for the Clan MacAlpine Society Annual General Meeting.



Join us at the Pleasanton Highland  
Games

August 31 – September 1, 2019

Alameda County Fairgrounds,  
Pleasanton, CA  
The 2019 MacAlpine Annual  
General Meeting will be held there

Look for the  
MacAlpine Tent

## Piper Ronan Ansquer, playing his great Highland Pipes at the WWI Memorial Service, Roquevaire, Provence, France



### Hosting a Clan Tent

Are you thinking about how to host a MacAlpine Society tent at one of the Highland games? Here is information to help you with what is needed. The Society will provide a start up kit and pay the festival fees for the first year. If you plan on hosting the following year, or at other games, hold on to the kit, if you are looking at a one time use, we ask that you return the kit. Many games require you to bring your own popup tent, while others require the use of their tents. Details of what specific games provide and sponsor applications are available on the games' website.

Here is a list of what you will find in the Clan MacAlpine Society startup kit:

- MacAlpine banner
- MacAlpine poster
- Sign in sheets
- Informational trifolds
- Boars head stamp
- Copies of Clan Encyclopedia
- Nametags
- Copies of last two newsletters

In addition to what the society provides, you will need the following:

- PVC pipes or other poles to hold banner above tent
- Assorted bungies to hold pvc pipes or other poles to tent poles as in pictures above
- Zip ties, side-cutter to remove zip ties, duct tape, scissors,
- Table cloth and table decorations
- Netting to hold pictures at side of tent and fasteners to hold pictures

Each host will have their own ideas about other items they will want at their tent to make it welcoming to visitors. Hosting a tent is a great experience and you have the opportunity of getting to meet and introduce fellow MacAlpines to the Society as well as get acquainted with others who share your Scottish heritage. Let us know if you have an interest in hosting a tent at a Highland games event in your area.



# A bit of Scotland in the heart of France: Why Aubigny-sur-Nère in Berry celebrates Scotland?

By François Le Moing

Have you ever heard of the Fêtes Franco-Ecossaises in the middle of France? Then, you may be wondering why Aubigny-sur-Nère celebrates Scotland, in the Berry region. Especially as it is, since the Middle Ages, home of the friendship between both nations.

This town, a former stronghold of the Stuart (originally Stewart) of Darnley, hosts the Franco-Scottish Festival every year. The last event took place from 13 to 15th of July 2018.

In this small town of about 5,000 inhabitants, cultural exchanges with Scotland are important. In addition to the former Stuart Castle, there is a research center on the Auld Alliance, Pipe band classes (bagpipes and percussion), Franco-Scottish Feasts and Aubigny sur Nere and Haddington in Midlothian have been "sister Cities" for over half a century.



Aubigny-sur-Nère main street during the 2018 Franco-Scottish Festival – Aubigny sur Nère : rue principale pendant les Fêtes Franco-Ecossaises. © OT Berry-Sologne



Stuart castle in Aubigny sur Nère with Auld Alliance sword. © OT Berry-Sologne

So, why does Aubigny-sur-Nère in Berry celebrate Scotland? In fact, this attachment is very old.

### The Auld Alliance

In 1423, King Charles VII of France gifted the city to Sir John Stewart Lord of Darnley (comte Jean Stuart de Darnley), constable of the Scottish army. This royal gift was a reward for the military support of Scotland against the English during the Hundred Years War.

Thus, in the name of the Auld Alliance, the 5,000 to 6,000 Scottish soldiers commanded by John Stuart fought alongside the French. This was the case in the Loire Valley where the Scots helped Joan of Arc lift the siege of Orleans. John Stewart lost his life, along with with his step-brother William at the Battle of Rouvray.

Pictured below

Joan of Arc and her Scottish guard. Painting by John Duncan. Public domain.

Battle of Rouvray, or "of the Herrings" – Orléans region (Rouvray Saint-Denis) 1429. Where John Stuart de Darnley and his brother William died.



*Continued on Page 7*

## *Why Aubigny-sur-Nère in Berry celebrates Scotland? ...*

*Continued from page 6*

For nearly 400 years, the Stewart family retained their fiefdom until the end of their lineage in 1672.

But since the Middle Ages, Scotland has remained in the hearts of Aubigny-sur-Nère inhabitants. Moreover, these Franco-Scottish Festivals are the main testimony of it. The first took place in 1931 and since 1990 they are organized every year.

So, let's meet up each summer in Aubigny-sur-Nère where many activities will await visitors in a friendly atmosphere: Historical parade, The night of bagpipes, big fireworks, Pipe bands, medieval Scottish market and feasts, Scottish games, and Celtic music concert.



Photo credit: Courtesy of OT Berry-Sologne

It is the biggest town in the north of the Cher department (administrative region of Centre-Val de Loire). It is located at the frontier of the natural regions of Sologne and Pays Fort, west of the former Berry royal province.

It's downtown is lively thanks to the presence of high-tech industries (such as Mécachrome or Wilo-Intec) and numerous shops and associations.

The main assets of its patrimony are: St Martin's church, the streets with their half-timbered houses of the sixteenth century, Louise de Keroualle's gardens and of course the Stuart Castle.

Also worth mentioning, especially for gastronomy lovers, every Saturday, Aubigny-sur-Nère hosts a large market where you can find typical rural products, depending on the season.

Last but not least, don't miss the local specialties: Berry green lentils, potato pancakes, goat cheese, Sancerre and Menetou wines. And a surprise new product: Auld Alliance Whiskey, with peaty notes, an original brand of Aubigny-sur-Nère. Bon appétit and slàinte!

**Note: Clan MacAlpine Society will have a tent at the festival this year, hosted by Society members Arthur MacAlpine Sigward and Ronan Ansquer.**

# The Ballymeanoch stones, Kilmartin Glen



By Jo WOOLF



Kilmartin Glen is the most remarkable place, full of ancient sites such as [Dunchraigaig burial chamber](#) and the [Nether Largie standing stones](#), guarded to the south by the hill fort of [Dunadd](#). I'm now going to show you a few more sites, starting with this impressive stone row at Ballymeanoch.

The stones appear almost out of nowhere, blending into the field from a distance and then rising up in stark profile against the sun as you get closer. There are six stones in all, set in relatively straight lines of two and four which are aligned approximately north-west to south-east.

The tallest is 12 feet high, and some of the others must be approaching this height; up close, they have quite a presence.



*I've visited quite a few circles and rows, and sometimes they strike me as 'masculine' or 'feminine'. Ballymeanoch seemed distinctly feminine, and to me there seemed to be quite a joyful 'fizz' in the texture of the stones.*

When I went round to the south side of the four-stone row, I was thrilled to see the rich 'gardens' of lichen that each one has growing on its face. What a profusion of feathery green and silver, thriving on a surface that has stood to welcome the sunrise for thousands of years. The two middle stones are riddled with cup-marks, difficult to see unless you catch the shadow. One of the others was curiously lined, although whether these lines are man-made or natural is open to interpretation.



According to the information sign, there was once a seventh stone further to the north-west. It was pierced with a hole, and, in an age-old tradition, two people would clasp hands through it to seal a betrothal. A local archaeologist, Marion Campbell (1919-2000) remembered looking through it when she was a child. This stone toppled over during a storm in 1943, narrowly missing a Shetland pony which had been sheltering against it. Marion recalled that "the poor beast was nearly scared to death."

**Continued on Page 9**

*Our Friends at Scotland Magazine are offering a **FREE** digital edition sent direct to your inbox, simply click and register your details today!*

Click here:

<https://mailchi.mp/64cc9804ca6c/smfrecopy>



## *The Ballymeanoch stones, Kilmartin Glen . . . Continued from page 8*



It's interesting to consider what significance this pierced stone might have had, in relation to the others; and to wonder who might have been watching the heavens... and for what. Historic Scotland suggests that all the stones may have been prised from vallys.com outcrops that had been decorated with cup and ring markings 1,500 years earlier. But why? Why not decorate the stones once you'd got them out? (If you have any ideas about this, please feel free to share them!)

Cremated human bones were found in the pit where the pierced stone had stood; they date from between 1370 and 1050 BC, and the RCAHMS considers that they were "probably buried as a foundation deposit when the stone was erected." After the stone fell over, the broken fragments were moved nearby, and I may have stumbled across the pierced section without knowing what it was.

About 20 yards or so from the stone rows (and very close to the pierced fragment) is a kerb-cairn consisting of about 10 smallish slabs set upright in a rough circle, with a mound of grassed-over rubble or stones in the centre. There's nothing to say how many stones would have stood here originally, and I can find no record of a burial. One source suggests a date for the kerb-cairn of between 1400 and 1200 BC.

*"The most southerly  
midsummer full moon rises  
in line with the two stand-  
ing stones, while the  
midwinter sun rises in line  
with the four stones."  
Historic Scotland*

On the northern boundary is an old tree – most likely an oak – which has contorted itself into an interesting shape, as if it's reaching out towards the stones. It still has a long way to go, but it's making a valiant effort.



In 1993, a geophysical inspection of the field detected "linear anomalies" on the same alignment as the four-stone row and running to meet them at their south-easterly end. The RCAHMS observes that "there is a good case to suggest that they represent the remains of a prehistoric earthwork avenue."



Kilmartin is a spectacular place, but it feels reassuringly unchanged, so that you can still feel the undisturbed ancient peace beneath your feet. It's dream-like on a windless sunny day, but beautiful in all weather

Jo Woolf is a writer from Argyll. Her splendid works can be seen on her website [www.thehazeltree.co.uk](http://www.thehazeltree.co.uk)

*Turn to pages 10 through 13 for an article featured in Scotland Magazine written by Bruce Durie. The article is reprinted with kind permission from the good people at Scotland Magazine.*

ANCESTRY | *The Myth of Siol Alpin*

Words by DR. BRUCE DURIE

# THE MYTH OF SIOL ALPIN

*A cluster of seven Scottish clans supposedly descend from Alpin, father of Kenneth MacAlpine, King of the Picts. New evidence suggests otherwise*

It is told that Siol Alpin (the Seed of Alpin, from the Gaelic, Siol Ailpein) is a cluster of seven Scottish clans that trace their descent from Alpin, father of Cináed mac Ailpín (Kenneth MacAlpine), the King of the Picts who is also considered in Scots tradition to be the first King of Scots. The seven clans of Siol Alpin are said to be: Grant, Gregor, MacAulay, Macfie, Mackinnon, Macnab, and MacQuarrie. The myth extends further into a 'family tree' of these clans. MacNab is slightly off to one side, but all the others are held to descend from Gregor or Giric, with the MacGregor line the senior (See: Figure 1).

There are a number of complications here. Firstly, why no Clan MacAlpine? Surely if Alpin is the progenitor, there

must be a clan? No, say the purists – Alpin is the seed or autochthon, and the Clans are the progeny. In 2017, the MacAlpines received a Commission for a Commander from the Lyon Court, who may go on to become chief. So, there will be a House of MacAlpine at last, but not a clan, which they never were (no ancestral lands, chief or quasi-military structure).

Secondly, why seven clans? Well, it's a magic number, harmonious to us for some reason. In 1672 Isaac Newton decided there are seven colours in a prismatic spectrum such as the rainbow, on no evidence whatsoever beyond there being seven notes in the Western European musical scale, seven days of the week, seven heavenly bodies known in his time, and so forth. For

what it's worth, Newton was into alchemy and a fan of the ancient Greek sophists.

Thirdly, under the system of Tanistry, chiefship in some generations might have passed through the mother – but we have to assume the father was in some way related and, in any case, each of the seven clans claims descent from a single male patriarch.

Finally, all of this must have happened around AD900. Such chronicles as exist which record these individuals are contradictory as to their exact relationships, were written long after the events and people described, and were often altered later to justify the rule by one particular line. The family tree of Siol Alpin is presented as if it has historical validity. But does it? Step forward W. F. Skene. ▶

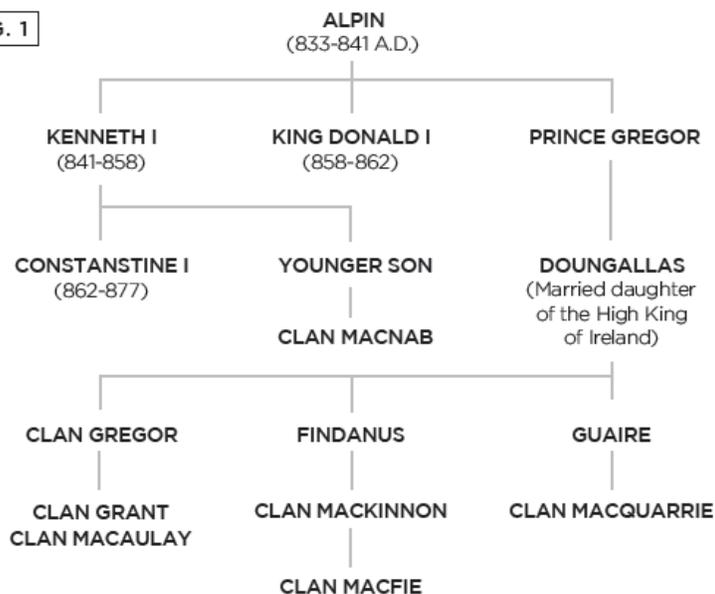


William Forbes Skene (1809–1892) was the pre-eminent historian of early Scotland in the Victorian period. Unfortunately, he had a number of inbuilt prejudices. One was what he called the ‘fundamental error’ that the Highlanders were descended from Irish Dalriadic Scotii, preferring that they descended ‘step by step from the Caledonians’. Along with this, Skene’s view was that both the Caledonians and their Pictish successors had been Gaelic speakers, and he refused to see a British or Gaulish element among the Picts. Skene uncritically bought into the idea that Gaels – along with Picts, Welsh, etc. – were ‘Celts’, which is no longer a sustainable idea.

Worst of all, Skene discovered, but wildly mis-transcribed and misinterpreted, a manuscript in what is now the National Library of Scotland that was known initially as MS 1450 and now MS 1467 (with the number referring to the date of its origin). Skene used this to produce an account of the later Highland clans, which David Sellar – the previous Lord Lyon and a great scholar of Highland genealogy and heraldry in his own right – called ‘innovatory and imaginative’ but ‘exceedingly speculative’. In particular, Sellar says Skene’s often-quoted *Table of the Descent of the Highland Clans* was ‘to enjoy a far longer currency than it deserved.’ Skene also poured chemicals over parts of MS 1467, actually making it harder to read.

In other words, Skene’s account of the genealogies of the clans is largely bogus. And it was from this that much of the great re-invention of Highland culture in the late 1800s and early 1900s took its lead. Skene’s leading critic at the time, Alexander Macbain, wrote that Skene’s Highlanders

FIG. 1



was full of what he called ‘blunders’, that his analysis of the early days of the MacDougalls and the MacDonalds was ‘weak and confused’ and that Skene would ‘accept documents as belonging to the time at which they pretend to have been written’ – all this a few years after Skene’s death, so he could hardly answer back.

There is another snag – one that Skene could not have realised – in a number of clans and families: the chief or chiefs have no genetic relationship to the majority of their ‘kinsmen.’ This is particularly so in the Grants. As Adrian Grant has written, ‘DNA evidence established in 2007 has now conclusively vindicated the Grant Seannachies of the past who were unanimous that the original Grant chiefs

were of Viking stock.’ This is different from the Norman origin once popular with Grant historians, but agrees with the *Monymusk Text* and other sources, and supports the idea that when the Viking line died out, Andrew Stewart married the heiress. The DNA evidence is consistent with this. In any case, the majority of ‘ordinary’ Grants were simply those living locally who adopted the Grant surname around AD1400, offering fealty to and accepting the protection of the chief and his inner circle.

All that said, surely there must now be genetic evidence that either confirms or contradicts the standard model? Fortunately, all of these clans run Y-DNA projects and the results are publicly

## THE DNA FINE PRINT

Essentially, 37-marker and 67-marker STR data were taken from each publicly available surname project within Family Tree DNA (ftdna.com) and the R1b-M269 results extracted and anonymized. R1b-M269 sub-groupings within projects have been combined. This includes the major branches R-L23/Z2103, R-L51/M412, R-L151/P310, R-U106, R-P312/S116 and their sub-clades. SNPs are not taken into account in this analysis, because not many have actual SNP marker tests. All of these were run through Dean McGhee’s Y-DNA Comparison Utility to generate PHYLIP data. TMRCA’s were derived using an infinite allele model at 95% probability, FTDNA order haplotype comparison, 67 maximum alleles per row, mutation rates set at 0.0037 to 0.0039 from FTDNA derived rates, and assuming 25 years per generation. TreeDraw, a phylogram-producing algorithm, drew the relationships in time using the Kitsch programme with Minimum Evolution Fitch-Margolash Method, lower-triangular matrix input.



FIG. 2

TIME TO MOST RECENT COMMON ANCESTOR (YEARS)

	MCALPIN	MACNAB	MACGREGOR	GRANT	MACAULEY	MCKINNON	MCQUARRIE	MACFIE
MCALPIN		1800	1710	2220	1530	1920	1530	1620
MACNAB	1800		1800	2220	1710	1920	1920	1800
MACGREGOR	1710	1800		1530	690	1110	840	840
GRANT	2220	2220	1530		1530	1620	1440	1620
MACAULEY	1530	1710	690	1530		930	840	930
MCKINNON	1920	1920	1110	1620	930		1110	1170
MCQUARRIE	1530	1920	840	1440	840	1110		930
MACFIE	1620	1800	840	1620	930	1170	930	

0-270 Years   
 300-570 Years   
 600-870 Years   
 900-1170 Years   
 Before Alpin

available. Without getting into laborious details, the Y-chromosome of any male comes from his father, and his father, all the way back along the 'surname' line and presumably to the progenitor of that lineage. It is possible to compare such results and work out how closely related a number of individuals are and in what timeframe.

A cursory glance at the results of any Y-DNA surname project shows a number of individuals that simply cannot be related to the main stem as they have unrelated genetic signatures. But, as we know, surnames are variable and were adopted fairly late on in the Highlands.

Therefore, it is possible to take all the results, and strip out any that do not have

the R1b haplotype. That makes sense – all Gaels came originally from Ireland, after all, and this would exclude Norse, Picts, Normans, Angles and others.

This has been done for most surname projects and allows the project members to be grouped into clusters, presumably representing major branches. In the case of the MacGregors, for example, the lines commonly called Ian Cam, Glen Lyon and so forth. But it could also be done for the amalgamated results of the different surname projects together, in one large meta-analysis. So, I did it. The details don't matter unless you are as obsessed with this stuff as I am (See: Figure 2). I also included R1b data from the MacAlpine DNA project for Figure 2, with the time to most recent common

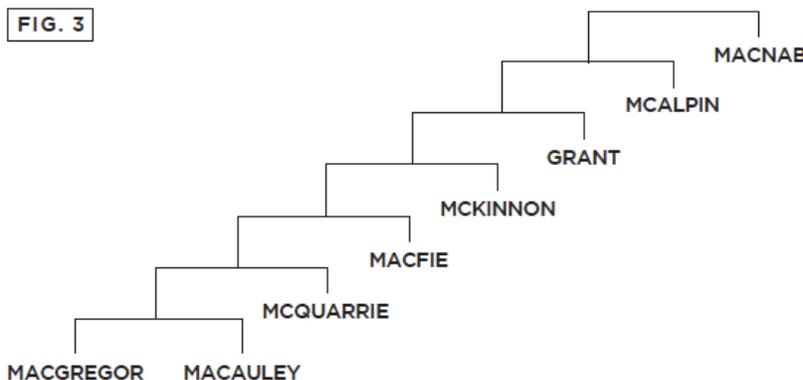
ancestor in years. Notice that some of this happens after the formation of Dalriada and Argyll ca. 1600 years ago, but most of it before the time of Alpin ca. 1200 years ago.

What we can see is that, for example, MacGregor and MacAuley separated within 690 years of now, but is over 1500 years adrift from Grant. MacAlpine and MacNab are further back in time from all the others. MacKinnon and MacFie, one supposedly a descendant or branch of another, are separated by almost 1200 years. Figure 3 is another, more simple, way to visualise it.

Admittedly there are flaws to this analysis, not least that much more data would be useful. However, we're left with three primary conclusions: Firstly, the historical-documentary case for Siol Alpin made by W. F. Skene is at the very least flawed, and partly just plain invented. Secondly, it is not borne out by genetics – which is objective, and not shrouded in the mists of mythology or subject to prejudice. Finally, Clan Gregor can of course continue to claim primacy, if the other Clans go along with it. But the question is will they? Let the debate commence!

*The author is grateful to Sir Malcolm MacGregor, Chief of Clan Gregor, and Michael McAlpin, Commander of the House of MacAlpine, for their thoughts and comments.*

FIG. 3



# Clan MacAlpine Information

We invite you to learn more about Clan MacAlpine Society by going to our website [www.macalpineclan.com](http://www.macalpineclan.com) and reviewing the wealth of information found there.

We hope you enjoy receiving your quarterly issues of this newsletter, *Remember Those From Whom You Claim*, that contains articles of interest and activities our members participate in.

For those of you on Facebook, check us out. We have many contributors to that site.

On our website you will find the store where you can order the clan items shown on this page, get membership information, find information on the Clan MacAlpine DNA project, and a variety of other sections about MacAlpine history and the history of Clan MacAlpine Society.

Also on the website you have the opportunity to support your Society by checking out the page on "Funding Projects" to discover ways you can make a donation to Clan MacAlpine Society. It is through your donations that we are able to participate in or support heritage activities. You can earmark your donation for:

- ◆ General Society Operations
- ◆ Society Clan Tent Fund
- ◆ Kilmartin Museum Fund
- ◆ Pipe and Drum Band Fund
- ◆ Scottish Dancing Fund

Be sure to watch for Highland Games in your locale. Look for a Clan MacAlpine Society tent and celebrate your heritage by getting acquainted with fellow MacAlpines.



## Clan MacAlpine Challenge Coin



\$20.00 + 4.95 Shipping  
Available in store on Society website at [www.macalpineclan.com](http://www.macalpineclan.com)  
Contact [drscotmac@yahoo.com](mailto:drscotmac@yahoo.com) for further information

## Clan MacAlpine Lapel Pin



\$10.00 + 4.95 Shipping  
Available in store on Society website at [www.macalpineclan.com](http://www.macalpineclan.com)  
Contact [drscotmac@yahoo.com](mailto:drscotmac@yahoo.com) for further information

## Clan MacAlpine Society Kilt Pin



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

## Clan MacAlpine Society Information

**Website:** [www.macalpineclan.com](http://www.macalpineclan.com)

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

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