

## DESCENT OF PIPING

The **MacCrimmons** are the most important family in the Descent of Piping.

They ran a College of Piping at Borreraig in Skye from around 1670. Patrick Og was the Master Piper of this family. The school ran for around 100 years.

The people we are concerned with, that Patrick taught, are Charles MacArthur, Iain Dall MacKay and his own son Malcolm.

Malcolm taught his son Iain Dubh. Patrick, Malcolm and Iain Dubh were all tutors at the College.

The MacCrimmons are responsible for about 25 Piobaireachd Compositions. They are also responsible for the Gracenote System we use today.

### **MacKays of Gairloch**

The Master Piper of this family was Iain Dall MacKay (The Blind Piper). He was taught for 7 years by Patrick Og. Iain Dall taught his son, Angus who in turn taught his son, John Roy.

### **MacArthurs.**

Like the MacCrimmons they also had a College of Piping in Ulva which is off the West Coast of the Isle of Mull. Charles was the Master Piper of this family who was taught by Patrick Og at Borreraig for 11 years. Charles became that good that Malcolm MacCrimmon sent his son Donald Ruadh to Charles for finishing. Donald Ruadh taught Alexander Bruce (Glenelg).

### **MacKays of Raasay**

John MacKay of Raasay was taught from the descendants of Iain Dall MacKay of Gairloch and Iain Dubh, the last of the Great MacCrimmons.

John taught his son, Angus MacKay who was a collector of Piobaireachd and was the first Sovereigns Piper. He taught the MacPhersons, John Ban MacKenzie and the Camerons.

### **MacPhersons**

Angus Cam was the Master Teacher of this family, he was taught by Alexander Bruce (Glenelg), Iain Dubh and John MacKay of Raasay.

He passed his knowledge onto his son, Malcolm (Calum Piobaire) who in turn taught his son, John. Both Malcolm and John taught John MacDonald of Inverness.

### **John Ban MacKenzie**

He was taught by John MacKay of Raasay. John Ban taught Donald Cameron and Ronald MacKenzie, who taught John MacCall who in turn taught William Lawrie and Donald MacLean.

### **Camerons.**

John Ban MacKenzie and also Angus MacKay of Raasay taught Donald Cameron. Donald taught his 3 sons, Alick, Keith and Colin. All 3 sons influenced John MacDonald of Inverness but Alick and Colin are mainly responsible.

Although this family dies out after the 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation they influenced 3 Collections of Piobaireachds.

1. Glens Collection.
2. Kilberry Collection.
3. General Thomason's Collection.

Alick and Keith also taught John MacDougall Gillies.

### **John MacDonald (Inverness)**

John was probably the most influenced and sought after tutor of our decade, as you can see he is an important man in the link between past and present.

He taught no fewer than 14 Gold Medallists and won just about every prize available to a piper. Some of the important people he taught are J A MacLellan, Donald MacLean (Lewis), Donald MacLeod, R B Nicol and R U Brown.

It would be fair to say that every present day piper has a link with John MacDonald either through their teacher or their teachers teacher.