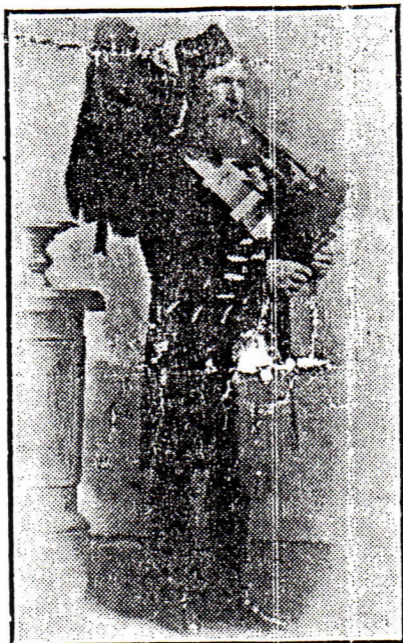


FAMOUS PIPER OF THE PAST

LINK WITH THE CRIMEAN WAR



PIPE-MAJOR JOHN MACDONALD
A Native of Tiree

THIS PICTURE SHOWS PIPE-MAJOR MACDONALD in the uniform which he wore in the service of the Marquis of Lorne (later Duke of Argyll and uncle of the present holder of the Dukedom) while the Marquis was Governor General of Canada.

Pipe-Major Macdonald was for over 20 years attached to the 72nd Highlanders (Seaforth's) and saw service in both the Crimean War and the Indian Mutiny. At the battle of Sebastopol the Pipe-Major of the Battalion was killed and John Macdonald, who was then Pipe-Sergeant, was promoted to the position of Pipe-Major.

When a rifle bullet passed through the bag of his own pipes he at once took possession of the set of the Battalion Pipe-Major who was then lying dead on the field of battle, and played in front of the members of the Battalion as they marched up the heights of Sebastopol.

On severing his connection with the Seaforth's he was for five years Pipe-Major on the Militia staff at Stirling Castle.

After leaving the service of the Marquis of Lorne he returned to his native island of Tiree where he spent the remaining years of his life. He passed away at Tiree in 1894.

Composer of Pipe Tunes

Pipe-Major Macdonald, who in the early days of his army career was a pupil of John Mackenzie, piper to the Marquis of Breadalbane at Blackmount, composed a number of well-known pipe tunes. These, it is understood include "Macdonald Going to the War," "Duke of Roxburgh's Farewell to Blackmount," "72nd Highlanders' Farewell to Edinburgh," and the "79th's Farewell to Gibraltar."

It is interesting to note that Rev. D. H. Macdonald, Hylipol, Tiree, is the younger son of this famous piper. Mr Peter Macdonald, the elder son, has been for many years in New Zealand. He went out to the Antipodes as a young man in the capacity of piper to Sir Douglas MacLean who was the owner of Maraekakko, one of the largest sheep stations in the North Island.

The set of pipes seen in the picture was won by John Macdonald at the close of the Crimean campaign in a competition open to the pipers of the Highland Brigade. These pipes are now in the possession of Mr Peter Macdonald.