# The list of Athenian archons and the leading families of the Archaic Athens

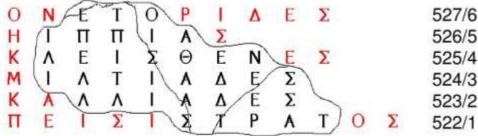


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- Legendary kings allegedly the family members of the Medontids;
- Lifelong archons allegedly the family members of the Medontids;
- Ten year archons the members of different families;
- ► The beginning of the list of annual archons is dated to 684/3 (all dates are BC) the members of different families;
- the list of the annual arhons was composed around 425.





Athenian Archon List, 527/6-522/1 BCE

A fragment of the eponymous archon list has been preserved on stone.

# The annual archaic archons with identifiable family background until the 1st tyranny of Peisistratos (684/3 - ca. 561/0)

- ► 684/3 Kreon, family unknown;
- ► 682/1 Lysiades, family unknown;
- 680/79 Tlesias, family unknown;
- ► 671/0 Leostratos, family unknown;
- ▶ 669/8 Peisistratos a Peisistratid;
- ► 668/7 Autosthenes, family unknown;
- 664/3, 659/8 Miltiades a Philaid;
- ▶ 645/4 Dropides a Medontid;
- ► 639/8 Damasias, family unknown;
- ► 636/5 Epainetos (*basileus*), family unknown;
- ► 632/1 Megakles an Alkmeonid;
- 621/0 Aristaichmos, Drakon (thesmothetes), both family unknown;
- ► 615/4 Heniochides, family unknown;
- 607/6 Phrynon (*strategos*), family unknown;
- 605/4 Aristokles- supposedly a Medontid;

- ► 600/599 Kritias, Solon (*strategos*) Medontidai;
- 597/6 Kypselos a Philaid;
- 596/5 -Telekles or Telekleides, Nikias (envoy);
- > 595/4 Philombrotos, family unknown;
- ► 594/3 Solon a Medontid;
- ▶ 593/2 Dropides a Medontid;
- 591/0 Eukrates, family unknown;
- 591/0 Simon, Alkmeon (strategos) an Alkmeonid;
- ▶ 588/7 Philippos, family unknown;
- > 582/1, 581/0, 580/79 Damasias, family unknown;
- 577/6 Archestratides, family unknown;
- 570/69 Aristomenes, family unknown;
- > 566/5 Hippokleides (archon)- a Philaid, Krates,

Thasykles, Aristodikos, Bryson, Antenor (all hieropoioi),

Kinesias (grammateus), all families unknown;

562/1 - Peisistratos (strategos) - a Peisistratid.

### The recorded early archaic political activities

- Medontids
- the legislation of Solon;
- the archonships of Dropides (elder and younger), Kritias and Aristokles;
- Philaids:
- Miltiades (elder) & Kypselos served as early archons;
- Hippokleides archon and favourite at the wedding of Agariste (the daughter of the Sikyon's tyrant);
- Kimon OM- winner, ally and enemy of Peisistratos;
- Miltiades tyrant of Chersonese, opponent of Peisistratos;
- Alkmeonids:
- Megakles (elder) archon, suppressed the coup of Kylon;
- Alkmeon *strategos* during the First Sacred War;
- Megakles ally and enemy of Peisistratos, the leader of the faction of *paralioi*;
- Peisistratids:
  - Peisistratos (elder) early archon;
- Peisistratos later tyrant who served as strategos;
- Strongly present among the pre-tyranny archons.

on of Phlya - the prosecutor against the Megakles ykurgos, the Eteoboutad - opponent of Peisistratos, the leader of the faction of *pedieis*; Hipponikos - a friend of Solon (Plut. Sol. 15.6), according to the

Not recorded among the pre-tyranny archons.

member of the family.

recurrence of the name among the Kerykes might have been a

## Cults & prominent Athenian families

### No attested connection with ancient cults

- Alkmeonids;
- Medontids;
- Peisistratids;
- Philaids.

#### **Connections with ancient cults**

- Eteoboutads possessed the control of the priesthoods of Athena Polias, Zeus Polios and Poseidon Erechtheus;
- Lykomids supervised the cults of Apollo
  Daphnephoros and Demeter Eleusinia in Phlya;
- ► Eumolpids and Kerykes provided the priests for the Eleusian cults of Demeter and Kore;
- ▶ Salaminians were in charge of the cults of Athena Skiras and Skiros;
- Kephalids took care of the cult of Apollo at Daphni/Aigaleo;
- ▶ Gephyreans were associated with the cult of Apollo Patroos, Gephyraion and Daphnephoros along with the cults of Demeter (Kourotrophos) Achaia.

## **Conclusions**

- Medontids, Alkmeonids, Peisistratids, Philaids, Lykomids, Eteoboutads, Gephyreans, Eumolpids, Kerykes, Kephalids and Salaminians can be identified as active participants either in politics or religious activities of Archaic Athens.
- ► The kinship groups with the biggest number of identified archaic pre-tyranny archons are Philaids, Alkmeonids, Peisistratids and Medontids. Not one of them has an attested ancestral cult or religious festival;
- In mythical space Alkmeonids, Peisistratids and Medontids were known as 'newcomers' while Philaids had moved in mythical times from Salamis island to Athens. All these clans lacked ancestral power and prestige which might be the reason why they were politically so active compared to other clans which possessed powerful ancestral cults and festivals.