

## THE MACARTHURS

### FAMILY HISTORY

The MacArthurs were Hereditary Pipers to the MacDonalds of the Isles. They were esteemed in piping next to the MacCrimmons and, like them, ran a School for Instructions in Pipe Music (1). Their college was situated in Ulva, a small island of Mull and later, when they became Pipers to the MacDonalds, they were given land at Hunglatter in the North part of Skye. Authorities for the statement made herein are noted by number (ie (1), (2), etc) and by checking these against Appendix "A", the authors name will be found.

### FAMILY TREE

JOHN BANE (brother of) - CHARLES MACARTHUR (brother of) NEIL

<u>ANGUS</u>	<u>ALEXANDER</u>	<u>DONALD</u>	<u>JOHN</u> (Professor)	?   JOHN
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### A SHORT BIOGRAPHY OF FAMOUS MACARTHURS

CHARLES He was taught by Patrick Og MacCrimmon, and was at Borreraig for 11 years. So good a Piper did he become, that Malcolm MacCrimmon, Patrick Og's son, decided to send his son Donald Ruadh to Charles for finishing (1). He had two sons, Donald and Alexander.

In 1781, he competed at the Falkirk Tryst and was placed 2<sup>nd</sup> while Piper to the Earl of Eglinton (1a). He composed "Abercairney's Salute" (1b) and "The Lament for Sir James MacDonald of the Isles" (2).

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DONALD & ALEXANDER About the two sons of Charles, nothing much is known except that Donald was drowned between Skye and Uist, and that Alexander emigrated to America (1).

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JOHN & NEIL Information about Charles' brother, John Bane and Neil, is not available. All that is known about them is that John Bane's son Angus, and Neil's son John, made their mark in Piping (1).

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ANGUS He was, probably, the last Hereditary Piper to the MacDonalds of the Isles and, from the evidence of his MSs, there is no doubt that he had a good knowledge of the Piobaireachd. At his deathbed, John MacGregor IV noted down a certain number of Piobaireachd from him. This MS, known as the Highland Society of London MS contains 30 tunes, but it is thought that only 12 were dictated to MacGregor by Angus (3). This MS is, perhaps the oldest written record of Pipe Music on the Staff for it is pre 1800, and is now held in the National Library of Scotland (4). In 1790 and 1796, he composed Laments for Lady and Lord MacDonald, respectively (2a). He taught Donald MacDonald, Edinburgh (4a).

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JOHN

Although he was the son of Neil, he was taught by his Uncle Charles. He became Piper to the Highland Society of Scotland, and was greatly admired for his fine style and gave much instructions to students in the Art of Playing the Bagpipe and because of this pursuit, he was call "Professor MacArthur". At the Highland Society's Competitions, he frequently gave exhibitions of his skill. He was very highly thought of by his contemporaries and, 1783 at Falkirk he was presented with a set of pipes made by Hugh Robertson, this present was accompanied by a signed declaration by all the Pipers at the Gathering, as a mark of respect and esteem. He composed "Salute to the Highland Society of Scotland" (1c).

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JOHN  
(Nephew of  
Professor)

It is not known who his father was, only that he was John, the Professor's nephew. In 1804, he was 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Highland Society's Competitions, as Piper to Ronald MacDonald of Staffa (1c) In 1806, he was placed 2<sup>nd</sup>, but declined the Prize (1c).

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APPENDIX 'A'

<u>REFERENCE NO</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>ARTICLE</u>	<u>AUTHOR</u>	<u>PAGE NO</u>
(1)	Angus MacKay's Book	The MacArthurs	A MacKay	11, 12
(1a)	" " "	Competition Pipers	"	15
(1b)	" " "	Tunes	"	76
(1c)	" " "	Competition Pipers	"	16, 17
(2)	Ceol Mor	Tunes	Gen Thomason	vii
(2a)	" "	"	" "	viii
(3)	Piobaireachd Society Books 1 and 2	Preface	J P Grant A Campbell	ii
(4)	Kilberry Book of Ceol Mor	Introduction	" "	11
(4a)	-----"-----	"	" "	10