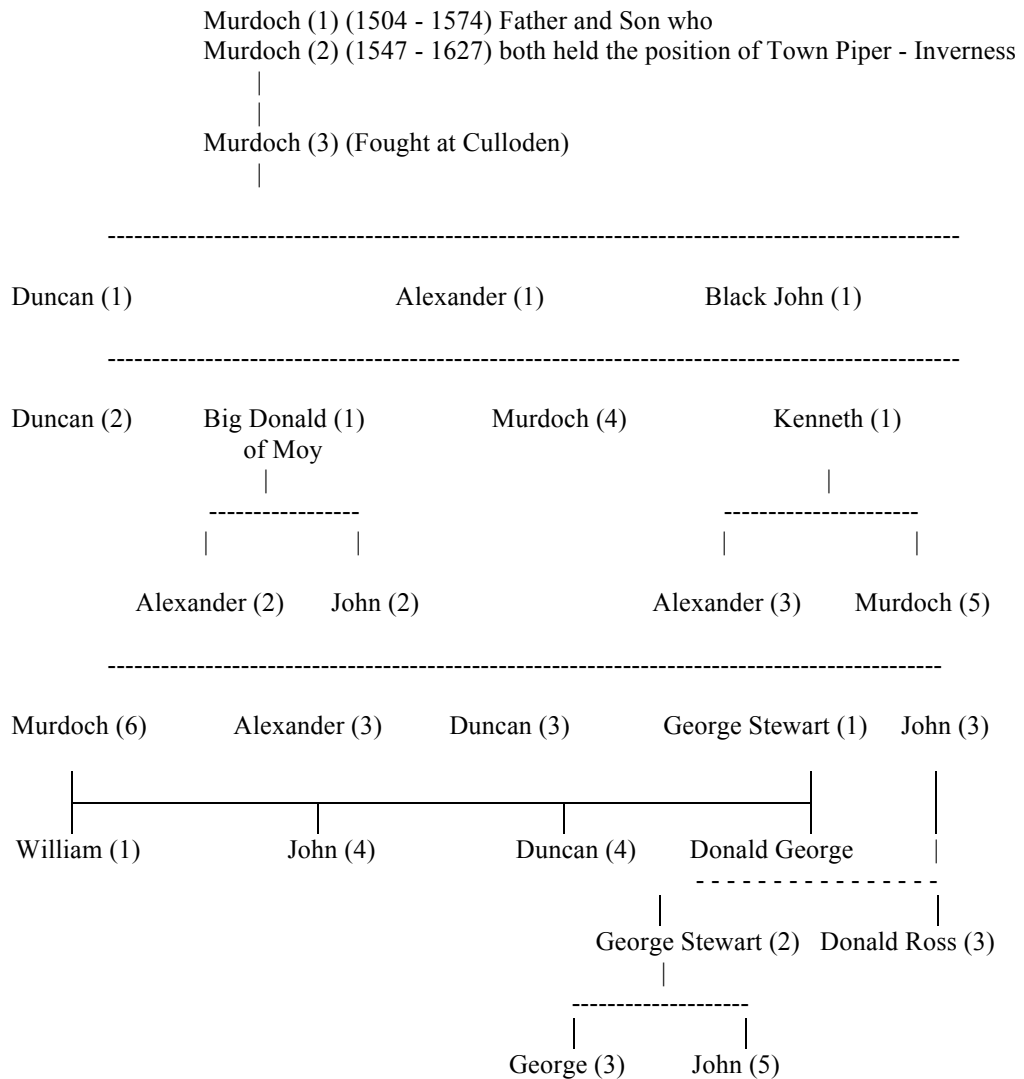


THE MACLENNANS

FAMILY HISTORY

The early history of this family shows that in the 16th Century two members of it served in succession as Town Pipers to Inverness and that also another member was at the Battle of Culloden. It seems fairly definite that the family in its very early days had Inverness-shire and also South Ross-shire connections. The present family can be traced to one Duncan who was a son of the Murdoch who was at Culloden, and the Piping is strengthened by Duncan's instruction from Angus Mackay of the Gairloch MacKays. Duncan married Margaret MacLennan from Gairloch and the writers feel that this where the connection with the great Piping has its roots.

FAMILY TREE



FACT AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING THE LIFETIME OF FAMOUS MACLENNANS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>AGE</u>	<u>ACCOMPLISHMENT OR FACT</u>
<u>MURDOCH</u>	1504 (5)	-	Born, presumably in Inverness-shire and during his life was Inverness Town Piper.
	1547	43	and in 1547 had son Murdoch.
	1574 (5)	73	Died.
<u>MURDOCH (2)</u>	1547 (5)	-	Born, presumably in Inverness. Followed his father as Inverness Town Piper.
	1627 (5)	80	Died. Killed in a raid made by retainers of the Earl of Moray, presumably on Inverness.
<u>MURDOCH (3)</u>	1700 (5)	-	Born and lived at Mellon Charles married Janet MacKenzie from Aultbea.
	1745 (5)	45	Is said to have fought at the Battle of Culloden.
	1759 (5)	59	Had son, Duncan and several other offsprings who are not known to have done anything in the Piping sphere.
	?		Date of death not known.
<u>DUNCAN (1)</u>	1759 (5)	-	Born at Aultbea, Ross-shire.
	1779 (5)	20	Piped the recruits of The Black Watch from Stirling to Leith.
	1781 (5)	22	Had son, Duncan II
	1782 (5)	23	Had son, John who is not shown on the tree.
	1815 (5)		Was at the Battle of Waterloo.
	?		Had sons Big Donald of Moy, Murdoch and Kenneth.
<u>DUNCAN II</u>	1837 (5)	78	Died.
	1781	-	Born.
	1815 (5)		Was at the Battle of Waterloo
	1825 (5)	34	Had son Murdoch VI.
	1827 (5)	36	Had son Alexander III.
	1832 (5)	41	Had son Duncan III.
	1835 (5)	44	Had son John III.
	1843 (5)	52	Had son John III.
1869 (5)	78	Died.	
<u>BIG DONALD OF MOY</u>	1783 (5)		Date of birth not known. He was the third son of Duncan I.
	(6)		Is said to be native of Strathpeffer, Ross-Shire, and to have taught Donald Cameron and John Ban MacKenzie
	1811 (5)		Had son Alexander I.
	1817 (5)		Had son John II.
	?		Date of death is not known.
<u>KENNETH I</u>	C 1785		Date of birth is not known, but as his brother John II was born in 1782, he would presumably have been born before 1800.
	?		Had son Alexander III.
	1826 (5)		Had son Murdoch V.
	?		Date of death is not known.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>AGE</u>	<u>ACCOMPLISHMENT OR FACT</u>
<u>ALEXANDER II</u>	1811	-	Born (second son of Big Donald of Moy) and was known as Alex (Sandy).
	?		He was taught by his father and by Donald Cameron and also had much tuition from Calum Piobaire MacPherson.
	? (6)		Was Pipe Major of the 74 th .
	1857	46	Won the Prize Pipe at the Northern Meeting.
	1860	49	Won the Gold Medal at the Northern Meeting.
	?		Was Pipe Major to the Inverness-shire Militia.
	1902 (6)	91	Died at Falkirk.
<u>JOHN II</u>	1817 (5)		Born (third son Big Donald of Moy)
	?		Taught by his father and John ban MacKenzie.
	?		Was Piper to the Earl of Fife.
	1848	31	Won the Prize Pipe at the Northern Meeting.
	1854	37	Won the Gold Medal at the Northern Meeting.
	1867	50	Won the second Gold Medal at the Northern Meeting.
	1906	89	Died.
<u>MURDOCH V</u>	1825 (5)		Born (second son of Kenneth I)
	1862	36	Won the Prize Pipe at the Northern Meeting.
	1914	88	Died at Bogallan
<u>MURDOCH VI</u>	1825		Born (first son of Duncan II).
	1850		Performed Dirk Dance in London.
	?		Emigrated to Ontario Canada.
	1905	80	Died.
<u>ALEXANDER III</u>	1827 (5)		Born (second son of Duncan II)
	1850 (5)	23	Performed the Dirk Dance in London.
	?		Emigrated to Ontario, Canada.
	?		He was a Dancer and a Piper. Date of Death not known.
<u>DUNCAN III</u>	1832		Born (third son of Duncan II).
	?		Emigrated to Ontario, Canada. He was a Dancer and a Piper.
	?		Date of death is not known.
<u>GEORGE STEWART</u>	1835 (5)		Born (fifth son of Duncan II).
	1853 (5)	18	Had son John IV.
	1860 (5)	25	Had son William I
	1869 (5)	34	Had son Donald George
	1873 (5)	38	Died.
<u>JOHN III</u> (Hereafter referred to as Lt John)	1843 (1)	-	Born in Kilcoy
	1884 (2)	41	Had son George Stewart.
	?	?	Had son Duncan (2).
	?	?	Had son John (2).
	?	?	Had son Francis (1).
	?	?	Had son William (2).
	?	?	Had son Hugh (1)
	1901 (2)	58	Had son Donald Ross.
	1907 (2)	64	Published "Piobaireachd as MacCrimmon Played it".
	1923 (1)	80	Died and was buried in Echo Bank Cemetery Edinburgh
	1924 (1)		Published (Posthumously by his sons George Stewart and Donald Ross) " The Piobaireachd as it was played in the Ages".

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>AGE</u>	<u>ACCOMPLISHMENT OR FACT</u>
<u>WILLIAM</u>	1860 (1)		Born in Fairburn, Ross-shire
	1878 (3)	18	Won Gold Medal at Oban and Prize Pipe at Northern Meeting.
	1879 (3)	19	Won Former Winner's Gold Medal at Northern Meeting.
	1892 (2)	32	Died in Montreal, Canada.
<u>DONALD ROSS</u>	1901 (1)	-	Born in Edinburgh
	1919 (2)	18	Joined Scots Guards
	1924 (2)	23	Transferred to Seaforth Highlanders as Pipe Major.
	1946 (1)	45	Retired from Seaforth Highlanders.
	1956 (3)	55	Won both Oban and Inverness Gold Medals
<u>GEORGE STEWART</u>	1884 (2)		Born in Edinburgh
	1894 (2)	10	Played for Queen Victoria at Balmoral Castle and was Amateur Champion of Great Britain.
	1899 (2)	15	Joined the Gordon Highlanders
	1904 (3)	20	Won gold Medal at Oban while a Cpl in the Gordon Highlanders.
	1905 (1)	21	Won Gold Medal at Inverness. Same year became Pipe Major of The Gordon Highlanders.
	1909 (3)	24	Won Clasp at Inverness.
	1910 (2)	26	Composed Lochaber Gathering.
	1914 (1)	30	Had son George.
	1915 (1)	31	Had son John.
	1920 (3)	36	Won Clasp at Inverness.
	1921 (3)	37	Won Clasp at Inverness.
	1922 (2)	38	Retired from the Gordon Highlanders and started business as a Bagpipe Maker in Aberdeen.
	1929 (2)	45	Published his Book of Pipe Music. Same year he died.

A SHORT BIOGRAPHY OF FAMOUS MACLENNANS

DUNCAN (1)

He is important because from him comes the link in this family of great Piping and also Dancing repute with the MacKays of Gairloch who had their tuition from the MacCrimmons. Duncan was taught to play by Angus MacKay of Gairloch. He joined The Black Watch and in a fracas at Leith when the Regiment mutinied he was wounded in the leg, but was able later to distinguish himself at the Battle of Waterloo (5).

BIG DONALD OF MOY

He is said to have lived in the Strathconon area of Ross-shire and taught Donald Cameron and John Ban MacKenzie. It is thought that this was their initial teaching, as they are credited with being taught later by the MacKays of Raasay. He is buried in the graveyard at Contin in his native Strathconon (5) (6).

ALEXANDER II (SANDY)

He was one of those Pipers who assisted General Thomason with the General's book "Ceol Mor", and is known as "of the Inverness Militia". He was taught by his father, Donald Cameron and Calum (Piobaire) MacPherson. He in turn taught the famous Pipers, Ronald MacKenzie of Ord and John MacBean who was the last Piper to win the "Great Champions" Gold Medal. He was also Pipe Major for some time of the 74th Regiment. The writer presumes before his connection with the Inverness Militia (5) (6).

JOHN II

He was the third son of Big Donald of Moy and was taught by his father and by John Ban Mackenzie. A prominent Piper who won the Prize Pipe at the Northern Meeting and subsequently two Gold Medals. He was for some time Piper to the Earl of Fife.

MURDOCH V

The second son of Kenneth and won the Prize Bagpipe in 1862. the Bagpipe was inscribed:

By the Northern Meeting
to
Murdo MacLennan
Piper to the Munlochys Corps for
the best performance of
the Highland Bagpipe. Sept 1862

He was a very tall man with a white Flowing beard, and lived in Artfallie, Gairnside, and Bogallan, all of which places his famous 2nd cousin Pipe Major George S MacLennan used as names for various compositions. Indeed he may have been responsible for some of G. S's tuition.

LT JOHN

He joined the Dundee City Police in 1865, and transferred to Edinburgh in 1878. He was a very keen student of Piping, particularly as a Historian and Theorist, and was consequently a famed authority. He taught his famous piping sons, George Stewart and Donald Ross, and his nephew, William (20).

GEORGE

He was a brother of Lt John, and he had sons, William, Donald, George and Duncan, He died in Minard, Argyll (1) (2).

MURDO

He was the second brother of Lt John, and little is known of him except that he taught his nephews, William and Donald George to dance. He died in Canada (1) (2).

THE FOLLOWING IS AN ACCOUNT OF THE SONS OF LT JOHNGEORGE STEWART

He is said to have been the finest player of Marches, Strathspeys and Reels, of all time. He was a brilliant composer, and so many are his compositions, that it is impossible to list them. Many of them are unpublished at the time of this writing, tunes like "Lochaber Gathering", "Pipe Major John Stewart", "Mrs MacPherson of Inveran" and "Alick C MacGregor", are typical of his art. His death in 1929, at the age of 45, robbed Piping of one of its finest Champions. He was taught by his father, and his maternal uncle, John Stewart. He also had one year's tuition from J MacDougall Gillies. George, in turn, gave his brother, Donald Ross, some tuition (1) (2). He composed a Piobaireachd "Lament for Lt John MacLennan".

DUNCAN, JOHN, FRANCIS, WILLIAM AND HUGH

Nothing of note, regarding Piping, is known about them.

DONALD ROSS

The youngest son of Lt John, he was a regular competitor from 1920 on. He served abroad with the Seaforth Highlanders for many years, and did much to enhance the position of a Pipe Major, and helped to achieve Time Promotion for those who now hold that appointment. He studied reed-making and, on his retirement in 1946, he put this knowledge to good use and became one of today's foremost

reedmakers. He was also Regimental Sergeant Major in the Seaforth Highlanders, and was later commissioned.

His father Lt John, and his brother George taught him to play and two famous Pipers, Donald MacLean (Lewis) and Donald MacLeod, who served as Pipers under him, had much benefit of his knowledge. He is a member of the Piobaireachd Society's Judging Panel, and as such, sits on the Board that examines the candidates for the Pipe Major's Certificate at the Army School of Piping. He is one of eight Pipers who have won both the Gold Medals in one year (1) (2) (4).

THE FOLLOWING IS AN ACCOUNT OF THE SONS OF GEORGE (BROTHER OF LT JOHN)

DONALD GEORGE

He was born in 1868 at Minard Castle, Argyll. He was taught to Dance by his Uncle Murdo, and became a World Authority on highland Dancing (1) (20).

JOHN

He became a Major in the Gordon Highlanders and had the tune "Major John MacLennan" composed for him by his cousin, George Stewart. He was also quite a good Dancer, and died in 1915 (1).

WILLIAM

He was taught to Dance by his Uncle Murdo, and to play the Pipes by his uncle, Lt John. He was Champion Piper, but probably devoted more time to Dancing, at which he was world Champion. He died, aged 32, whilst visiting Montreal (10) (2) (3).

DUNCAN

Nothing is known of him except that he was an accomplished Dancer who emigrated to New Zealand and died there, aged 72 (2).

THE FOLLOWING IS AN ACCOUNT OF THE SONS OF GEORGE STEWART

GEORGE

Born in 1914, he now resides in Aberdeen. He was a LCpl Piper in 4/5th Gordon Highlanders, and was captured as St Valery in 1940. He possesses MSS of his famous father (1).

FAMOUS PUPILS AND TEACHERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TAUGHT BY</u>	<u>PUPILS</u>
<u>DUNCAN I</u>	Angus MacKay (Gairloch)	His sons, particularly Big Donald of Moy, Duncan and Kenneth.
<u>BIG DONALD OF MOY</u>	By his father Duncan I	Donald Cameron, John Ban MacKenzie and his sons Alexander and John.
<u>ALEXANDER II</u>	His father, Calum (Piobaire) MacPherson and Donald Cameron	Ronald MacKenzie of Ord, and John MacBean.
<u>JOHN II</u>	His father and John Ban MacKenzie	
<u>JOHN III</u> (Lt John)		George Stewart II.
<u>GEORGE STEWART II</u>	His father - Lt John	His brother - Donald Ross.
<u>DONALD ROSS</u>	His brother, George Stewart JohnMacDonald, Willie Ross.	Donald MacLeod, Donald MacLean.