

KINTAIL MASTER BAGPIPE MAKERS



reig Sharp, born 1939, Founded Kintail 1971.



Greig was born in Glasgow, Scotland in 1939 to Isabella and Thomas Greig Sharp. Isabella (MacLeod) originally from Wick, Caithness whose father and forebears hailed from Sandwick on the Isle of Lewis moved to Glasgow as a young woman where she met Thomas Greig Sharp who in turn had come to Glasgow from Forfar on the north east coast of Scotland.

Greig started piping at the age of 10 when he went to Pipe Major George Shearer father of Pipe Major Tom Shearer late P.M. of

Renfrew Burgh Pipe Band. Tom now resides in the USA where he carries on his family traditions in teaching.



When Greig was 12 he joined the 55th Glasgow Company of the Boys Brigade where he was a member of the pipe band. In his later teens he joined the Clan Fraser P.B. in Glasgow. After becoming a sergeant in the Brigade he found himself in charge of and teaching the pipe band for three years before his call up to the colours.

After becoming a Cameronian (Scottish Rifles) at Winston Barracks Lanark he enjoyed 10 weeks of intensive tuition under the well known and respected Pipe Major George Stoddart MBE., BEM. From Lanark Piper Sharp was posted to Muthaiga Camp just outside Nairobi, Kenya where he spent the next 18 months piping under the tuition of firstly, Pipe Major John Mathieson BEM. of Bathgate and Pipe Major Tom Anderson MBE., BEM.





After sailing home with the regiment from Mombassa via Port Said, Suez Canal and Malta Corporal Sharp found himself stationed at Minden, Germany. The culmination of his army career was playing at the 1960 Edinburgh Military Tattoo alongside Corporal Ian McLellan, of the Argyll's, and Corporal Angus Macdonald, of the Scots Guards. At this point Greig had to decide whether to continue his army career by going for his Pipe Majors course or to leave the army to take up other offers that had been made. His decision was to leave the army and take up the position, on 1st May 1961, aged 22 as manager of the at the time world famous bagpipe making company of Peter Henderson Ltd.

Having been brought up between the workshops of both Peter Henderson and R.G. Lawrie he was lucky, as a young boy, to spend a lot of his free time in the company of pipers and bagpipe makers, where his love of piping and bagpipe making began. After 10 years as manager/company secretary of Peter Hendersons he decided that due to changes in the circumstances of the Henderson family and their decision to alter the structure of the bagpipe making side of the business he felt it was time that he became his own man and start his own company which has been known since April 1971, as Kintail, Bagpipe Makers.



From day one Greig insisted on quality and commitment to customers being the principal forces that would drive the business, and to this end he was able to acquire the machinery, tooling and, most importantly, the tradesman of Peter Hendersons who had closed there workshop thus saving the jobs and skills of the bagpipe makers whom he had worked with over the previous 10 years.

With the creation of a highly polished bore and the introduction of his Chalice Pattern Bagpipe to the range the future of Kintail was quickly assured and became synonymous with quality of sound and manufacture.

Being a perfectionist Greig was never satisfied with the range of metal finishes available at that time and took upon himself the introduction of alternative finishes such as Brass, EPNS and Chased Nickel. That completed he then looked at alternatives to Ivory, firstly coming up with alternative Horn as a compliment to brass establishing a demand for these popular innovations leading on to the vast range of **Bagpipe Mounts & Ferrules** which we have on offer today.

Uniforms and kiltmaking being in the blood, Greig's grandfather James Macleod having been the regimental tailor to the Cameron Highlanders in the early 1900's it was only natural for Kintail to be involved in the same trade. To ensure proper fitting kilts & uniforms in 1976 he started to travel to meet and measure his band customers no matter where! In 1981 Kintail introduced the first kilt outfit package deal for Day and Evening wear.

In 1981 Kintail began its sponsorship of The World Pipe Band Championships which continued successfully for 5 years. At the same time Dysart & Dundonald Pipe Band, under the leadership of Pipe Major Bob Shepherd, enjoyed a three year Sponsorship from Kintail. During those 5 years Kintail donated in excess of £40,000 to the above and other piping causes.

In 1991 Greig made his wife Jan and his two nephews Stephen and Drew, (both now fully time-served bagpipe makers) part of the business and created the holding company of Sharp & Co. (Bagpipe Makers) Ltd. This change was also to bring under the one umbrella the Drumran range of bagpipes together with that of David Glen and J&R Glen late of Edinburgh.

Now we are in the new millennium. The Sharp family and their small group of highly trained staff, now established in their new Glasgow premises, are confidently looking forward to the future in the knowledge that all of their products are the finest available making them truly "The Master Bagpipe Makers".

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