lemember Those From Whom You Came Newsletter Of The Clan MacAlpine Society

The Worldwide Organization For MacAlpines 2nd Quarter 2021 ~ Volume 52



Commander's News

Bereft of travel over the last year I have been studying Gaelic. I have found that the language gives some insight into how our ancestors thought, and perhaps, how some of us still think.

For example, the Gaelic word duthcas doesn't translate well into English but it expresses a sense of belonging to a certain area of land, of being rooted by ancient lineage to a particular place. I think many of us still feel duthcas, whether we live in Scotland, travel to Scotland, or wish that we could.

This idea of holding the land communally was never written down, it was simply an idea that was accepted by all as being the natural order of things.

Còraichean is another example, it combines the concept of duty or obligation, combined with rights, what is due and justice.

Gaelic also views that the natural order of things is in pairs, therefore, plural doesn't begin until after two. For example, one dog, two dog, three dogs. One person, two person, three persons.

There are hundreds of examples of the way the language reflects the thinking, or perhaps it was that the thinking is reflected in the language. Regardless, after over a year it is still a fascinating endeavor.

As of this time, the Grandfather Mountain Games in North Carolina will be operating in July, albeit with proper Covid related safety precautions. We will be at the games, and our AGM will coincide with that event.

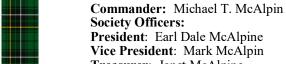
Àdhamh Ó Broin who runs a Gaelic speaking consultancy in Glasgow, is compiling known film footage, audio recordings and written transcripts of the last Gaelic speakers from the heart of the Craignish, Lochaweside, Kilmartin,

Kilmichael, Knapdale, area. This would be the dialect of our ancestors.

Àdhamh is now working on a series of videos that teaches the distinct language of generations of our forebears. I am very pleased to sponsor his effort. More updates will be

forthcoming as his work progresses.

Michael T McAlpin Commander, Name of MacAlpine



Vice President: Mark McAlpin Treasurer: Janet McAlpine Secretary: Sue Potter

Member at Large: Finn Stavsnbo Alpin Newsletter Editor: Janet McAlpine

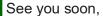


President's News

I am so happy to have something to talk about besides cancelled events. We are so looking forward to our 2021 AGM at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games. The event will take place on July 8-11 in North Carolina, located at 2050 Blowing Rock Highway, Linville, NC 28646 https://gmhq.org/ Our AGM will be held July 10.

When I watched the video with the pronouncements from the clans intending to attend, I found myself excited to finally hear the pipe bands in person, see the dancers and athlete's perform, but more than that, excited at the prospect of seeing you, my family.

I hope we will see you there. If you are unable to attend, keep your eyes on our Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/groups/6366603471) for photos and updates.



In Kinship,

Dale McAlpine
President, Clan MacAlpin/e Society

Questions please email me at President@macailpein.com



MacAlpine Annual Meeting

to be held at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games

July 10-11, 2021

"A wee bit of Scotland in the High Country of Western North Carolina."

High in the Mountains of Western North Carolina the ancient Celtic spirit beckons. Answering the call, as hundreds of tartan banners unfurl, are the sounds of bagpipes echoing through the valley, and once again, thousands of kilt-clad Scots make their way to MacRae Meadows for their annual gathering and games. Nowhere in the New World is there a place more reminiscent of the Scottish Highlands than the home of America's grandest Highland Games—Grandfather Mountain, North Carolina.

The Arms of Christian McAlpine

Submitted by Robin McAlpine

The Danish Arms of Christian McAlpine (Christian Maccabæus-Alpinas) granted in 1580, are the oldest recorded arms granted to a MacAlpine.

Christian was born December 25th, 1541 in Wittenberg, Saxony (modern Germany) to John MacAlpine, an influential Scottish theologian, who became the chair of Theology at the University of Copenhagen at the invitation of Christian III of Denmark.

Christian was a Professor, Cleric, Envoy, Principal for Soro Skole.

In 1573 he Married Kirsten Clausdatter Gagge and they had eight children.

Some samples of his writings; the first about Admiral Herluf Trolle (a relative of our own Finn Stavnsbo Alpin) the second about his father John (Translation in blue box).







Christian passed away in 1598 in Lund, Sweden, where he was buried.

The noble line died out in the early 1800's.

Blazon

Shield: Argent, a "Wildman" displayed Armed, dexter, a charged bow and arrow, Or. Crowned with a chaplet of oak leaves, Vert. Crest: Two crossed arrows, on downward point. Helmet, befitting the rank of a nobleman

As a child he came with his parents to Copenhagen. Only 13 years old, he became a student in 1554, and the following year he was sent to Wittenberg for further studies. After his father's death, he returned to Denmark where King Frederik II supported him, and Herluf Trolle, who was lord of the castle in Copenhagen, employed him as a copyist of historical documents. Later he went abroad again and took his master's degree at Cambridge. At a young age he was employed in 1565 as a professor (pedagogue) at the University of Copenhagen, but resigned this position after 2 years. Then he was supported for a time by Mrs. Birgitte Gjøe, until he became a reading master at Sorø school. In 1571 he took part, as an envoy, in a state mission to Russia, whereupon he became Canon of Lund and in 1573 married a noble woman, Kirstine Gagge, which resulted in him later (May 1, 1580) being naturalized as a Danish nobleman. In 1583 he became headmaster of Ringsted Monastery and in 1585 headed the Archdiocese of Lund. In 1586 he became headmaster of the established royal school in Sorø and manager of the Sorø estate. This considerable position, however, he resigned from in 1597, whereupon he retired to Lund. He was a gifted Latin poet and published Latin memoirs of Herluf Trolle and others. (Source: Rørdam: Københavns Universitets Hist. 1537-1621 II; Wad: Breve fra og til H. Trolle og B. Gjøe II; Rørdam: Hist. Saml. og Studier II)

The British Mortar Artillery Used At The Battle Of Culloden

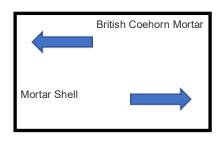
Submitted by Earl Dale McAlpine

Have you ever wondered how the British army defeated the Jacobites in 76 minutes? In about the time it takes to cook a roast, the tired, under-nourished Highland army was brutally defeated.

In 2001, during an archaeological excavation of the Culloden battlefield researchers found fragments of an 18th century mortar bomb that could have taken out as many as 20 Jacobites with just one exploding shell.

On the morning of April 16, 1746, the British Army numbering 8,000 troops, hauling 15 cannons and six Coehorn mortars" with 12 pound artillery shells, lined up to battle the 6,000 weary Jacobites who hauled 12 cannons.







The British started their artillery assault, bombarding the Scottish lines with cannon and mortar shells for the first thirty minutes. The British army held their ground while Prince Charlie ordered his Highland troops to charge.

When the Jacobites broke through British lines, a melee ensued that only lasted 46 minutes. The mighty Highland Army was defeated primarily due to the British Army's ability to adapt their fighting style. The ground was boggy and the Highlanders had marched through the night. Sixteen hundred men were slain during the famed Battle of Culloden, 1500 of those were Jacobites.

This article gives a complete picture of the battle:

https://thesassenachfiles.com/2021/01/13/the-truth-behind-the-battle-of-culloden/



The Culloden Visitor Center Museum Artillery Section

Kelping

Submitted by Mark S.C. McAlpin, Sennachie elect

The 'first wave' of clearances began as early as the 1780s and continued into the wake left by the end of the Napoleonic wars in 1815. Initially, the intention of most estate owners had been to retain and re-deploy the population to other parts of their estates, principally the coastal fringes so they could effectively prosecute the fishing and kelping industries.

Kelp was gathered for use as a fertilizer on croft lands and rigs. It was also used more and more, and in huge quantities, in various chemical processes, such as soap and glass making.

For this purpose, it needed to be harvested by hand carried in kreels to the processing site, dried out and carefully burned in a kelp pit, trench, or kiln. The resulting kelp was an oily bluish substance which was shipped away to factories in the Lowlands. Kelping had become a crucial, although backbreaking, livelihood,

For close to 60 years kelp brought a "twilight prosperity" to the lairds, for it required no cultivation, just "a vast army of men, women and children to tear it from the rocks with hooks and sickles to carry it to great kilns and there burn it over peat until it became hard, brittle and multi-colored." It was strenuous, grueling and backbreaking work.

When the Napoleonic Wars ended, though, and the Germans—who were among the greatest importers of kelp—found alternative sources, the demand for the seaweed dropped precipitously, and the need for other products increased in the industrial south, especially wool and mutton. Consequently, sheep, the so-called four-footed clansmen. Rents increased, and evictions accelerated while prices for kelp declined by as much as two-thirds between 1823 and 1828 and thus another wave of exodus from Scotland ensued.



Kelp



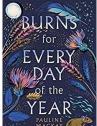
Harvesting Kelp



Kiln near Kilmartin

Burns for Every Day of the Year

Submitted by Janet McAlpine



We all know that Robert Burns is one of the world's most famous poets and is probably the most commemorated of all authors. How many others do you know who have a night every year dedicated to the celebration of their life and works? I have found a treasure you may enjoy. It is a book titled *Burns for Every Day of the Year* by Pauline MacKay. I got it from Amazon.com in the Kindle version that I have downloaded onto my Kindle reader; however, it can also be purchased without the digital version.

Burns for Every Day of the Year offers daily glimpses into the bard's life and works. Each month has a theme that runs through his life. Remember Burns was a lover and a leaver; a brother and a

friend; a husband and a father; a pleasure-seeker and a laborer. He was a religious man, though one with a scathing satirical bent and an intolerance for religious hypocrisy. Burns was no stranger to the earthly turning of the seasons as a ploughman, but also enjoyed a taste of the finer things in life. You'll find all of these in the book.

Burns for Every Day of the Year celebrates and explores his work. January celebrates the New Year and the winter season while February explores the theme of love with reference to Burns' intrigues with the opposite sex. And so it goes through the year with each month focused around that particular season.

I open my Kindle each morning to get my daily dose of Burns with the words I find for the day. I will keep it on my device so I can use it for each year. Since I did not find this treasure until April, I'll catch up on January through March next year as those days roll along.

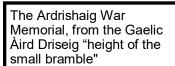
Achnabreac Cemetery



Achnabreac (from the Gaelic "Achadh nam Breac" (Field of the trout) Is about ten minutes south of Kilmartin on the A816.

Among the MacAlpines buried there is SGT Donald MacMaster MacAlpine. His name is also inscribed on the nearby Ardrishaig War Memorial which contains the names of the 31 soldiers sailors and airmen from the area who perished in WWII.

Donald was assigned to the 21 OTU (Operational Training Unit) and was a pilot operating a Vickers Wellington Medium bomber out of the RAF field Moreton-in-Marsh, in Gloucestershire, England.



The Memorial bears the following incscription:
"Is e Dia ar tearmannn agus ar neart"
"God is our asylum and strength"



On the morning of December 7, 1941, he and the other six members of the flight crew ran into a snow storm that disabled the aircraft. He and fellow crewmen Pilot Officer K W Watson, Sergeant J Hubbard, Sergeant C Tierney, Sergeant E S J Medder perished. Sergeant J J Martin, Sergeant R J Newton were injured.

Dun Chonnallaich

"The Fort of King Connal's people"

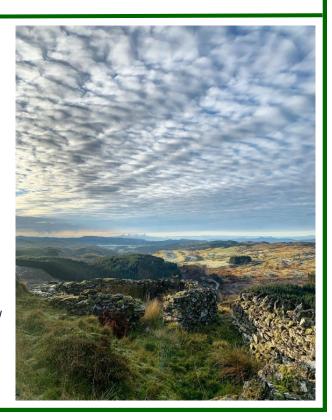
Conall mac Comgail Connal was an early Dalriadic King, 558-574. He was said to have given Iona to St Columba.

Dun Chonnallaich sits on a hill that rises almost 850 feet above sea-level about 3 ½ miles north on the A 816 from Kilmartin.

Duns were built to provide security and shelter in an age of continual feuds, cattle raids, and small wars.

No archaeological evidence exists regarding the roofing, but it is likely that it was a timber with thatch, or perhaps heather and turf.

There are two ways to climb to the summit, one from the Kilmartin/A816 side, and a more gradual climb from the Ford village side. Once up there, the view is stunning.



Saint Margaret of Scotland

Submitted by Marc Joyau (France)

Margaret (Born Hungary, circa 1045 – died Edinburgh, November 16, 1093) was canonized in 1251 by Pope Innocent IV and proclaimed Patron Saint of Scotland in 1673 by Pope Clement X.

She is not a MacAlpine (daughter of Alpine), but we can say of her that she is a... "Mother of MacAlpine". She indeed married Malcolm Canmore ("Mail Choluim mac Donnchada") (circa 1030-1093), King of Scotland known as

Malcolm III (an authentic MacAlpine since he was the great-great-great-grandson of Kenneth I of Scotland), and the couple had eight children, three of whom were Kings of Scotland.

The life of Margaret is known and one can easily find many sources which trace it.

In France, the most famous statue of Saint Margaret of Scotland is certainly the one on one of the exterior sides of the Church of La Madeleine in Paris. It was sculpted by François Augustin Caunois (Bar-le-Duc, 1787 - Paris, 1859).

But there is another in the sanctuary of Lourdes. This bronze statue was made by the French sculptor Arthur Guéniot (Bournezeau, 1866 - Vitry-le-François, 1951), author of numerous war memorials and religious sculptures. It was allegedly commissioned on March 17, 1928 by Bishop Turner, Bishop of Glasgow, and offered by Scottish Catholics during a national pilgrimage to Lourdes with Bishop Donald, Archbishop of Edinburgh and Primate of Scotland, in 1929 or 1930.









The plaster statue which served as the founder is kept at the Reims Museum of Fine Arts).

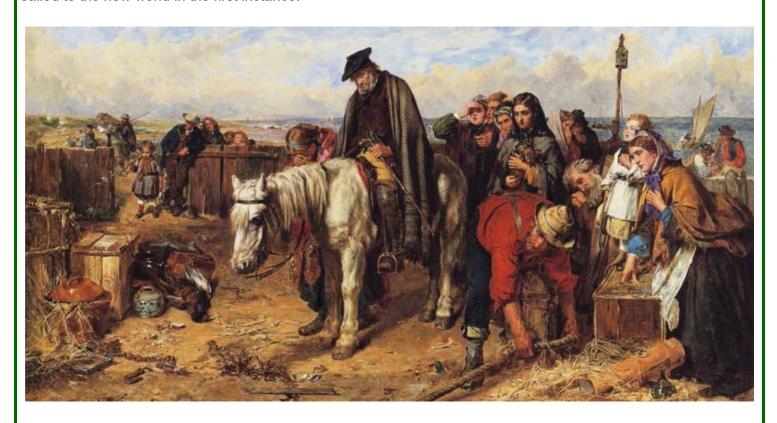
Why talk about her in this newsletter when the Catholic Church now honors this saint on November 16 (the day of her death), since the revision of the general Roman calendar in 1969?

Because in Scotland, Saint Margaret is still sometimes celebrated on June 10, as Pope Innocent XII wanted in recognition of the date of birth of the son of James VII of Scotland and II of England, Jacques François Stuart.



Last of the Clan and John MacAlpine

Scottish artist, Thomas Faed called this painting 'Last of the Clan'. It was completed in 1865. It is about Scots who were forced to emigrate in the 1800s to America and Canada in order to survive during the Highland Clearances. Sometimes the very young, the old and women were not allowed to go. Only physically abled men sailed to the new world in the first instance.



In Victorian times, pictures that told stories were popular. Faed was so interested in making sure people understood what was happening that he placed these words beside the picture:

'When the steamer had slowly backed out, and John MacAlpine had thrown off the hawser [rope], we began to feel that our once powerful clan was now represented by a feeble old man and his granddaughter, who, together with some outlying kith- and-kin, myself among the number, owned not a single blade of grass in the glen that was once all our own.'

Every detail has been carefully painted. We can see shiny pottery, straw, rusty chains, waves splashing and the rope being pulled by the departing ship. Yet we cannot see the emigrants on the ship. Faed left that part of the story to our imagination.



A Morning in Kilmartin Glen

By Jo Woolf of the Hazel Tree





Last Sunday was a day of soft light and gentle wind, and it felt as if the Earth might finally be stirring after a long sleep. A perfect day for looking at stones – well, admittedly, every day is perfect for that! A few minutes' drive took us south into Kilmartin Glen, where time really seems to slow down and you feel guilty if you drive through without stopping.

We walked around the Nether Largie standing stones, tall and angular, with enigmatic cup marks and an interesting alignment that I've described before on The Hazel Tree. You're never far from water here — the path to the stones crosses two bridges, one over the burn and the other over a drainage channel, and the ground is either spongy or muddy beneath your feet. Lichens grow in tangled profusion alongside deep cushiony mosses, miniature gardens on trunk and stone.









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A Morning in Kilmartin Glen . . . Continued from Page 9





Just beyond Nether Largie is a grove of trees that surrounds another ancient site – the three stone circles of <u>Temple Wood</u>. While Nether Largie is exposed and open, Temple Wood feels more private and enclosed, although this is more likely to be the result of Victorian tree planting than anything else. It does, however have a feminine feel to it, a softness and stillness, especially at the heart of the main circle which has the remains of a burial cist. It feels reassuring and grounding, like a gentle flow downwards into the earth.

The area around each circle is heaped with cobble stones, and these are splashed with lichen in paintbox colours. Wandering around the perimeter wall I stopped to try and identify some trees, always a challenge in winter, and in surprise I found myself gazing at branches adorned with scraps of ribbon.





A clootie tree? Wishes had been made on it, that's for sure, but some time ago as moss was already growing over some of the ribbons. And what species was it? I was puzzled but Colin had no doubt. "An elder," he said, as if he saw them all the time, and pointed to the deeply fissured bark. To prove his point, he told me to snap a fallen twig and look for the soft, pithy wood inside. An elder it was. And it certainly had character, rising from the base of

an oak tree which was leaning away as if afraid of the intimacy, and reaching boldly towards the stone circle with a network of gnarled limbs.

I knew very little about elders, but something told me they'd have their roots immersed in folklore. Some sources believe the name is derived from 'hylde-moer', a





matriarchal tree spirit of Scandinavian legend. This is a protective tree, and, like the rowan, if it grew next to a dwelling it was thought to prevent evil spirits from entering the house. It has plenty of medicinal properties, and of course its flowers and berries are picked to make delicious cordials and wine.

Even the word 'elder' suggests a wise and respected veteran, a guardian of some half-forgotten wisdom. It's hard to tell how old this particular tree is, but it has certainly held a significance for visitors in the past, and probably continues to do so.

Continued on Page 11

A Morning in Kilmartin Glen . . . Continued from Page 10

The first leaves of bluebells were emerging from the grass, promising a beautiful spectacle here in a few months' time. Meanwhile even the early spring flowers such as celandine were absent and I can't really blame them – the wind these last few weeks has been bone-achingly cold. I guess the season will turn in its own time, and meanwhile the merest hint of warmth from the sun was very welcome.









Photos copyright © Jo & Colin Woolf

The Pont Maps of Scotland

Around 1583–1596 Timothy Pont, a young graduate of the University of St Andrews, undertook the remarkable task of mapping Scotland. His maps would later form the basis of the first atlas of Scotland, in 1654.

Little is known of Pont's life, and the reasons for the initiative are still obscure. Seventy-seven of Pont's hand-drawn maps still survive on 38 fragile sheets of paper, and these are among the greatest treasures of the National Library of Scotland.

They give a unique insight into the history, geography, landscape and architecture of 16th century Scotland. On his travels around post-Reformation Scotland Pont recorded, in great detail, natural features such as mountains, rivers, coasts, lochs and trees, as well as settlements, towns, bridges, mills and churches.

His map of the Kilmartin Glen highlights many of the settlements and structures familiar to the MacAlpines.



The ruins of an ancient castle have been revealed for the first time in 200 years

By Rita Campbell May 26, 2021, 5:00 pm

The ruins of the ancient seat of the Clan MacTavish were visible as work was carried out on the Crinan Canal.



Maintenance work on an Argyll canal has resulted in the ruins of an ancient castle becoming visible for the first time in centuries. The Crinan Canal was drained over the winter months as part of a £4million facelift to improve safety at the scenic route. That process exposed what it is believed to be the ancient seat of the Clan MacTavish. And according to the clan historian, that is a sight no living person has ever laid their eyes on before. When the work was completed earlier this month, the ruins disappeared under the murky waters of Loch A'bharain – a freshwater loch used to feed the canal – once more. Now members of the clan are calling for a memorial marker at the spot.



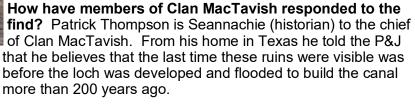
Clan MacTavish . . . Dunardry, between Lochgilphead and Crinan, was the site of the MacTavish stronghold in Argyll for centuries. For hundreds of years, the small castle or keep, sat proudly by the freshwater Loch A'bharain (Loch of the Baron).

It was last inhabited by Lochlann MacTavish around 320 years ago, but was settled by MacTavishes as far back as around 893AD, more than 1,000 years ago. Today Loch A'bharain is a reservoir for the Crinan Canal – which was built in 1809.



<u>During the winter, Scottish Canals carried out an extended period of maintenance,</u> when lock gates one to four were replaced in a £3.7million project. The canal, <u>which has been dubbed Britain's most beautiful shortcut</u>, was drained of all its water from November until May.

The footprint of ruins could be seen when the loch was empty recently. It meant that the loch adjacent to the canal was emptied for the first time in a long time, displaying the footprint of the ruins of the former castle.



Mr Thompson and other members of Clan MacTavish have called for the spot to be marked and details of its history displayed. Mr. Thompson said: "It is indeed pleasant to know the old keep was not as tiny as originally thought by a couple of generations.



The ruins at Loch A'bharain

An earlier survey of the site by West of Scotland Archaeological Services was carried out from a boat. Not all of the footprint could be seen at that time, as much of it was under water. Drone images taken while the loch was empty by local man William Holmes reveal a larger footprint than what was previously known to be there. *Continued on Page 13*

The ruins of an ancient castle . . . Continued from Page 12

"It is a bit of a shame that the historical remnants of the keep of one of the oldest clans in Scotland is submerged under water. However, since is has been there for so long, it would be a difficult task to permanently resurrect it for permanent viewing. That would cost a fortune. The least to be done with this spot would be to place a historical marker on the shore near the mostly submerged ruins, stating the date of settlement and its significance to Clan MacTavish."



Cairn MacTavish, five, at the ruins found when Loch A'bharaiin was empty recently



Cairn MacTavish, five, at the empty Loch A'bharain

Growing up I had always been told there was a castle in that loch somewhere

Robbie MacTavish, 37, lives in Lochgilphead, the largest town the canal runs through. He said: "Out of all the times the canal has been emptied, the loch has never been low enough to see these ruins before. Growing up I had always been told there was a castle in that loch somewhere. No one in my family has ever pinpointed the exact spot of the castle before.



Robbie MacTavish with son Cairn

I took a drive down the next day to see it with my son, Cairn. It was unreal. It was like coming home. That's my family's roots. Where it all started. It was a great feeling. I am in contact with members of Clan MacTavish in America all the time. They want to come over as soon as they are able. It would be great if there was some sort of permanent marker there. This was like finding treasure."

Joy Anderson, who lives in Oklahoma, is the international commissioner for Clan MacTavish.

She said: "No one alive had actually seen the castle ruins. It was a little emotional seeing them (in the photographs).

"Having read about them and heard the history – and none of us

had known exactly where they were – I think seeing them exposed was like finding treasure for most of us.

"Ideally, what I would love to see is the canal built around the ruins. It's not a huge area, and so close to shore. Our clan has come to Scotland together before. If a historical marker or dam was built there, I am sure that many of us would make the trip to put our feet there."

A spokesman for Historic Environment Scotland said the ruins were of "historic importance". He added: "We would welcome and support any efforts to provide further information about these fascinating remains. We work closely with Scottish Canals and would be delighted to offer any help we can to them, the local community or Clan MacTavish if they decide to provide further information and a marker at Loch A'bharain."



The ruins of the House of the Barons at Loch A'bharain, Dunardry. Picture by William Holmes

Clan MacAlpine Information

We invite you to learn more about Clan MacAlpine Society by going to our website https://macailpein.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 meeting fellow MacAlpines.



Clan MacAlpine Challenge Coin



\$20.00 + 4.95 Shipping Available in store on Society website at www.macailpein.com Contact drscotmac@yahoo.com for further information

Clan MacAlpine Lapel Pin



\$10.00 + 4.95 Shipping
Available in store on Society website at
www.macailpein.com
Contact 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 for questions or purchase

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