



# Remember Those From Whom You Came

## Newsletter Of The Clan MacAlpine Society

The Worldwide Organization For MacAlpines  
4th Quarter 2019 ~ Volume 46



Kenneth  
McAlpine



William  
McAlpin



Michael  
McAlpin



Finn  
Alpin



Sidney  
McAlpin



Earl  
McAlpine



Bruce  
McAlpine

### Commander's News

The term "tattoo" derives from a 17th-century Dutch phrase *doe den tap toe* ("turn off the tap") a signal to tavern owners each night, played by a regiment's Corps of Drums, to turn off the taps of their ale kegs so that the soldiers would retire to their quarters.

Carolyn and I had the honor representing the MacAlpines as the assembled Clans marched in at the opening of the Tattoo in Sydney for "a splash of Tartan".

The Chiefs of Buchanen, Davidson, Brouen/Brown and myself were called to the center of the red carpet and participated in offering a toast to His Excellency, General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd); Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, and his wife, Her Excellency Linda Hurley, and to join them for after event cocktails.

This was the second time that the Clans have been invited to participate, 27 clans were invited at the Tattoo in Edinburgh in 2018. We were invited to participate this year and it was truly an honor.

We also were invited to attend a special Caelidh hosted by the Scottish Australian Heritage Council (of which the Society are members).

We also had the opportunity to enjoy meeting with branches of the MacAlpines in Australia and New Zealand, including members of McAlpines North Canterbury Pipe Band .

Yours Aye  
Michael T McAlpin  
Commander, Name of MacAlpin



## President's News

2019 has been a wonderful and busy year and I want to thank all the supporters of the Clan MacAlpin/e Society. I will start off the new year by hosting Clan MacAlpine/s Society's tent at the Central Florida Highland Games on January 18—19th. Last year we received a hearty welcome to the Scottish games by the attending clans and hosts. Please stop by the tent to learn more about your family history and the Society's goals.

The Society is actively seeking conveners in separate regions of the country to host clan tents. Without the help of these family members, we would not be able to educate MacAlpin/e's about their heritage and extended family. To start your own tent, use the new sponsored "Host Tent Start-up Kit" at the 2020 Highland games near your home, use this link for The Association of Scottish Games and Festivals Games by State to find them: <https://asgf.org/games-by-state>



The next Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held July 11th at The 65th Annual Grandfather Mountain Highland Games July 9-12, 2020 at MacRae Meadows near Linville, North Carolina—<https://www.gmhg.org> or see our Clan MacAlpin/e Society's website. This year we will be electing the positions of President and Vice President at the AGM. If you have been active with Society activities and would like to start your campaign as a representer for the voting process, let us know. I will be campaigning as a representer for a second term.

Clan MacAlpin/e Society's 2022 AGM will take place in Scotland. Remember to start your plans early if you are interested in attending the Scotland AGM. It has always been our intention to someday have a Chief of the MacAlpin/es, so we hope we will also be celebrating that milestone while on Scotland soil.

In Kinship,  
Dale McAlpine, President

## Hosting a Clan Tent

Are you thinking about how to host a MacAlpine Society tent at a 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 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 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 trifold
- 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
- Zip ties, side-cutter to remove zip ties, duct tape, scissors,
- Table cloth and table decorations; ■ Netting and fasteners to hold pictures at side of tent

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.

# 47<sup>th</sup> Stone Mountain Highland Games October 2019

By Michael McAlpin Jr.

On October 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, Michael McAlpin Jr and Earl Dale McAlpine hosted a Clan Tent at the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Stone Mountain Highland Games just outside of Atlanta, Georgia. We arrived early on Saturday to set up, with a wee bit of hesitation as the forecast was for rain all day Saturday. The forecast was spot on, and most of the day Saturday it rained. However, that did not stop the activities! Many spectators and clans stayed at the games, allowing for perhaps some additional fellowship as sharing tents was in high demand! The massed pipe bands, dressed in raincoats, played on the main field during the peak of downpour. Hats off to those that braved the rain to entertain the crowds!



**The Massed Pipe Bands**



**The Banner of Chief Montgomerie**

Sunday the weather turned, and we were blessed with a beautiful Georgia day. With sunny skies, the attendance on Sunday was spectacular. The clan tents, vendor areas, and food concessions were all full of people enjoying all that is Scottish! (I happened to have Eggs and Haggis for breakfast...and it was fantastic!).

This year there was a special event that had never been done at the Stone Mountain Games before. The Right Honourable The Earl of Eglinton and Winton, raised his standard, signifying his succession to the Chief of Clan Montgomerie. It was impressive to watch the investiture of Lord Hugh Montgomerie's banner, all 6 yards of it!

Clan McAlpine was well represented with Society President Earl Dale McAlpine, and our Commander's son, Michael McAlpin Jr in attendance both days. Jennifer, Abigail, and Suzannah McAlpin (Michael's family) came out on Sunday, and were joined by Robin McAlpine, Earl Dale's wife. We met Van McAlpin from Alabama for the first time, and was great seeing William and Carole McAlpin again as well. Sue and Tony Potter helped man the tent on Sunday too. Special thanks to Earl Dale McAlpin for his help during the set up and take down of the tent. See you in October 2020 for the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Stone Mountain Highland Games!



**Earl Dale and Michael flying the banner in the Parade of Tartans**



**Michael, Earl Dale, William, and Carole**

## Bloody Times in the Kilmartin Glen - The War of the Three Kingdoms

From 1639 a series of civil wars began across Scotland, England and Ireland that saw King Charles I and his supporters (Royalists) pitted against the English Parliament, Scottish Covenanters and Irish Confederates. The MacAlpines were tenants on the estates of Campbell of Auchinbreck during this time, and as such, would have been impacted by the events described. Auchinbreck was the Commander of the Marquess of Argyll's forces, who supported the Covenanters against the King.



By 1644 the Civil War continued across the three kingdoms and Scotland remained under the control of the Covenanters, who then sent an army south into England to support Parliament in their effort to depose King Charles I. The Royalists (supporters of King Charles I) opened a new front in Scotland, hoping that it would force the Scottish regiments in England to return home.

In Mid-1644, Alasdair MacDonald, commonly known as MacColla crossed from Ireland into Scotland with a force of about 2,000. About the same time, the Marquess of Montrose, James Graham, a Royalist supporter of the King, had raised a small force to battle the Scottish Covenanters. They joined forces and the combined Royalist army had a series of successes in Perth and Aberdeen before withdrawing and attacking the Campbells in Argyll.

It was a widely held belief in the 17th century that Argyll's many mountains and narrow passes made it impossible for any army to advance against it, but in December 1644 MacColla and Montrose shattered that illusion by penetrating Argyll's mountain passes to move deep into Campbell territory. By December 11 the Royalist army was at the west end of Loch Tay, and here the army split, with MacColla going on a great plundering raid hoping to permanently weaken the Campbells. His soldiers ravaged the countryside destroying property and killing as many as possible before meeting back up with Montrose at Kilmartin.

The army of Montrose and MacColla then advanced towards the Campbell capital at Inveraray, torched it to the ground, and massacred about 900 living in the area. MacColla became known in Argyll as 'fear thollaidh nan tighean', the destroyer of houses. This name is often translated into English simply as 'the devastator'.

After losing Inveraray, the Marquess of Argyll fled north and gathered a force of 3,000 Covenanters at Inverlochty, while another 5,000 Covenanters blocked the route North towards Inverness. In an extraordinary feat, Montrose and MacColla marched with 1,500 men on a flanking march over the mountains between the two Covenanting armies in January 1645. On the 1st of February 1645, the Campbell army at Inverlochty was routed and largely destroyed. Of the 3,000 Covenanters, around half were killed, including their commander, Campbell of Auchinbreck.

Following the Battle of Inverlochty, the Royalist campaign in Scotland continued and the Montrose-MacColla alliance achieved several more victories before splitting up, with Montrose going on to capture Glasgow before being intercepted by a 7,000 strong Covenanter force. Montrose' Royalist army was destroyed, Montrose himself escaped, but was later captured and executed.

MacColla returned to Argyll in in 1647, and devastated it for a second time, sending four or five hundred men through the parishes of Kilmartin, Kilmichael, and Kilberry, burning all the settlements and destroying "all the people and guds" to deprive their enemies of food and shelter.

For a time much of Scotland was in fear of his progress, with one contemporary observer writing: "There is nothing heard now up and down the kingdom but alarms and rumes, randevouses of clans [...] Montross and MacKoll in every manes mouth, nay the very children frightened".

With the defeat of Montrose, the Covenanter army advanced against MacColla's army at Rhunahaorine Moss in Kintyre where MacColla was defeated, but he and much of his army escaped by sea, leaving 300 MacDougalls behind as a rear guard. They were captured and then executed at the request of the Marquess of Argyll. MacColla returned to Ireland and was present at the Battle of Knocknass in November 1647 where he lost. He and his men were executed.

## The Piper of Duntrune Castle



Duntrune Castle four and one-half miles southwest of Kilmartin was originally built by the MacDougalls in the 12th century. Duntrune was eventually taken by Clan Campbell and was used as a fortress to guard the surrounding countryside against raiders from across the sea.

In 1644, during the War of the Three Kingdoms, Alasdair MacColla, in a daring night raid captured the castle and defeated the Campbell defenders. MacColla left behind a small garrison of men to defend the castle, with his personal piper among them. MacColla boarded his galley and sailed away to meet with other Royalists. Before MacColla returned, the Campbell's mounted a counter attack on Duntrune, and the castle fell to the band of Campbell's. In an act of vengeance, the Campbell's killed all of MacColla's men except the piper, who was ordered to play for the amusement of his captors.

The Campbell's impatiently waited for MacColla to return to Duntrune. Finally one day his galley came into view in the Sound of Jura, and the clever piper asked permission to play a tune on the pipes that he had created for the occasion - so they bid him to play on. The piper took his place high on the castle ramparts and began playing "Piobaireachd-dhum-Naomhaid", or as it is known, "The Piper's Warning to His Master". MacColla listened closely and noticed mistakes and missed phrases that were unusual for such an accomplished piper. Waving a grateful salute to the brave piper, he ordered the helm hard about and escaped to the open sea.

The piper was taken before the commander of the castle, Lady Dunstaffnage, and confronted with the treachery. She gave orders that the piper's hands be cut off so that "He will never again give a similar warning". The exhausted piper extended his hands, and the Campbell's watched as these nimble hands that played so well were severed from his arms with a single blow from a chopping axe. Unable to stop the flow of blood, the piper soon died. Over the years many inhabitants of the area have claimed to witness strange phenomena. Some have even heard the music of the piper of Duntrune. Skeptics scoffed, believing that this was just another Scottish ghost story.

Duntrune was sold to the Malcolms of Poltalloch in 1792.

In 1888, while making repairs to Duntrune Castle, workers unearthed a skull beneath the first-floor dressing room. When they dug further, they found the skeletal remains of a man buried in a shallow grave. They carefully removed the skull, torso, legs, feet, arms, and made a remarkable discovery - there were no hands. The piper's remains were laid to rest in an unmarked grave in Kilmartin churchyard.

## The Ballymeanoch Feast

From Argyll Folk Tales by Bob Pegg

Ballymeanoch, about 1.5 miles south of Kilmartin on the A816, is probably best known for the impressive standing stones which have stood for over 4000 years. They are thought to be connected with the mid-winter solstice but there is a much darker tale connected with Ballymeanoch.



**The Ballymeanoch Stones**

The tale tells of Lady Ballymeanoch, a frightfully unpleasant woman who was always causing problems and fighting with her neighbours. One day, very uncharacteristically she invited all her neighbours to a giant banquet in her barn as an act of peace supposedly to reconcile their differences. At the feast all her guests were sat in-between her family members and close friends. A giant haggis was brought to the table, as she went to cut open the haggis with her dirk she uttered the words '*let my friends do as I do*' at that moment all her followers pulled out their dirks and stabbed to death the guests beside them.

Forty of her enemies were killed in the barn, only one managed to escape and he ran across the fields shouting '*Och on Och, Och on Och.*' He was eventually caught and the place where he is said to have fallen is to this day called Killinochonoch.

## Clan Carruthers has a chief confirmed by the Lord Lyon after 210 years

Clan Carruthers Society has announced that after a gap of 201 years, Clan Carruthers has a chief, Simon Peter Carruthers, who now becomes known as 'Carruthers of Holmains'.



Simon Peter Carruthers' (known as Peter) chiefship has been upheld by the Lord Lyon King of Arms, the head of the Lyon Court, which is the supreme heraldic authority for Scotland and Scots living overseas.

After much consideration, the Lord Lyon was satisfied, and in a Decision issued on 19 August 2019 and published on 9 September 2019, he found Peter 'entitled to be recognized in the name, style and title of 'Simon Peter Carruthers of Holmains, Chief of the Name and Arms of Carruthers'.

# An Account of the Murders of Donald and Duncan McAlpin

From a letter by Campbell of Breadalbane to His Grace, the Duke of Argyll

June 23, 1718,

I had the honour of yr Gr/s from Patrick Strachen, who thinks he will make us all easie about stealing. I wish it may be so, for it is high time some caire be taken.

I am to give yr Gr/ ane account of a most barbarous action hardly the like ever done in the Highlands.

About a month agoe two sons of a tennent of mine in Glenorchy, both of them McAlpens, one of them a tennent of yr Gr/ in Glenogle, were drovers and had 1200 mk going to the North Isles to buy cows, and lay a night in Lochiell's (Sir Ewen Cameron, chief of Clan Cameron) ground at the head of Locharkek, and next morning were to pass a hill which is part of Knodeart, Glengerie's land, and part of Lochiell's, going to Glenelg, but it seems have been there murdered, for no account of them has been any furder, and their father (actually their uncle, Donald McAlpin from Drumlairt) traced them to that night's quarter. I have sent their father (actually their uncle) back to that country with letters to the Gentlemen there to use all means possible to finde the actors. I doubt not but yr Gr/ will also writt to Glengerie about it.

If we were in the saime circumstances we were some years ago, I could have venturd to send there, and done myself justice, or at least obliged them to doe it, which, as being their neighbour, I was capable to doe, Butt as the law now stands I know not what I can doe. To suffer such things was never our way. To send and take redress is not legal as its thought, though it be against murderers.

Yr Gr/ will consider this affair, that we may take joint measures to follow it.

Yr Gr/s man was a change keeper I think in Glenogle, and no doubt yr Gr/ has got the account of it. I wrote to the principal men of Camrons and McDonalds; it is one of their names has done it, and if we follow nott this, more trouble may follow.

This is a Trade they are not troubled with, nor much concerned at Court about.

The bearer, a tenant of mine, and a tenant in Fernan, a very honest man, has a tack from Lady Strowan not expired, and is like to be turned out by some of Drumcharie's folk pershewing him at Perth. I know not who are managers there, but I think no body yet has power. I am in all respect Yr Gr/s most ob't humble servant.

Breadalbane



Campbell of Breadalbane



John Campbell,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Duke of Argyll



**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

# Cairn Ailpein, Loch Feochan

About 8 miles south of Oban on the A816 heading towards Kilmartin, there is a small secondary road, the B844 that skirts along Loch Feochan. There is a Crannog, or island near Carrag nam Maibh that has a small cairn of stones at the south end of a bed of pebbles to "mark the place where a Chieftain of the name of Ailpein fell, by whom or how is unknown" with a sign marking "Ailpein's Cairn." Although these were once MacAlpine lands, nothing is known of the Ailpein referred to, and there is no date associated with this Chieftain.

The description and map below are from an 1871 survey. It notes that the Cairn measures 3 meters in diameter, and 1 meter high, nearly submerged at high tide.

No. 21.

List of Names as written on the Plan.	Various modes of Spelling the same Names	Authority for those modes of Spelling	Situation	Descriptive Remarks, or other General Observations which may be considered of Interest
Cairn Ailpein	Cairn Ailpein	Mr. Clark Mr. James Mr. McKeay	At the south end of a bed of shingle in Loch Feochan near Carrag nam Maibh.	A small Cairn of Stones at the south end of a bed of shingle in Loch Feochan near Carrag nam Maibh. It is said to have been erected to mark the place where a Chieftain of the name of Ailpein fell, by whom or how is unknown. - by Ailpein's Cairn.
Carrag nam Maibh	Carrag nam Maibh	Mr. Clark Mr. James Mr. McKeay	"	A small rock in the ground immediately to the west of site of Cairn. The writer has quoted the fact it was given the place the name of the early Scottish Kings after long cannot overlook, this conveyed in both to land for monument. - by "Rock of the dead."

(Handwritten note in a circle: "Loch Feochan not written on plan.")



## Kelpie



The moors were dark, a haze rising from the nearby river gave the impression that smoke was rising from some hellish gape in the earth. The man walking the lonely road wished he had some faster way to travel. As if the Folk of the land were listening, a pale, saddled horse appeared near the water. The man approached it, reaching tentatively. The horse's nicker did not indicate fear, but rather sounded like an invitation. Using the saddle horn to pull himself up, the man could not believe his luck.

Suddenly the horse burst into a run, heading straight for the river. The terrified man tried to dislodge himself from the horse, but some supernatural force kept him in place. The water didn't seem to slow the horse, in fact its touch seemed to give it speed. The man realized this was no horse at all but a kelpie, just at the moment his head went below the surface, never to return.

The Kelpie is the Scots name given to a shape-shifting water spirit inhabiting the lochs and pools of Scotland.

The mythological kelpie is usually described as a powerful and beautiful black horse but is able to adopt human form. Often the kelpie transforms itself into a handsome young man to woo a pretty young girl or, they may materialize as a beautiful young woman, hoping to lure young men to their death. The kelpie may appear as a tame pony beside a river. It is particularly attractive to children – but they should take care, for once on its back, its sticky magical hide will not allow them to dismount! Once trapped in this way, the kelpie will drag the child into the river and then eat him. In its equine form the kelpie is able to extend the length of its back to carry many riders together into the depths.

One of the water kelpie's common identifying characteristics is that its hooves are reversed as compared to those of a normal horse. Some accounts state that the kelpie retains its hooves even in human form.

Some kelpies were said to be equipped with a bridle and sometimes a saddle, and appeared invitingly ready to ride, but if mounted they would run off and drown their riders.

Stories of malevolent water spirits served the practical purpose of keeping children away from perilous areas of water, and of warning adolescent women to be wary of attractive young strangers.



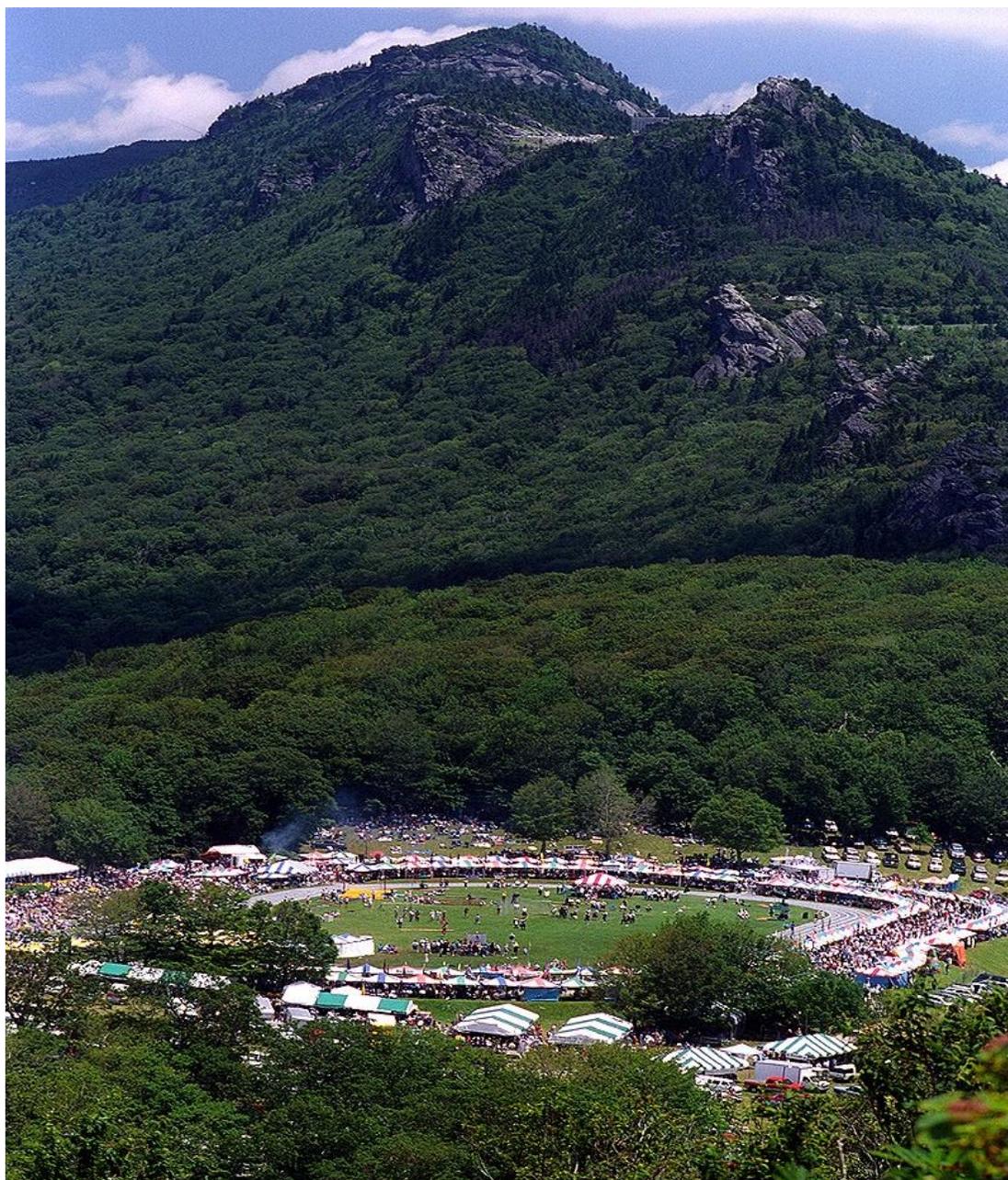
The stories were also used to enforce moral standards, as they implied that the creatures took retribution for bad behavior carried out on Sundays. The intervention of demons and spirits was possibly a way to rationalize the drowning of children and adults who had accidentally fallen into deep, fast flowing or turbulent water.

Two 30-metre (98 ft) high steel sculptures in Falkirk on the Forth and Clyde Canal, named *The Kelpies*, borrow the name of the mythical creature to associate with the strength and endurance of the horse; they were built as monuments to Scotland's horse-powered industrial heritage.

## **2020 Clan MacAlpin/e Society Annual General Meeting**

**'Meet you on the Mountain'**

**Will be held at Grandfather Mountain, North Carolina on July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020.**



**The 65th Annual Grandfather Mountain Highland Games will be held July 9<sup>th</sup> - 12th, 2020 at MacRae Meadows on Grandfather Mountain near Linville, NC.**

**Plans for accommodations, meeting time and additional details will be published in the first quarter newsletter.**

## 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

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