

## Piping in the 1930's

### Scottish Pipers' Association

*'An Amateur Piping Competition, held under the auspices of the Scottish Pipers' Association, Glasgow, attracted a large entry, when the contests took place in the Highlanders Institute, Elmbank Street, Glasgow, on Saturday 5th October. The Chairman on the occasion was Mr D MacMurchy, President of the Association, and the judge was Pipe Major William Fergusson, Glasgow.'*

*Piobaireachd Playing confined to amateurs who have never won a prize in open competition – Farquhar MacRae Trophy and gold and silver medals:*

*1 R Hepburn, Newmains, Lament for Mary MacLeod*

*2 James MacNeill, Partick, MacCrimmon's Sweetheart*

*3 Donald Ramsay, Avonbridge, MacCrimmon's Sweetheart*

*4 L Craig, Lament for Mary MacLeod*



James (aka Seumas) MacNeill

The James MacNeill is Seumas MacNeill, co-founder of the College of Piping and pupil of his uncle Archie MacNeill, the blind piper. Just when MacNeill adopted the Gaelic version of his first name is not entirely clear, but among his own generation in and around Glasgow he was known as 'Jimmy' and in the late 40s still signed his name 'James' (see below).

Donald Ramsay is Donald Shaw Ramsay. Again, when or why he adopted the use of his middle name in later life is not clear.

'L' Craig is most probably Dr Leslie Craig who did so much for piping in mid-Argyll and whwas a prominent member of the Glasgow Highland Club and pupil of P/M Donald

MacLeod.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James MacNeill". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

*March*

*1 James MacNeill, Balmoral Highlanders*

*2 L Craig, Glengarry's March*

*3 M Lawther, Balmoral Highlanders*

*4 D Ramsay, Donald Cameron*

*5 W Downie, Mrs J MacColl*

*Strathspey & Reel*

*1 W Kinnear, Lady Loudon/ Rejected Suitor*

*2 W Downie, Top of Craigvenow/Rej. Suitor*

*3 A Braid, Maggie Cameron/Smith of Ghilliechastie [sic]*

*4 A MacIntyre, Pipers' Bonnet/Ca' the Yowes*

*5 Agnes Young, Delvinside/Mrs MacPherson*

*Winner of the Gold Medal for Most Points: James MacNeill, Partick.*

W Kinnear would be Willie Kinnear late of the Kinning Park band in Glasgow, and an outstanding contributor to the pipe band movement throughout his life.