

Remember Those from Whom You Came

Newsletter for The House of MacAlpine

The Worldwide Organization for MacAlpine's



Second Quarter 2026 ~ Volume 72

Commander's Note

I have written of the Gaelic word Duthcas, best described as a sacred wedding of the land to the people – which is at the heart of the passion for place in the Gaelic culture.

There is another Gaelic word that doesn't translate well, cianalas (pronounced kee-an-uh-lus) which means a deep, aching or longing, a homesickness of the soul that goes beyond missing a place. It's the grief of distance, the feeling that part of you was left behind in the Highlands, an ancestral pull, even if you've never set foot there.

The Gaelic language understands emotions that the English language doesn't. The Gaelic language was built by a people shaped by wild mountains, grey seas, and centuries of love for a land that was often fought over.

If you've ever felt this longing, you are not alone. You are part of something much older than you know.

That is cianalas.

That is what draws us back to a home where we have never lived, that was evident on our recent sojourn back to the Kilmartin Glen, where we continue to map out and photograph the places our ancestors dwelled.

While there, we looked at a few options to offer as a tour when we meet in Scotland next year.

Unfortunately, many, if not most, of the old MacAlpine homesites are difficult to get to and involve a bit of hiking. We are still looking at viable options.

Being in Edinburgh for Tartan Day on May 9th was special. This is the second year that Edinburgh has sponsored the Tartan Parade, and it continues to grow.



At the Family Convention 2016, I was honored to be nominated and then commissioned by the Court as Commander Ad Interim of the MacAlpine's.

One of the principal responsibilities of a Commander is to seek to identify any potential hereditary claimant to the chiefship. It has not been possible to identify a chiefly line, and consequently, we seek to encourage suitable candidates who may have support from the family to come forward as a candidate for the Chiefship.

While it is my honor to serve as Commander of the MacAlpine's, there is no expectation that a person who served as commander will be the candidate for the chiefship. Other candidates may have better qualifications or greater support among the family.



Michael T McAlpin
Commander
Name of MacAlpine



Presidents Letter

Greetings Family!

We had a great visit with the family at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games. Although Robin and I have been there several times, the highlight for us was taking our granddaughter, Journey, to her first Highland Games. At the age of 11, Journey wasn't sure what to expect and with the terrible weather, we weren't sure either. However, those young ones are much more resilient than we are, and she was anxious and ready to visit each clan tent and get her book stamped. She went to EVERY. SINGLE. TENT. She wore this grandpa out. Besides being exhausting for me, it was great fun to see her interact with the folks representing each clan while collecting her stamp and plenty of sweet treats along the way.

Journey was also happy to try shepherds pie, which wasn't much to her liking, but she did enjoy the ice cream she got.

In anticipation of this trip, Robin had ordered Journey a kilt made with MacAlpine tartan. Journey got many compliments and really loved being part of the scene at the games.

My point of this story is we need to share our heritage with our young ones. Get them involved and curious about their Scottish heritage. Share some old stories, take them to the games. These are the future of our clan, our family heritage depends on passing it down to the younger generations so they will have a love of Scotland and the rich culture of the Scots. So, they will "Remember those from whom you came!"



In Kinship,

Dale McAlpine
President



**Check our Facebook page for upcoming games and all things
House of MacAlpine related**



The Homestead Project :

Achantheanbhaile: Where the Old Township Sleeps Beneath the Fields

Submitted by
Mark S.C. McAlpin
Sennachie elect
Oib Estate • North Knapdale

Achantheanbhaile rests in one of the quietest interior hollows of the Oib Estate, a place where the land seems to breathe a little slower. Just beyond the open sweep of the basin, the ground dips into a sheltered pocket where moisture gathers and burns slip through soft, grassy channels. The woodland fringe leans in from the rising slopes, and low ridges fold gently around the site, giving it a sense of enclosure and calm. Even at first glance, the terrain feels older than the surrounding fields — irregular, slightly sunken, shaped by boundaries long forgotten.

The name itself, *Achadh an t-Sean Bhaile* — “the field of the old township” — carries the weight of memory. It hints at a settlement that once stood here before the later crofting pattern took shape, a township that contracted over time until only its fields and faint traces remained. Estate records describe Achantheanbhaile as a modest interior holding, yet the name suggests deeper roots: a place where earlier families lived, worked, and left their imprint on the land. Across Argyll, such names mark the quiet survivors of medieval and early-modern habitation, where the township disappears but its memory endures.

Achantheanbhaile likely served as a small croft tied to the basin’s agricultural rhythm. Families here would have tended small infields and meadow strips, gathered timber and fuel from the woodland edge, and contributed labour to the larger homesteads at Kilmory Oib and Campbell Oib. The interior track that passes through the hollow linked the basin to Achnacarron and Achnaglach, making Achantheanbhaile a subtle waypoint between the estate’s agricultural heart and its upland routes. It was never a major homestead — instead, it was a quiet inheritor, carrying forward the land memory of an older township.

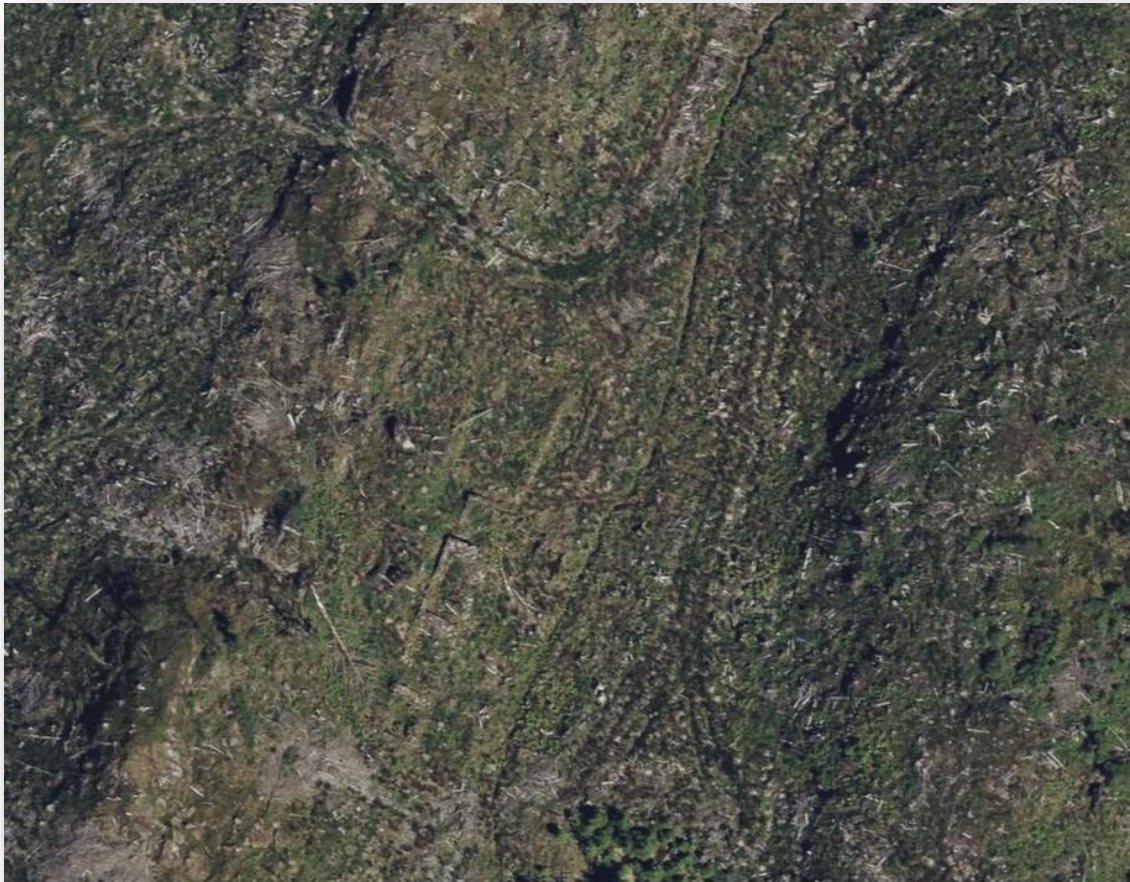
Today, the remains are faint but eloquent. Low stone footings press through the grass, enclosure lines curve softly across the hollow, and irregular field boundaries hint at older cultivation beneath later improvements. These traces suggest a multi-phase site, where earlier structures and fields were repurposed by generations who followed. Nothing dramatic stands here — no tall ruins or carved stones — yet the land itself tells the story.

Standing at Achantheanbhaile, the basin lies just beyond the rise, while the interior slopes gather protectively around the hollow. The field lines bend in ways that feel inherited rather than planned, shaped by hands long gone. The ground holds a softness that speaks of centuries of use. It is a place where the past lingers not in monuments, but in the quiet shape of the land.

In the broader story of the Oib Estate, Achantheanbhaile is a reminder of how settlements shift, contract, and leave their imprint behind. It is a landscape of memory — a small, contemplative corner where the old township still sleeps beneath the fields, and where the layers of habitation stretch back through time.

Achantheanbhaile: Where the Old Township Sleeps Beneath the Fields (continued)

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	
Bardarroch	Bardarroch B.	D. M. G. G. Mr. Martin Esq. Factor Mr. Gillies	No. 6 face 5	An dwelling house and byre which formerly had a farm of land attached but is now blundered with that of Gourans.	
Crag Mhòr	Crag Mhòr C.	D. M. G. G. Mr. Gillies	50	A rocky precipice on the farm of Gourans; immediately east is a small lake bearing the same name.	
Crag Mhòr Loch	Crag Mhòr Loch C.	D. M. G. G. Mr. Martin Esq. Factor Mr. Gillies	50	The property of John Macdonald Esq. of Poltalloch.	
Achantheanbhaile	Achantheanbhaile A.	Mr. Gillies Mr. Martin Esq. Factor D. M. G. G.	face 6	An dwelling house and byre which formerly had a farm of land attached the property of John Macdonald Esq. of Poltalloch.	



Achantheanbaile: Where the Old Township Sleeps Beneath the Fields (continued)

Register of Baptisms parish of North Knapdale 1814

31st July 1814

Catharine lawful daughter of John McIlwain & Ann McIlwain P^r Stornock

15th Aug^r 1814

Catharine lawful daughter of Malcom McFygan & Isobell Graham Blackwar

21 Aug^r 1814

Duncan lawful son of John MacLellan & Flora MacLellan — Kells

Donald lawful son of Duncan MacMillan & Catharine Paterson Upper Farnach

24th Aug^r 1814

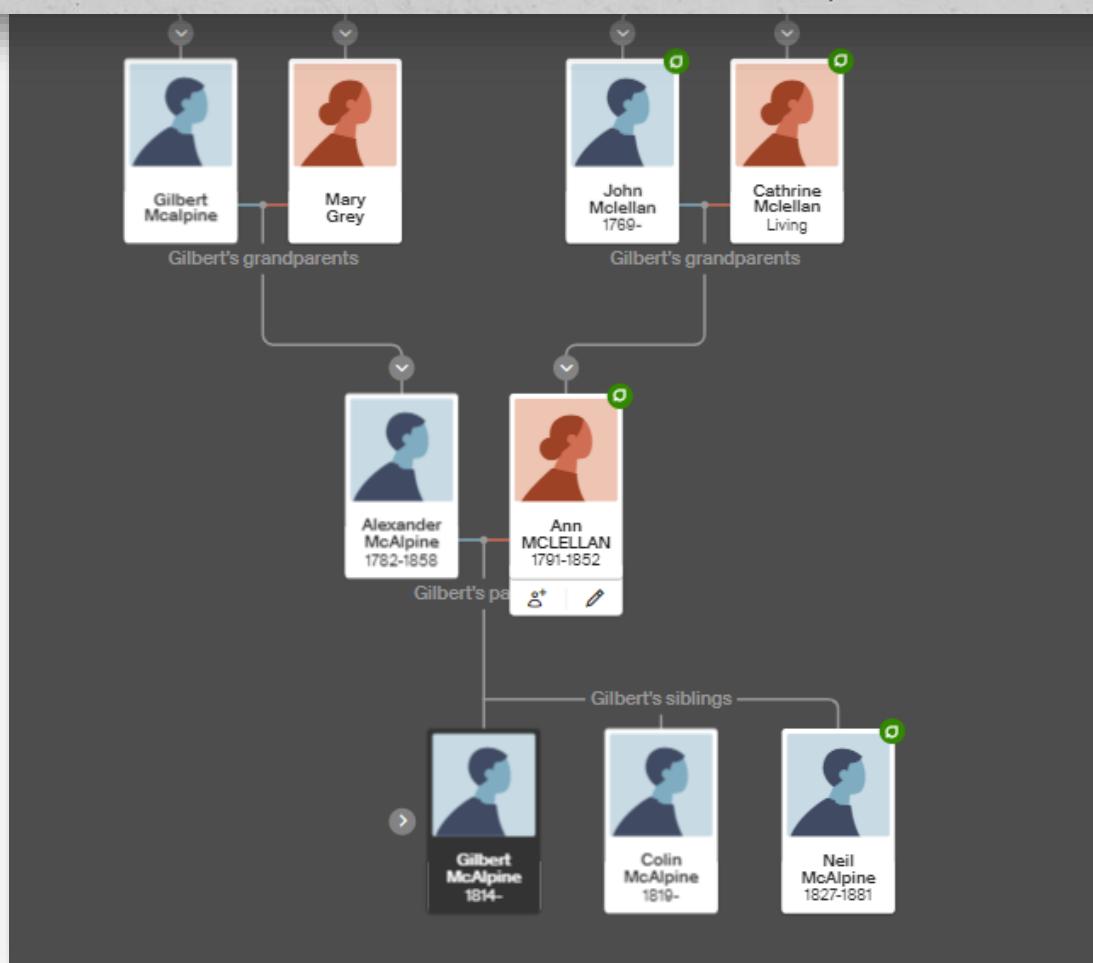
Duncan lawful son of Phetor MacNeil and Flora Weaver in South Ardly

28th Aug^r 1814

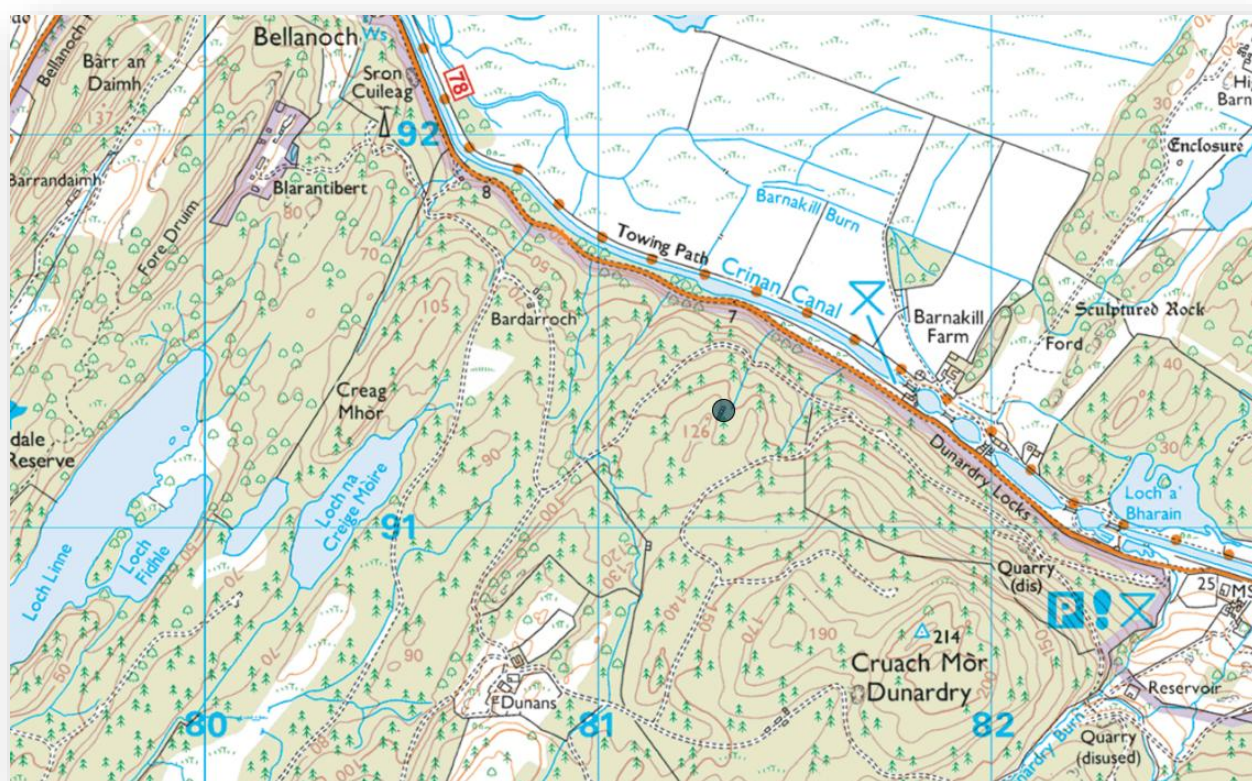
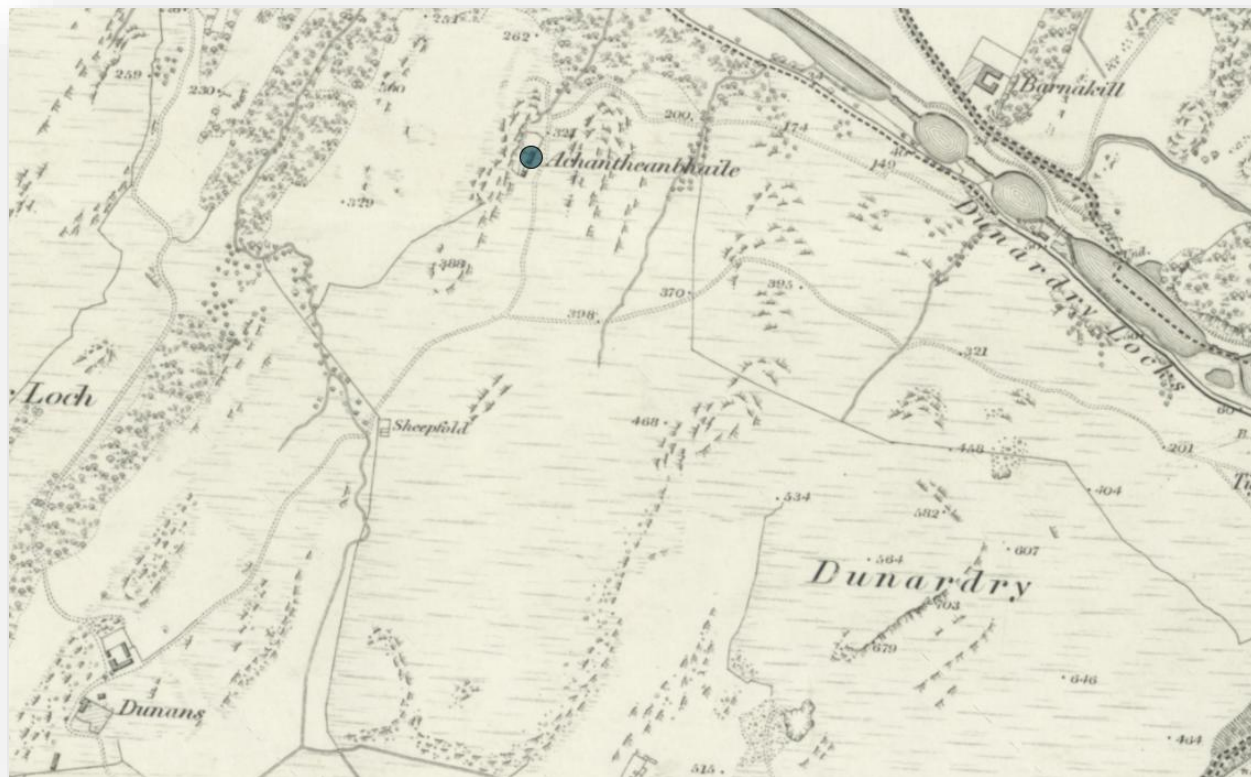
Alexander lawful son of John Litch & Johnston Barinloch

Gilbert lawful son of Alex^r McAlpine & Ann McLellan

Suchnamore



Achantheanbhaile: Where the Old Township Sleeps Beneath the Fields (continued)



Gallabrae – Greenville Scottish Games 2026

Submitted by Charles McAlpine
Commissioner - Coastal Carolina/Georgia/Florida

Nestled comfortably in the foothills of upstate South Carolina, one of the long traditional celebrations over Memorial Day weekend are the Greenville Scottish Games. The games draw fellow Scots from Atlanta, Greenville, Columbia SC, and Charlotte NC to the beautiful campus of Furman University, to pay tribute to our fallen heroes, and celebrate our common Scottish heritage that is prevalent throughout the region.

This year, our tent was hosted by Michael McAlpin, Robin McAlpine, and Charles McAlpine. It was well decorated and we had a great location. The athletic field was directly behind us which gave us a great view of the games, and was very close to the food court and entertainment tent featuring some excellent highland music throughout the day.

The weather was unpredictable. There were intermittent showers throughout the day with periods of sunshine in between. It was a day where you needed to carry an umbrella, but only needed it periodically. Unfortunately, the weather forced the cancellation of the military flyovers and parachute jumps for safety reasons. However, the weather did not deter the crowd. There were still thousands of guests attending, and the event carried-on with great success.

There were many pipe bands and highland dance groups attending from all over the southeast competing for the top awards, and the mass pipe band gathering in mid field was awesome. And speaking of bands, the headliner band in the music tent was the mighty 'Albannach', one of my favorites! I must say that the Greenville games go the extra mile with the sound system in their entertainment tent. It really is amazing, and is a focal point for the day.



I Gallabrae – Greenville Scottish Games 2026 (continued)

If you are looking for a wonderful family event over Memorial Day weekend, I highly recommend these games. The whole town gets involved, and there is a parade down main street Greenville the night before. The campus at Furman University is beautiful, and they host a wonderful celebration that you won't forget.



Grandfather Mountain Highland Games

It was a dreich day for the 70th Anniversary of the Grandfather Mountain Games. Dreich meaning damp, weary and miserable, but that didn't stop the stalwarts in attendance.

Grandfather Mountain normally attracts 35,000-45,000 people every year, making it the largest Highland Games in the world based on attendance.

The MacAlpines are always well represented at Grandfather, Mountain, first attending in 2001, 25 years ago. We appreciate the volunteers that make these events happen



Grandfather Mountain Highland Games (continued)



Chief John Gunn of Gunn
with Commander Michael McAlpin

The formal event is always enjoyable



Highland Games in France

Contribution by Marc Joyau MacAlpine

There are not many Highland Games in France. The Bressuire Games – among the most famous – take place every two years (see CMS_2024_2nd_Qtr and CMS_2022_2nd_Qtr) PHOTO N° 1. For the third consecutive time, the MacAlpine family was represented PHOTO N° 2 = Marie-Christine Joyau MacAlpine. The Chieftain for the 2026 edition was Patrick Gilles, founding president of the "Auld Alliance, le Lien Franco-Ecossais" (Auld Alliance, the Franco-Scottish Bond) association, a historic Franco-Scottish friendship group PHOTO N° 3. Nothing was missing : stone putts (heavy and light), hammer throws (light and heavy), pipe band competitions PHOTO N° 4, dance contests (Irish and Scottish) PHOTO N° 5, the caber toss, and naturally – a Bressuire specialty – the Coreff (a Breton beer) keg toss PHOTO N° 6 and 7. And this year, Vladislav Tulacek broke his own record and set a new world record at... 5.70 meters! PHOTO N° 8



Highland Games in France (continued)

(Editor's note: I'm not sure I got Marc's photos in the correct order, but please enjoy!)



Do You Ever Wonder?

Have you ever asked yourself “I wonder what they do with the money I donate to the House of MacAlpine?”

Meet Finley and Eleanor.

Finley lives in Winter Garden, Florida and began dancing at the age of four. At age seven she began Scottish Highland Dance. She is committed to pushing herself to achieve greater success in the world of Highland Dance.

She a Straight-A Student, a member of National Juniors Honor Society while taking all Honors classes. She has a strong work ethic and as a pre-premier dancer, she is committed to become a premier dancer.

We are proud to support Finley in her pursuit to become the best Highland dancer she can be and we are proud of her accomplishments to date. Watch for updates on Facebook as she continues to compete in the years ahead.



Do You Ever Wonder? (continued)

Eleanor lives in Hayden, ID and began dancing at the age of seven. She is currently a novice dancer with the goal to reach premier dancer. Eleanor loves that Highland dancing keeps her connected to her Scottish roots and we are happy to help her become her best self.

Her mom recently posted the following on the House of MacAlpine Facebook page....

"My daughter, Eleanor, was one of the House of MacAlpine scholarship recipients for 2026. She competed in her 11th competition today in Spokane, WA and it was also the 11th competition where she was also the aggregate for her group. As a bonus, she won "Most Promising Novice" dancer as well! Thank you so much to the scholarship committee for choosing her!"



Have no doubt that your contributions are used with considerable thought. They do help these young artists with classes and travel fees for competitions. If you would like to add to the scholarship fund to further help these two this year, visit our website and mark your contribution for one or both of these young women.

If you would like to apply for a scholarship through our clan, the information can also be found on our website, <https://macailpein.com/>



tir gun teanga, tir gun anam

A land without a language, a land without a soul

A wee bit of Gaelic

Dùrachdan - Greetings

Cnuic 'is uillt 'is Ailpeinich (Cnuic is pronounced Cruic) Hills and Streams and MacAlpines suggesting that the MacAlpines have been around since the hills and streams were formed.

Am fear a chailleas a chanain caillidh e a shaoghal.
He who loses his language loses his world.

Innsidh mi sgeulachd dhut - Let me tell you a story

Uill, chì sinn - Well, we'll see (pronounced well, key sheen)

Gàidhlig ga bruidhinn an seo - Gaelic spoken here

Sin mar a tha e (pronounced Shin mar a high) That's how it is

Footsteps Before Me

As I sift and sort through all my worldly belongings once more, I think about my ancestors that once graced the beautiful area of Kilmartin and Lochgilphead. What was it like to travel to an unknown world so far away? To cross an ocean that took many days and sometimes lives too - leaving all you know for a hope and a dream. For those who don't know me, I am McAlpine by birth from Detroit Michigan, but have been living in Scotland for the better part of four years as a Gospel Worker. My time is coming to an end here for now, and so I'm trying to wrap my head and heart around relocating back to Michigan.

But, one of the benefits of being in Scotland is recently having the opportunity of climbing the hills that once were trodden by my own ancestors and it is an indescribable feeling to wander across the fields and see remnants of homesteads that were once brimming with life. That opportunity came along when the trio of McAlpine historical hunters were in town this past May. What a thrill for me! We went up and down many areas that were sure to have held a family member or two but you would need a historian or a big book of records to keep it all straight. Climbing the hills of Donald and Catherine's probable homestead area burns deep in my soul as I imagined busy families cooking something warm, and sheep moving in and out among the homes. In one lovely area we saw the footprint of ruins indicating several homes of probably generations of one family. Maybe Alexander and Elizabeth's who had 7 children and one being Donald, born in 1806. You can practically hear the echoes of hard work, laughter and prayers as your eyes scan the homestead.



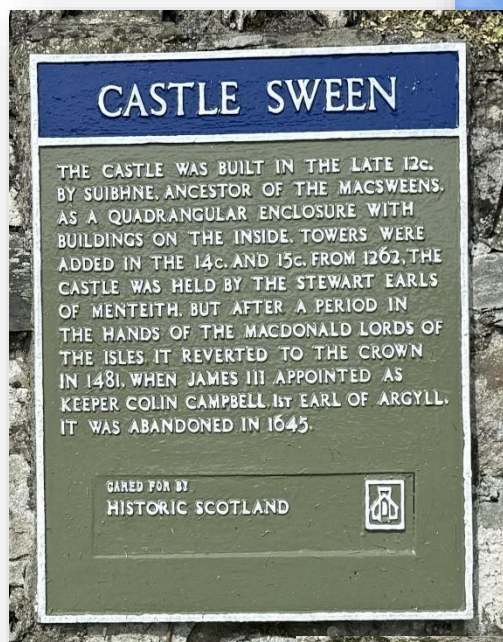
Footsteps Before Me (continued)



We visited many churches in the area where there were sure to be some of my ancestor's life history as well since your community life was centered so often around the church. Churches and castles are dotted all around the area and must offer up stories of their own if you sit and listen long enough. I would love to have had days to take it all in and arm myself with some historical information too.

Some of my favorite views were from Castle Sween, Kiells Chapel and Kilmory Knap Chapel. We were blessed with an amazing weather day which made these places all the more enticing and charming to visit Scotland; at her best.

Footsteps Before Me (continued)



Footsteps Before Me (continued)



Footsteps Before Me (continued)



← Keills Chapel



Footsteps Before Me (continued)

I can't thank Mark S C McAlpin, Michael McAlpin and Mike McAlpin - I could go on and on about that day but could never do it justice on what I saw and how I felt, however, I can share some photos of the day.

I hope to meet you all next year at the Family Convention!



Footsteps Before Me (continued)



Kilmartin Church



UPCOMING HIGHLAND GAMES

Mark your calendar &
Look for the MacAlpine Tent

**NEW
TENT!**



Wisconsin Highland Games

Sept 4, 5, 6, 2026

Waukesha Co. Expo
1000 Northview Rd
Waukesha, WI



Pleasanton Highland Games

Sept 5 - 6, 2026

Alameda County Fairgrounds
2005 Valley Ave
Pleasanton, CA

**NEW
TENT!**



Northeast Louisiana Celtic Festival

Oct 3, 2026 10am – 4pm

Lazarre Park
820 Kiroli Rd,
West Monroe, LA



Stone Mountain Highland Games

October 17-19, 2025

Stone Mountain Park
1000 Robert E Lee Blvd
Stone Mountain, GA 30083

Check our Facebook page for upcoming games and all things
House of MacAlpine related



Commander: Michael T. McAlpin

Society Board Members:

President: Earl Dale McAlpine

Vice President: Mark SC McAlpin

Secretary: Laura McAlpine

Treasurer: Teala Pennel

Membership: Robin McAlpine

Member At Large: Fin Stavnsbo Alpin

Newsletter Editor: Robin McAlpine

The Carnyx

The sounds are deeply haunting.

This ancient Celtic horn was used to call for large gatherings, or to summon warriors to battle.

The height of the instrument allowed it to be heard over the heads of dozens upon hundreds of people.



If you can imagine a mist covered moor, with warriors enshrouded in the fog, and this instrument rising above, announcing the call to battle.

To hear the ancient carnyx, click [here](#)



Congratulations to Clan Logan

Following a Family Convention held in April of 2025, Kevin Logan has received his commission as Commander of Clan Logan.



From Left to Right: Russell Hunter, Clerk of the Lyon Court,
Lisa Logan, Kevin Logan, Lord Lyon,

Lieutenant (Later Rear-Admiral) Robert Kyle McAlpine, and the escape of the HMS Calliope

HMS *Calliope*, launched in 1884, was a Calypso-Class Corvette and became one of the most famous ships of the Royal Navy in the last quarter of the nineteenth century when she was the only vessel, of a mixed fleet of thirteen British, American and German vessels, to survive a tropical hurricane which struck Samoa in the Spring of 1887.



This image by William Wyllie is a print of her in the act of escaping to safety.

Calliope was designed in a period of transition – she was a steam-corvette with a screw propeller, though equipped with a full rig. Her construction and armament were also of a new era: she was armed with breech-loading rifled guns, and her hull was made of iron and steel.

These ships were designed at a time of great growth in the British empire which explains her presence in Samoa in 1887. Based in the Australia station she was sent to Samoa to keep an eye on a growing international confrontation. Keen to expand into the Pacific, German agents fomented rebellion in Samoa, carefully watched by the Americans, also keen to expand their interests in the Pacific.

The vessels from the three nations, as well as several merchant ships, were crammed into the inadequate harbour of Apia when the hurricane struck.

Lieutenant (Later Rear-Admiral) Robert Kyle McAlpine, and the escape of the HMS Calliope (continued)

The US ships trapped in the harbour consisted of the USS Treton (flagship), the USS Nipsic, and the USS Vandalia. The German fleet consisted of SMS Adler (flagship), the SMS Olga, and the SMS Eber.

Onshore winds rose to well more than 100 m.p.h.

Ships smashed into each other, slipping anchors and crashing into shore, the *Calliope* worked her engines as hard as they could go just to hold her position, secured by five, failing, anchor cables.

Calliope's Captain, Henry Keane, with Robert McAlpine as Executive Officer made a run for open water, narrowly avoiding a stricken American ship, the *Trenton*, coming so close that her fore yardarm passed over the American deck. The Americans cheered, perhaps the moment depicted in the print above. Her escape was described by one American witness as 'one of the grandest sights a seaman or anyone else ever saw; the lives of 250 souls depended on the hazardous adventure.'

When *Calliope* returned two days later, she discovered that all the remaining ships had been wrecked or sunk, with 145 of their crews having perished.



Lieutenant (Later Rear-Admiral) Robert Kyle McAlpine, and the escape of the HMS Calliope (continued)

Commander (Later Rear-Admiral) Robert Kyle McAlpine

Was born January 20th, 1851. Died 22nd September 1923

He joined the navy on October 1st, 1864, when he was 13 years old as a cadet on HMS Britannia. He was appointed Midshipman on 1 December 19th, 1866, and Sub-Lieutenant on September 18th, 1871. His promotion to Lieutenant came on the October 15th, 1875 (first served at that rank on HMS Repulse), to Commander on 30th June 1889 (HMS Calliope), Captain 31st December 1896 (HMS Narcissus), and Rear Admiral on 17th November 1906.

Throughout his naval career, he received exemplary reports from his superior officers and many recommendations for advancement in the service.