

# Mac-Alasdair Clan Teachdaire



THE CLAN McALISTER OF AMERICA MESSENGER  FALL 2023

## *President's Message*



### **A Local “Gathering”...**

Scott and I had the opportunity to attend a Scottish Rite Conference in Washington DC in late August. It had been a few years since we had been to DC so we decided to fly up a few days early. Knowing there are 3 other Board members in the immediate area, Frank McAlister, Mike

Stewart and Jean Stewart, I called Michael to see if they wanted to get “to gather” for lunch. In true fashion of a “McAlister,” he immediately suggested we invite a few more in the area. I was thrilled with the idea and said that would be awesome. Michael emailed a few more people. We soon had 5 board members and 7 “cousins” for a total of 12 for lunch.

Lunch was at Red’s Table in Reston, a suburb just west of downtown DC. Frank and his wife, Debbie, were gracious enough to provide our transportation from downtown DC for the occasion. The “Gathering” included Frank and Debbie McAlister; Michael and Jean Stewart; Jeanie Bowman, another Director, and her daughter, Donna Kairewich; Keith McAlister, author of the “McAlister Migration to North America” in our Summer Journal; Rodney and Mary MacAlister, and Rod’s sister, Sara, who had just flown in from California for a family visit. Both Keith, Jeannie and Donna drove around 2 hours from Maryland. What a TREAT! Lunch was at 12:30PM and we didn’t break up until well after 3PM. Then six of us hung out in the parking lot for another half hour or so.



**Lunch at Red’s Table, Reston, VA.**

**Left: Scott & Jeanie McAlister; Frank & Debbie McAlister; Jean & Mike Stewart. Right: Donna Kairewich; Jeanne Bowman; Rod & Mary MacAlister & Sara Pfirrmann; Keith McAlister.**

Our mini-gathering in Reston was fun, but that is only part of the enjoyment you’ll get when you attend our biennial **CMA 2024 Gathering in San Antonio, Texas!** Please mark your calendar today for **October 17 – 20, 2024.**

*Jeanie Taylor McAlister*  
cma-president@clanmcalister.org

## *Planning for the CMA 2024 Gathering*



**Figure 1: The Alamo, San Antonio, TX**  
([San Antonio](#) by ka-el.net, [CC BY-NC-ND 3.0](#))



**Figure 2: Riverwalk, San Antonio, TX**  
([San Antonio Texas River Walk](#) by [Tim Pearce/Flickr](#), [CC BY 2.0](#))

### *Update on Planning* CMA Gathering Committee

The Board of Directors is planning their annual in-person meeting this November 6-7 in San Antonio, Texas to preview the 2024 Gathering location. Scott and I plan to get there a couple of days early to personally check out all of the local attractions and restaurants. The Board has a laundry list of items to discuss and will have a full day and half of work.

While we are currently doing our own research for speakers and entertainment, I want to hear from **YOU!** Should you know any good speakers or entertainment groups in the San Antonio area that you think would be of interest to our group, please send the Gathering Committee an email. Also, we want to know what kind of **topics** would be of interest to you. This is **YOUR Gathering** and we want you involved! Our email address is:

[cma-gatcom@clanmcalister.org](mailto:cma-gatcom@clanmcalister.org).

We look forward to hearing from you! Thank you in advance.

*Jeanie Taylor McAlister*  
[cma-president@clanmcalister.org](mailto:cma-president@clanmcalister.org)

Remember to keep checking the CMA website (<https://www.clanmcalister.org>) for the latest information on plans for the 2024 Gathering, including, as they are developed, the program of presentations, Gathering activities, and things to do in San Antonio. By the end of the year, the website will also contain links to allow you to complete and pay for your Gathering and hotel registrations on-line.



**Figure 3: RiverCenter Shopping Mall, San Antonio, TX**  
([Several Floors of a Shopping Mall in San Antonio Texas](#) by [GoodFreePhotos](#), [CC0 / Public Domain](#))

## MacAlisters and the Kintyre Peninsula

By Suzan McAllister

The MacAlister Clan has contributed generously to the history of conflict and intrigue on the peninsula of Kintyre. Recently, a map of the Clans of Scotland came to our attention, and we began asking how accurately the map portrayed the location of the MacAlister clan. What follows is a short synopsis of the history leading up to the years the map was based on.



Knapdale to Kintyre. The eponymous Alasdair resided on Islay and then in Knapdale, with Castle Sweyn mentioned as his stronghold.<sup>1</sup> Alasdair died in a battle against his cousin Alexander McDougall, possibly because of a feud over the Isle of Mull.<sup>2</sup> The clan seat was then moved from Ardpatrik in Knapdale and established the family at Loup (lands along the southern shoreline of Loch Tarbert) in the Kintyre peninsula.

Loup, Tarbert & diverse Kintyre lands acquired. The Loup Lands were officially recognized for the MacAlisters in 1481, when King James III of Scotland granted the Lands of Loup to John of Islay, Lord of the Isles. Ian Dubh MacAlister, his vassal and then 6th MacAlister chieftain, 1st of Loup, was given control of the Loup Lands.<sup>3</sup> At the same time, his son Charles was appointed Constable of Castle Tarbert and given the stewardry of Kintyre. The stewardry included considerable land grants throughout Kintyre, including Dunaverty on the southern coast and numerous farmlands across the peninsula.<sup>4</sup>

Lordship of the Isles Dissolved. Twelve years later, the Lordship of the Isles dissolved, and John of Islay's lands in Kintyre reverted to the King, who then granted Loup to the MacAlisters directly.<sup>2</sup>

A Few Family Disagreements. By the late 16th century, Loup was well established as a clan seat. MacAlisters still kept Ardpatrik in Knapdale as well as the stewardry of Kintyre from



Figure 1: Timeline



MacDonald retreated to Ireland. Maclean invaded Islay. MacDonald invaded Mull and Tiree. Maclean ravaged and plundered Kintyre. They were both captured, thrown into prison and ended on the gallows. Their lands were forfeit.<sup>7</sup>

Figure 2 shows the locations mentioned in this article. Known MacAlister residences are shown in red.

The lands that provided life for the clans were being disrupted. For survival or opportunism, MacAlisters of Arran plundered 12,000 pounds worth of possessions from John Montgomery of Skelmorie. Archibald MacAlister (heir of Tarbert) took 1200 men to Bute and plundered the Stewart possessions.<sup>6</sup>

This brings us to the period covered by our map. The map in Figure 3 shows clan territories based on the Acts of Parliament of 1587 and 1594. Note that our MacAlister clan is only shown along the northmost shores of Loch Tarbert,

while the family's homes were actually widely scattered across the peninsula and certainly included Loup. There may have been some discrepancies between the Acts of Parliament and the actual places of residence at that time.

In 1605, the royal charter for the Loup lands was confirmed, making Hector MacAlister a landholder for the King. Following the hanging of Angus MacDonald and Lachlan Maclean, the King granted all former MacDonald land grants of Kintyre to the Earl of Argyll. Hector and some of the MacAlister family escaped King James' resulting edict "not to let any of his new lands to anyone named MacDonald, MacNeil or MacAlister".<sup>3</sup> This lasted some time, as we see that in 1623 a MacAlister of Loup was named one of the Justices of the Peace for Argyllshire. Tarbert was taken by the Macleans during the raids, then later given to the Campbells by the King.<sup>5</sup>

Stability was not to be had for the residents of Kintyre for some time. The Argyle family, now in control of the entire peninsula, declared itself for the Covenanters in the Bishop's War of 1638 and raised an army. The ensuing war razed the estates of Kintyre, leaving a wasteland in its wake. So little was left to support the Argyle family that the Estates of Parliament gave funds to support the family. Many Kintyre residents fled to Ireland and were replaced by lowland and Ayrshire families that had joined the Campbell cause.<sup>8</sup>

The Loup is the one grant to the MacAlister family that came from the King and was not part of what passed from the Lord of the Isles (MacDonald) to the Earl of Argyll (Campbell). It remained a continuous clan seat until 1746, when Angus MacAlister was sued by his father's creditors and lost Loup. Angus, 11th of Loup, was the last MacAlister freeholder on Kintyre.<sup>3</sup>

In 1810, the Loup family was in bankruptcy, and joined (by marriage) with the Kennox family in Ayrshire, taking that clan seat out of Kintyre.<sup>5</sup> The people, however, remained and continued to endeavor to stake their claims on the peninsula. Thanks to the painstaking efforts of Keith MacAlister of the Glenbarr MacAlisters (descended from Ian Dubh of Loup), much of the Loup lands are back in MacAlister hands, along with holdings in Glenbarr. A MacAlister Clan Centre exists in Glenbarr today. (The Clan Centre, at Glenbarr Abby, is currently closed for repairs; a date for

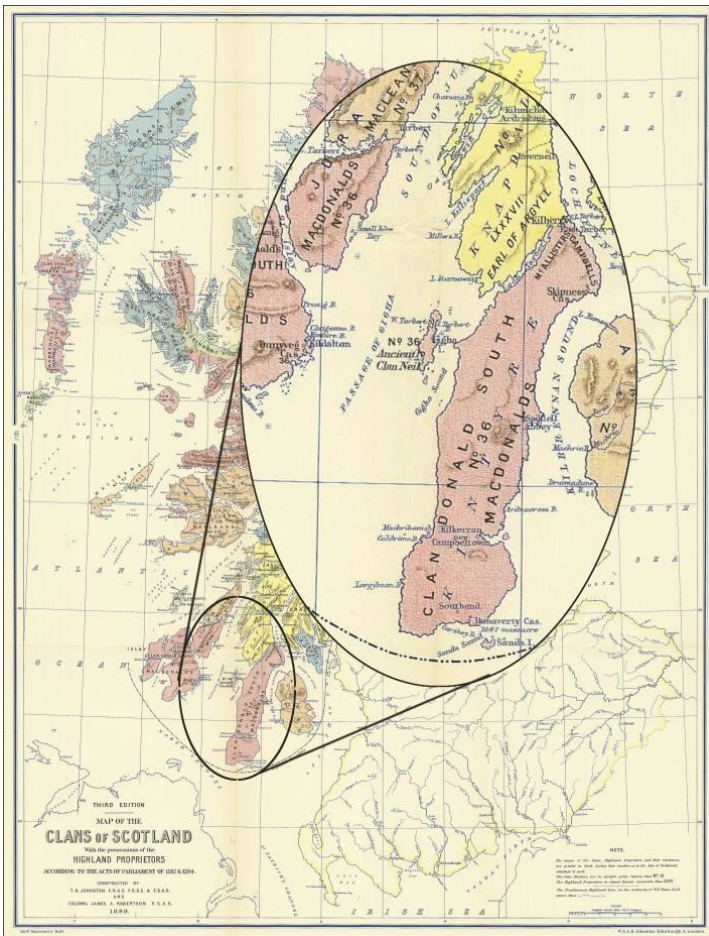


Figure 3: Map - Clans of Scotland According to the Acts of Parliament 1587 & 1594

reopening is uncertain.) Loup House, a manor house north of Clachan village, still stands and until recently was also a Clan Centre. There is also a branch of the family on the Isle of Skye, who hosted Bonnie Prince Tcharlach (Charlie) during his escape from Culloden.<sup>9</sup>

Footnotes

1. McAllister, D. R. (1998). *Mac Alasdair The History of a Branch of the McAllister Family*. Private - Peoria, Arizona.
2. McAllister, L. C. (2015). *A Brief History of the Clan Alasdair*. CMA Scottish Research Project. [https://pensiveonion.com/srp2/index.php/A\\_brief\\_history\\_of\\_The\\_Clan\\_Alasdair](https://pensiveonion.com/srp2/index.php/A_brief_history_of_The_Clan_Alasdair)
3. McAllister, L. C. (2016, July 19). *A Freeholder of Argyll*. Today in Macalister History. <https://macalisterhistory.com/category/macalisters/mcalester-of-loup/>
4. Wikimedia Foundation. (2023, March 9). *Clan*

5. *MacAlister*. Wikipedia. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clan\\_MacAlister](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clan_MacAlister)
5. *History of the Clan*. Sites.rootsweb.com. (n.d.). <https://sites.rootsweb.com/~clnmacgs/max3a.htm>
6. Regan, R. (2013, August). *Desk Based Assessment & Archaeological Ground Survey - web-cdn.org*. Tarbert Castle Survey. <https://web-cdn.org/s/88/file/reports/tarbert-castle-survey-dba.pdf>
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8. Lady Linda McCartney Kintyre Memorial Trust. (n.d.). *History of Kintyre*. The Lady Linda McCartney Memorial Garden. <http://www.lindasgarden.co.uk/historyofkintyre.htm>
9. McAllister, L. C. (2012, September 19). *Macalister Clan Centre Established*. Today in Macalister History. <https://macalisterhistory.com/>

*Target Dates for CMA Journal & Newsletter Submissions*

The CMA editorial staff rely upon contributors (members and non-members) to provide material for our journals and newsletters. We have been the beneficiaries recently of articles by several new contributors, and one of the questions they typically ask is “by when do you need a final draft?” Our target deadlines are shown in the table below.

For example, we would like to have final drafts from the authors for each Spring newsletter by 1 March. That gives time to combine the articles and compose the finished copy, including any editorial adjustments, and email a digital version to all members by 31 March. At that time, we also forward the finished version to our publisher

for printing. It typically takes the publisher 4-6 weeks to print and mail copies to members who have paid for a paper copy.

We would like to encourage anyone who feels like they have an article waiting to write (or already written) to contact the editorial staff at [cma-editor@clanmcalister.org](mailto:cma-editor@clanmcalister.org). The topic can be anything on McAlisters (any spelling), genealogy, Scotland/Ireland, or any other topic you feel may be of interest to members. Our editorial staff is here to help with topics, scheduling, editing assistance, and other questions you might have.

— CMA Editors

**Target Dates for Publication Submissions**

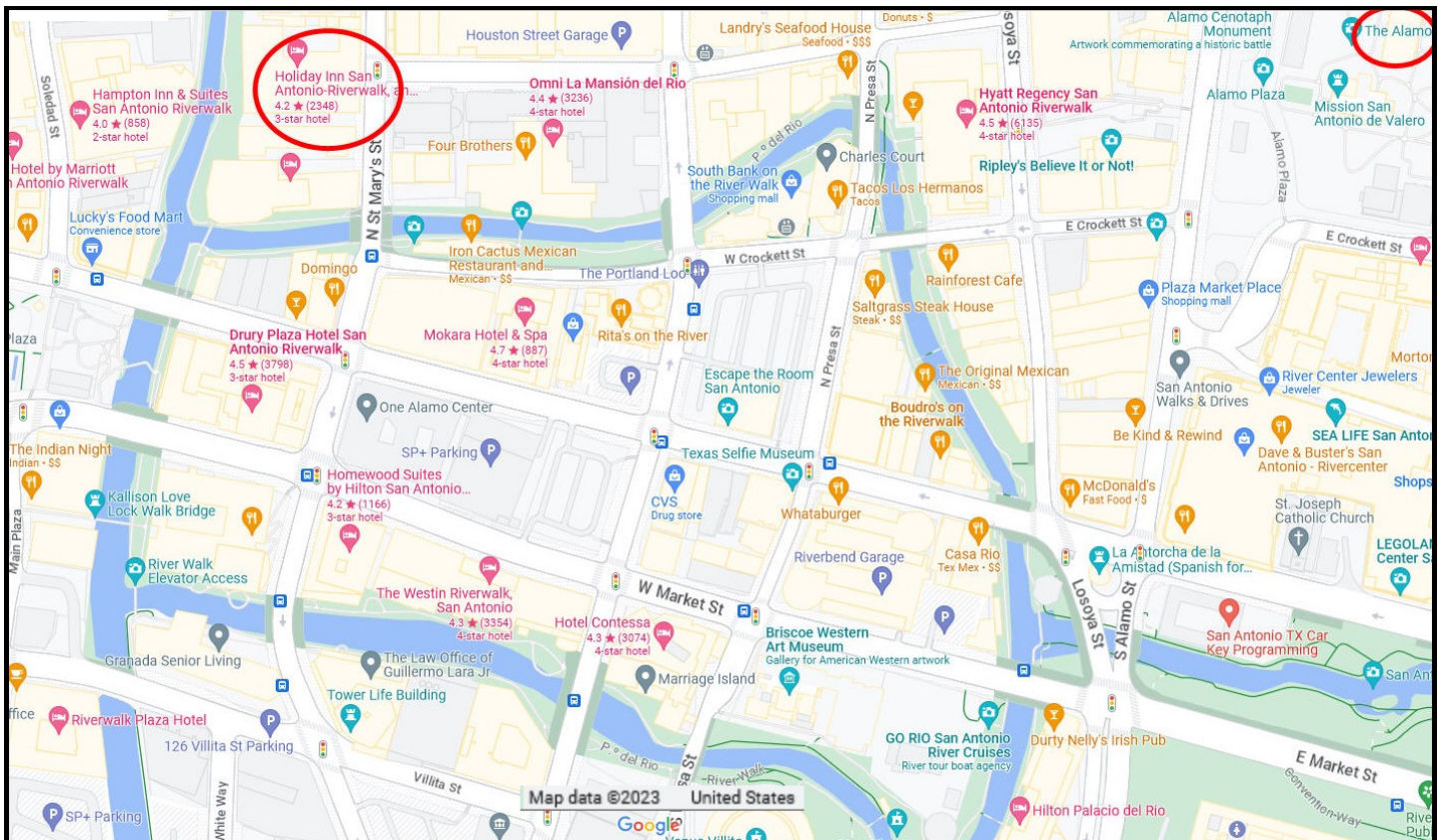
CMA Newsletter/ Journal Edition	Final Draft Due to the Editor	Digital Copy Mailed to All Members
Spring	01 March	31 March
Summer	01 June	30 June
Fall	01 September	30 September
Winter	01 December	15 January

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*Join Us on the San Antonio Riverwalk — 17-20 October 2024*