



Remember Those From Whom You Came

Newsletter Of The Clan MacAlpine Society

The Worldwide Organization For MacAlpines
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Kenneth McAlpine



William McAlpin



Michael McAlpin



Sir William McAlpine



Finn Alpin



Sidney Fay McAlpin



Earl Dale McAlpine



Bruce McAlpine

Commander's News



Nollaig Chridheil, Merry Christmas

What a wonderful year! We have achieved formal recognition, worked on our communications, and increased our presence at various Scottish events. These Games and Festivals are our cultural heritage; without support, they will fade away and what we have endeavored to preserve will be lost to our children and grandchildren.

I would urge you to consider attending some event, or to hold a small Burns Evening in your own home. It is vital we pass on our heritage to our children.

We had a very enjoyable AGM in Canada, and have created a handful of working committees looking at membership, scholarships, and we have raised a good sum for the Kilmartin Museum.

This year I have had the privilege of visiting our kinsmen in Scotland, England, Canada, Sweden and several states in the US. I look forward to further developments for our family.

Yours Aye,

Michael T McAlpin
Commander



President's News

When do you wear your kilt? Highland Games, family pictures, and family events?

I love to wear my kilt every time I get the chance. Of course at the events mentioned above, but also on formal nights when we cruise, dressy company events, like Christmas parties, weddings; well, about anything that calls for a suit or jacket and tie. I have one each of the McAlpin(e) ancient and modern tartan kilts. Robin also has a tartan skirt and a new tartan dress she wears to many events. This past year my kilt saw plenty of action:

- ❖Cruise, Seattle, Washington to Alaska, elegant dinner night
- ❖Costa Mesa Highland Games
- ❖Scotland to witness Michael T. McAlpin receive his Commission Letter as Commander of Clan MacAlpine
- ❖Pleasanton, CA Highland Games
- ❖Fergus Highland Games, AGM and Dinner
- ❖Cruise New York, NY to Nova Scotia Canada, elegant dinner night
- ❖Stone Mountain Highland Games
- ❖Robin's company Christmas dinner party
- ❖My company Christmas dinner party
(not all events are pictured)



If you've always wanted a kilt of your own, this is a great time to order one, while the £ is at all-time low. Currently 1£ is equal to \$1.34 USD (when this article was written). When I purchased my Kilts the exchange was the opposite, about 25% more. Be proud to show your heritage and our tartan.

All the Best,
Dale McAlpine

Commander

Michael T. McAlpin

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Dál Riata

Dál Riata was a Gaelic kingdom that included parts of Western Scotland and Eastern Ireland. At its height it encompassed roughly what is now Argyll in Scotland and part of County Antrim in the Irish province of Ulster.

The name *Dál Riata* is derived from Old Irish. *Dál*, meaning "portion"; *Riata* is believed to be a personal name. Thus, the name refers to "Riada's portion" of territory in the area.



Map of Dál Riata at its height, Pictish regions are marked in yellow.

There are multiple and conflicting accounts of the creation of Dál Riata. The Duan Albanach (Song of the Scots, written in the 1100's) tells that the three sons of Erc—Fergus Mór, Loarn and Óengus—conquered Alba (Scotland) around 500 AD. Other references offer a different, and probably older, account wherein Dál Riata was conquered by Irish Gaels led by a certain Reuda.

Of the multiple versions, the story of Dál Riata moves from myth to something nearer to history in the mid sixth century, when the kingdom reached its height under Áedán mac Gabráin (r. 574–608), then coming under serious threat from the Picts, whilst the Irish portion was under attack from other Irish Kingdoms, ultimately the Dál Riata lands in Ireland were lost.

A number of kings are named in the Duan Albanach, and in royal genealogies, but their accuracy is highly questioned.

Many believe that Cináed mac Ailpín (Kenneth MacAlpin) was king of Dál Riata before becoming king of the Picts in 843 merging the Pictish Kingdom and Dál Riata to form the Kingdom of Alba or Scotland.



Past President Kenneth McAlpine Awarded Prestigious Honor



At the Annual Meeting of the Society of Scottish Armigers held October 18, 2017, our founding President, Kenneth McAlpine was awarded the prestigious honor of Fellow of the Society of Scottish Armigers. Kenneth was treasurer of the Society of Scottish Armigers from its inception in 2008 until October of this year. Congratulations Kenneth.

A Fellow of the Society of Scottish Armigers is an honor awarded to those men and women possessing Armorial Bearings recognized in Scotland, who are of nobiliary station as defined by Scottish tradition and selected by a board to consider service and other factors of benefit to the community.

Donald MacAlpin And the Dress Act

After the failure of the 1745 Rising many punitive measures were taken against the Scots, among them was the Dress Act:

From and after the first day of August, one thousand seven hundred and forty seven, no Man or Boy, within that part of Great Britain called Scotland, other than such as shall be employed as Officers and Soldiers in His Majesty's Forces, shall, on any pretence whatsoever wear or put on the Clothes commonly called Highland Clothes (that is to say) the Plaid, Philabeg, or little Kilt, Trowse, Shoulder Belts, or any part whatsoever of what peculiarly belongs to the Highland Garb; and that no Tartan, or party-coloured Plaid or Stuff shall be used for Great Coats, or for Upper Coats; and if any such Person shall presume after the first day of August, to wear or put on the aforesaid Garments, or any part of them, every such Person so offending, being convicted thereof by the Oath of One or more credible Witness or Witnesses before any Court of Justiciary or any one or more Justices of the Peace for the Shire or Stewartry, or Judge Ordinary of the Place where such Offence shall be committed, shall suffer imprisonment, without Bail, during the space of Six Months, and no longer, and that being convicted for a second Offence before a Court of Justiciary, or at the Circuits, shall be liable to be transported to any of His Majesty's Plantations beyond the Seas, there to remain for the space of Seven Years."

Although there had been Lowlanders and Englishmen that had fought for Prince Charlie, the Highlanders were singled out for this particular insult. Even those that had kept out of the conflict, or had remained loyal to King George were treated in the same manner.

There were objections, of course. Lord President Forbes of Culloden in a letter to the Lord Lyon, dated 8th July 1746, gave this opinion -

Now, being too many of the Highlanders have offended, to punish all the rest who have not, and who, I will venture to say, are the greatest number, in so severe a manner, seems to be unreasonable; especially as, in my poor apprehension, it is unnecessary..."

The London parliament, with breathtaking arrogance, literally laid down the law about how Scotsmen might clothe themselves in their own land. As might be expected, the law was treated, in large part, with contempt.

One of those who contemptuously disregarded the Act was Donald MacAlpin who in 1759 was charged "with wearing a philabeg, or some other part of the Highland garb prohibited by law." MacAlpin claimed he was brutally used by an officer and won his case.

