

## Remembering Tony McAlpine

Ma and Pa married and moved to our Otsego farm in 1941.

Tony and his wife Fran owned the farm immediately to the east. That farmstead was barely a quarter mile from ours. Sometime in the mid-1940's, Donald and Marie Corbin bought that farm and Tony and Fran moved to Dayton.

Tony was the father and the patriarch of a large clan of McAlpine's that were significant in Dayton.

When I was very young Tony would periodically come to visit.

Mostly to chat with Mom about current events and old times while she worked in the kitchen.

Tony always wore a broad brimmed Fedora hat.

As he prepared to go and reached for his hat, he would invariably offer to dance a gig for us.

To do that he would throw his hat on the floor and dance around it.

In my mind he is always dancing merrily to a gig tune.

Maybe Tony sang or hummed, or maybe my mind supplies the tune, but the tune is always there.



## McAlpine Genealogy

Now more than seventy years later, we have a customer named Jake McAlpine.

Jake is a nice young man with small children.

I met him one day in Albertville with his 6-year-old daughter to drop off his meat.

I asked if he was descended from the Dayton McAlpine's. He said yes but with some reluctance.

After some questioning he acknowledged that his grandfather was Richard.

Richard was four or five years older than me.

Kathy was in Ann's grade.

I knew that Richard was Clarence's son. And that Clarence was Tony's son. The third of nine.

I immediately thought how meaningful it might be the little girl to have a memory of an old man telling her that as a young boy, her great-great-great grandfather had danced a gig for him.

Jake did not seem eager to claim even Richard, much less older ancestors.

Maybe he just wasn't interested in genealogy, most people are surprisingly disinterested, or maybe there were other family issues.

In any case I never spoke to Tony's great-great-great-granddaughter.