

THE BURNETT BANNER

**Burnett Newsletter
(including House of Burnett)**

**Edition No 9
March 2010**

BURNETT ART GALLERY

There are a large number of talented artists amongst the Burnetts and it is the intention to include one or two Burnett works in each edition of the Banner. Since this has only been a very recent idea, I have had no time to seek contributions but I am using this opportunity to invite Burnetts to submit work to me for inclusion in future Banners. I have to point out the editor's decision for inclusion is final and space will be limited. However, I welcome all contributions, regardless of the form of art, and would be grateful if they could be accompanied by the title of the work and the briefest of CV's of the artist.



Crathes Castle

For the opening of the Gallery, and for reasons that include appropriateness, I have selected a painting of Crathes which was given to me by the late Ruth Burnett Phillips who so sadly died recently and whose obituary is later in this edition of the Banner. The painting hangs beside my desk in my study. My wife, Fiona, took up painting only very recently and her first painting, *The Dotty Mug*, hangs in our kitchen at House of Crathes. Whilst there are professionals waiting in the wings for inclusions in future editions of the Banner, I also thought that it would be nice to start this column with two Burnetts who have worked in art solely for their own pleasure.



The Dotty Mug

GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN HIGHLAND FESTIVAL AT LINVILLE, NC

I am very pleased to report that Alexander and Vinny are honoured to have been invited by Frank Vance, General Manager & Vice-President of Operations Grandfather Mountain Highland Festival at Linville NC to attend as Special Guests the Grandfather Mountain Games on July 9th and 10th. This will be Alexander's first visit to a Highland Games in the United States since we visited Santa Rosa about 30 years ago. Please note in 'EVENTS' that The House of Burnett will have a tent at the Gathering.

MONBODDO

As many readers are aware, we were not able to stage our production of *Monboddo the Musical* at Crathes during the Gathering in 2009, but we have now planned to present it in Aberdeen during the week beginning September 6th. To assist in promotion of the production, we regard it as essential to have a good website. Michael Burnett from California and very much involved in the film industry, has kindly given us his website www.Monboddo.com which is currently under construction and will provide all the necessary information in due course.

James Burnett of Leys

RUTH BURNETT PHILLIPS

We were all very sorry to hear of the sudden death of Ruth Phillips. Ruth has attended many of our



gatherings at Crathes even since they were inaugurated in 1992 and we were so pleased that she and many others of her family were here last year. We received such a nice Christmas card including so many compliments about our family and to which I was about to respond when I received this sad news. Whilst I

could add so very much about our friendship and how kind Ruth was to my daughter, Eliza, and me when we attended Grandfather Mountain Games in 2001, below is the obituary which appeared in the press. However, I am constantly reminded of her by her painting of Crathes which she gave me many years ago and which hangs in my study close to my desk

James C A Burnett of Leys

Ruth Iris Burnett Phillips of Edenton, formally of Burgaw, passed away suddenly on Jan. 11, 2010 at her home. Ruth was preceded in death by her mother and father, Ruth Deaton Burnett and John Henry Burnett; her husband, Carey Alvin (Al) Phillips; son, John Gilbert Phillips; granddaughter, Jennifer Ann Phillips; and her sisters, Annetta Collins and Phyllis Burnett. She is survived by her son, Thomas Carey Phillips; his daughter, Barrett Deaton Phillips, his son, Richard Carey Phillips; and by her daughter, Cynthia (Cyndi) Phillips Fletcher; husband, Jeffrey R. Fletcher; their son, William Burnett Fletcher and their daughter, Claiborne Carey Fletcher; and John Phillips' sons, Daniel Carey Phillips, Jonathan David Phillips, daughter, Heather Marie Deaton Phillips; and great-grandson, Hayden Reid Niles Phillips. Ruth is also survived by her brothers, Gilbert Burnett and Julian Burnett; and her sisters, Susie Jones, Sylvia Crippen and Mary Elizabeth Quaintance; and their spouses and many nieces and nephews.

Ruth Phillips graduated from King Smith College in Washington, DC and attended Greensboro College. She was a longtime member of Edenton Baptist Church and St. Paul's Episcopal Church choirs and the North Carolina Choral Society. She was a gifted artist and enjoyed the Little Theatre. She was a

member of the Edenton Garden Club and was a talented flower arranger.

She loved her Scottish Heritage and looked forward to her family reunions in Scotland every four years. She enjoyed being surrounded by her family at the beach and loved her garden and the abundant wildlife on the Albemarle Sound. She treasured her family and many friends, was a loving Mother and Grandmother, and brought great joy to many lives.

DEATH OF A PREVIOUS OWNER OF MUCHALLS CASTLE

I was sorry to hear of the recent death at 88 of Geraldine Simpson who was the previous owner of Muchalls Castle. Built by Alexander Burnett of Leys and his son Thomas in the 16th century, it was purchased from Geraldine by Glenda Cormack in the 1980s and it is now owned by Michael and Janet Hogan. Geraldine was a member of the Pringle family who owned the eponymous prestigious knitwear business and she was the grand-daughter of Robert Pringle who managed the firm. She had a passion for Scottish Castles and, prior to moving to Muchalls, she took over Fetteresso Castle, near Stonehaven, running it with her mother as a temperance hotel.

She was a close friend of the Scottish author, Nigel Tranter, and had a particular love of horses and foxes. Fiona and I visited Geraldine and her husband at Muchalls on at least two occasions of which one was to deliver to her a fox which we had reared from a cub. Somewhat surprisingly, the cub was handed to us by one of the estate gamekeepers as it had been caught in a trap. We kept him in the spacious dog's pen adjacent to our house until we heard that Geraldine had an affinity for foxes. We offered him to her and her husband, Maurice, and they willingly accepted him. He lived in the house for much of the time and I well remember the strong fox smell in the castle on subsequent visits.



Muchalls Castle

James C A Burnett of Leys

GETTING TO KNOW OUR OFFICERS AND BOARD

LELAND L BURNETT - Secretary



Leland L. Burnett assumed the duties as Secretary of the House of Burnett in September of 2005. His Great Grandfather, Dr. James K. Burnett came from VA through the Cumberland Gap to KY, in the 1860's. Leland the son of James Henry Karr Burnett was born in 1940 in Lincoln Co. KY. In the early 1960's he went into the US Navy where he remained for 30 years, retiring in 1991. He and his wife Nancy moved to Door Co. WI to property they had purchased years earlier.

He served on the Door Co. Veterans Service Council for 6 years and did some lobbying for Veterans issues in Washington DC.

Leland has 5 children, 9 granddaughters, 5 grandsons and 16 great grand children. His wife Nancy lost her 7 year battle with cancer in Jan. 2007.

After his retirement in 1991 he started a serious search into the Burnett side of his family. He travelled throughout Kentucky, Virginia and Tennessee, visiting libraries, historical societies, county and state record facilities and searching newspaper records. Making a stop at any reunion or gathering he came upon. Thru this search he was able to trace his lineage back to 1323. Leland is known in some of the Burnett circles as the Burnett story teller.

Leland's intent is to continue to serve the House of Burnett in some capacity. As long as his health holds and he has the energy he will be out and about telling the Burnett story.

GEORGE KREIDER - Director

I'm of German-Swiss ancestry on my father's side and Dutch on my mother's; the only claim I have to Celtic genes is a Thomas Scott on my mother's side in the early 1600s.



After high school I spent three years in the US Army as an Integrated Fire Control System Maintenance Mechanic (basically an electronics technician).

I then earned a BEE from Georgia Tech, married Barbara, and later got an MSEE from San Jose State University. I've worked primarily as a systems engineer or project manager for most of my career. I retired from NASA in 1997, but a few years later found myself working for Lockheed Martin for another nine years from which I just retired (again).

I became involved in the House of Burnett in the 1980s, and over the years have served as Newsletter Editor, Secretary, and as a Director. Barbara and I have put up a HOB tent at Santa Rosa or Pleasanton California each year for the past 15 or so years.

In 1983 we visited Scotland for the first time. When we returned, I innocently remarked to a Scottish-Canadian neighbor that I thought it would be fun to learn to play the bagpipes. The next thing I knew, I was spending Wednesday nights, practice chanter in hand, taking lessons from a piper in the Prince Charles Pipe Band. I subsequently attended the Glasgow [Scotland] College *California Summer School of Piping* for five years, and have been in pipe bands for the last 15 years - currently with the Los Gatos-Monte Sereno Police Pipes and Drums.

My hobbies are my grandchildren, piping, and travel. We've been to Scotland several times and have visited 25 countries overall.

BARBARA KREIDER - Director



Born in the small town (population 500) of Old Fort, North Carolina, I lived in the shadow of the Blue Ridge Mountains and grew up embraced

by my family's Scottish heritage and culture.

After my second year at Mercer University in Macon, Georgia, George and I were married in Florida, where our parents then lived, and moved to Dover, New Hampshire. I earned a BA in English Education at the University of New Hampshire. Three years later, we moved away from the cold to Hawaii, where I taught English to 7th, 8th and 9th graders. I also learned to hula there.

Later, we moved to San Jose, CA, where I earned my Master's degree in Librarianship at San Jose State University and worked in several venues, including public, medical, and school libraries. I also hold a lifetime California Teaching Credential, and two editions of my *Index to Children's Plays in Collections* were published by Scarecrow Press.

During the summers, while our daughter Susan and our son Keith were growing up, our little family travelled/vacationed in 36 states plus the District of Columbia. We now have three beautiful granddaughters, and we are grateful that they all live in California. We spend as much time with them as possible and have taken them on several vacations with us.

I was a charter member of the Burnett Society and was President for six years after it became the House of Burnett. George and I put up the Burnett tent at Scottish Gatherings and Games in Campbell and Pleasanton, California, and have participated in other Gatherings in California, Colorado, Georgia, and North Carolina.

I am an avid genealogist and also enjoy reading, writing, singing, and of course, travelling.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We have been very busy during the first part of the year pulling together information on the more local festivals in North Carolina in an attempt to promote our presence for the House of Burnett. We are currently sending in reservations for several of these, and we hope to meet as many of our "cousins" as possible. Please come out and support our family by marching with us in the parade of clans, by signing our guest book, by signing up to join the House of Burnett, or by simply stopping by to say "hello." We'd love to meet you.

We are very excited about Alexander and Vinny coming to the Grandfather Mountain Highland Festival in July. The eldest son of our Chief Jamie, Alexander and his beautiful wife will be the guests of honor at the games and we will be very proud to be a part of the celebration. People come to

Grandfather Mountain from all over the United States, not just North Carolina, so this Festival has become a major event here. We hope that anyone who can be here, will stop by and meet Alexander and Vinny and let them know how honored we are to have them as our guests. Grandfather Mountain Games will be held July 8th through 11th. Alexander and Vinny will be with us on Friday and Saturday.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome aboard to the Board, Mrs. Kim-Marie (Burnett) Graham. She has already passed on some ideas that we are giving serious consideration to. We are certain that she will be a helpful addition to our group.

Look for us at Loch Norman Highland Games in Rural Hill, NC, in April; The Triad Highland Games in Greensboro, NC, May 1st; The Celtic Festival in Winston Salem, NC May 7-8; the Mint Hill Games on May 22nd; Taste of Scotland in Franklin, NC on June 20; and of course, Grandfather Mountain Highland Festival, Linville, NC, July 8-11.

Phyllis Esler

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HOUSE OF BURNETT

ARIZONA GAMES
27TH February 2010



HOB Members Jacky Daugherty with her mother Evelyn Kafura, and Eric Cattell representing The House of Burnett at the 2010 Arizona Games. It was a beautiful day at the Games despite the rain on Sunday, a great time was had by all!



Eric Cattell

BURNETT "MINI-REUNION" HELD IN KEY WEST, FLORIDA

Gilbert Burnett and his wife, Barbara, of Wilmington, North Carolina, USA, hosted a Burnett "mini-reunion" in Key West, Florida on the afternoon of December 29, 2009 at Mallory Dock, a famous tourist spot. Mallory Dock is one of the southern most points in the continental United States where both the locals and tourists gather each afternoon to watch the beautiful Key West sunsets.

Gilbert and his wife, Barbara, were taking their families on a week cruise to Cozumel and Costa Maya, Mexico, as well as Roatan, Honduras. The mini-reunion was scheduled to coincide with the ship's first stop in Key West. Bill Burnette and his wife, Susan, attended the gathering. Bill and his wife live in Key West during the winter months and reside in Raleigh and topsail island, North Carolina in spring and summer. Charlie Burnette, who lives in Greenville, NC also attended.

Attending the reunion were Gilbert & Barbara Burnett & Barbara's daughter, Kendra Hawley. Gilbert's three children Betsy Burnett Benning, Sandra Burnett & Stephen Burnett. Betsy's two children Melanie Lark Benning & John William Benning & her husband Fleet Benning. Stephen's wife, Amy Burnett, and their son's Henry & Harry Burnett. Bill Burnette, his wife, Susan & Bill's brother Charley.



Shown in the photograph are (left to right-front) Kendra, Henry and Barbara. Others are (l-r) Fleet, Amy, Stephen, Sandra, Bill, Melanie Lark, Betsy, John William, Charlie & Gilbert. At the time of the photo, Harry (9 years of age) was exploring and Susan had not arrived.

After the mini-reunion, Gilbert, Barbara and their families returned to their ship, the MS Noordam of Holland America Cruise Lines, and set sail for Mexico.

GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN HIGHLAND GAMES

The main Grandfather Mountain Highland Games website is www.gmhg.org. but the 2010 PATRON SECURE ORDER FORM link takes you here: <https://www.ktti.com/patronsecureorderform2010.htm> This page describes the benefits of three levels of contributions. Please be aware that the deadline for contributing in time for your name to appear in the GMHG program is **Monday, March 15!**

The three levels of patronage are Chieftain, Highlander, and Clansman. Patrons at ALL levels will receive:

- Gate admission to Friday, Saturday, and Sunday Games as well as the Thursday Night Opening Ceremony, Friday Night Celtic Jam, and Saturday Night Celtic Rock Concert. (Your Patron Ribbon will serve as your admission ticket to all of these events.)
- Access to a special Patron's Hospitality Tent at MacRae Meadows during the Games
- Up to two names listed in the 2010 souvenir program if received by March 15, 2010. Please see the website(s) for details.

Sent by a reader. Robert Holmes III trying to show his grandfather, James M. Burnett, how to play Nintendo DS



Robert and Papaw

IT'S FESTIVAL TIME! *WHERE ARE THE BURNETTS?*

As you can see elsewhere in the *Burnett Banner*, the 2010 Celtic festival season is already upon us!

Festivals are fun opportunities to soak up some Scottish culture and history; watch Highland Games and other competitions in piping, drumming, dance, etc.; and generally enjoy yourself among folks who share an interest in our common heritage. Specifically important to Chief Jamie and the entire House of Burnett is the chance to connect with others of our name and the Burnett lineage. We do this by setting up a clan tent. At a clan tent, members of the HOB are on hand to greet fellow Burnetts, talk about the family's history and heritage, and encourage them to support our organization and its endeavors, as well as to visit our website to learn what's new. Having clan tents is a great way to spread the word about our Burnett family.

While December's newsletter listed a bunch of festivals happening all over the U.S., one of the "housecleaning" activities for 2010 was to spruce up the Events page of the Burnett website (www.burnett.uk.com/events.html). This resource is now keeping track of all festivals at which the HOB plans to have a clan tent or some other presence! The U.S. list also contains a link to a fellow HOB member who will be at that event. Please contact those folks if you'd be interested in helping out for a wee bit at clan tents at any of these festivals, or even if you're just curious about what exactly goes on at these events. Our "staff" currently plans to be in North Carolina, Nevada, Kentucky, and Indiana over the next few months. And don't forget Grandfather Mountain in July, with special Scottish visitors!

In fact, as the HOB re-organizes, we'd like to know about ALL events our members are interested in. So if you're online, be sure to register at the new Burnett Forum (www.burnett.uk.com/forum/) and tell us what's going on in your neck of the woods. Under the *Burnetts in North America* forum, I've started a thread to prompt ongoing posts throughout the year, "What's Your Festival?" This is an easy way to tell your kith and kin (that's us!) which events you go to, why you enjoy them, whether you'd be able to sit at a clan table for a couple of hours, or even where you suggest a Burnett presence is needed. Keep checking the Forum for updates by other posters as the festival season heats up! (Ahem, Canadians et al, please note that this category covers the entire continent --

don't be shy about relating the happenings on your side of the border, eh?)

All kidding aside, please be aware that while the House of Burnett Inc. welcomes members from all nations, the organization's geographic "seat" is (and has been) in the U.S. Our focus *for now* is therefore on American activities, though we truly do want to hear what's going on wherever you are. With internet capabilities, we are ALL much more able to communicate and hopefully share Burnett experiences around the globe -- come and tell us what your Burnetts are up to!

And as the officers plot how to choose regional representatives to better organize the HOB's activities, please drop a line to one of us if you think you may be interested in coordinating events in your region of the country. (See the 2010 Officers list.)

P.S.: If you already are staffing a Burnett clan tent of which we are unaware, please send a note to the HOB Secretary and/or to info@leysestate.co.uk so we may include it among the Burnett website events.

JudyLynn Weaver, Board of Directors

GREETINGS TO ALL

We are off and running, the 2010 Highland Games Season has started. The Arizona Games is over and was a good start to 2010. The next to come is Loch Norman Games and the Las Vegas Games, followed by Glasgow, KY, Indiana Games, and San Diego Games. All these events are listed on the *events page* on the Burnett web site.

We have just recently been informed that Alexander Burnett will be the Guest of Honor at the Grandfather Mountain Games in July. Let's give him a big North Carolina welcome at the games.

Another subject we don't like to address is our annual dues, but dues are necessary if we are going to continue the growth of the House of Burnett. We have made the change to dues coming due each year in January, which should make it easier for everyone. We still have some who are delinquent and more who haven't contacted me so we can make the necessary adjustment so your due date can be shifted to Jan. 2011.

Just to let everyone know the snow in WI has started to slowly melt. I should be able to see the ground again by April.

Leland L. Burnett

EVERY ESTATE HAS ITS OWN DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER

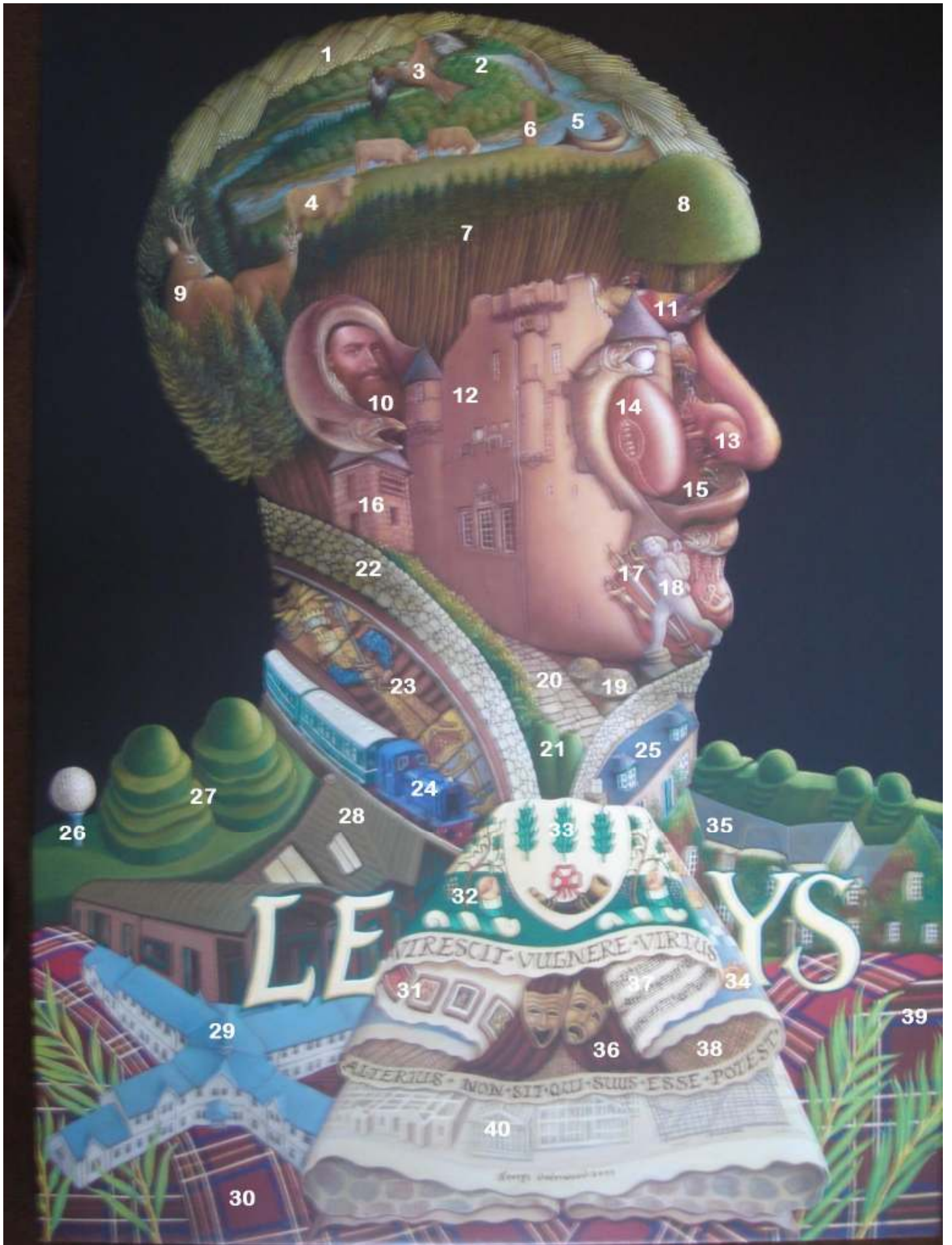
All land management tasks are unique: no two jobs are ever the same.

It can be shaped by the land itself, the owner's character, the history of the place, the commercial imperative or an intended legacy

The Leys Estate Head is one of three which Strutt and Parker, the Leys Estate's Land Agents, recently commissioned the renowned artist, George Underwood to produce as an illustration of the natural and human elements of which most landed estates are comprised. It is an honour that Leys will be the only Scottish estate that Strutt and Parker have selected. Included in the Head are representations of a large number of activities and interests, all of which have contributed to the estate wellbeing at some time in its history as a result of human input without which such estates would cease to exist.

George Underwood was born in 1947 and joined the Beckenham Art School in 1963. He initially pursued a musical career and made a record with his life-long friend David Bowie. He returned to the art world as an illustrator specialising in the design of book and record covers and produced many paintings for his friends in the music industry following which he became a freelance artist. He started painting in oils in 1970 and his paintings were influenced by the artists of the Viennese School and other contemporary visionaries. His works are held in many private art collections and it is accepted that he is one of the top figurative artists in the UK.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Willow grown for Wood-fuel | 21. Yew Trees in Garden |
| 2. Loch of Leys and Crannog | 22. Drystaine Dykes |
| 3. Wildlife | 23. Painted Ceilings |
| 4. Cattle and Agriculture | 24. Milton Railway |
| 5. River Dee and Salmon | 25. Traditional Estate House |
| 6. Scolty Monument | 26. Golf at Inchmarlo |
| 7. Forestry | 27. Yew Hedges |
| 8. Portugal Laurel in Garden | 28. Kashentroch House |
| 9. Roe Deer | 29. Banchory Business Centre |
| 10. Sir Thomas Burnett 1 st Bt | 30. Burnett of Leys Dress Tartan |
| 11. Pheasants | 31. Milton Art Gallery |
| 12. Castle | 32. Burnett Crest |
| 13. Red Squirrel | 33. Burnett Coat of Arms |
| 14. Rugby | 34. Arms of Katherine Gordon |
| 15. Grouse (sadly few remain) | 35. House of Crathes |
| 16. Doocot in Garden | 36. Woodend Barn Arts Theatre |
| 17. Swords in Castle | 37. Mill of Hirn Recording Studio |
| 18. Fountain in Garden | 38. Estate Tweed |
| 19. Granite "Mushrooms" in Gardens | 39. Burnett of Leys Hunting Tartan |
| 20. Garden Paths | 40. Bancon Development and Construction Group |



WOODEND BARN“ THE BUCHANANS” CAFÉ AND BISTRO

Those who have visited the Woodend Barn for our Ceilidhs and those who may ever be passing by Banchory, may be interested in the recent additions and improvements. Woodend grew from its humble beginnings when, obsolete for farming purposes, it was used as the rehearsal space for Tensions in Trust, the historical play that was a major event for the 1992 first Burnett Gathering at Crathes. Woodend has since become one of the leading arts centres in the north-east of Scotland. Its exterior may belie the quality of the interior and its very active programme of events can be found on www.woodendbarn.co.uk



We have now added a substantial kitchen and restaurant to complement the complex and to provide catering for the many events at the Barn. Operated by Calum and Val Buchanan, it has much to offer both those who attend events and those who just hungry.

James C A Burnett of Leys

THE MEMOIRS OF AN ABERDEENSHIRE LADY IN THE MID 19TH CENTURY

From Regency Collections By Janet Lumsden

At Crathes lived Sir Robert and afterwards Sir Thomas Burnett- afterwards Sir Alexander who was called the Bishop from his size. They were all brothers and not married. Sir James was the youngest brother. Sir Thomas died in London. My brother William went to see him before his death. The garden before his house was all sown with thistles “to remind him of Scotland.”

SABINA JADE RUTHANN BURNETTE PRINCIOTTA



We are pleased to announce the birth of Sabina Jade Ruthann Burnette Princiotta on September 1st 2009 and weighing 6lbs 13oz. Although we were very sorry not to see Donald and Suzanne Princiotta at the Burnett Gathering at Crathes in July but it was for this good reason. We send them all best wishes.

James C A Burnett of Leys

THE DREAM GARDEN

By a Burnett member of Kemnay Family

We shall have a garden with cherry trees in May
The path shall be of flagstones & alternate all the way
A gooseberry and rose bush, there must be Bergamot
And all the sweet old fashioned flowers not one must
be forgot

There will be a grey wall, six feet high or so
Every rose that rambles we'll plant & watch it grow
All the little rock things will creep along the top
Silvery clumps of saxifrage and yellow golden crop

We shall have a border close against the wall
Blue delphiniums at the back and annuals
through it all
But we won't be so modern as to have a
colour scheme
We'd rather have all colours in the garden of our
dream

Then just beneath the window, where the
night wind can blow
We'll have a bed of all the very sweetest
things that grow
Scented stock and mignonette with every
kind of thyme
To a perfect paradise, this garden dream of mine.

I can see my garden now, just turn towards the west
Half close your eyes, remember, and think
God does the rest
“Houses and smoke”, you only see a dirty
London Square
My friend, its plain you don't possess a
garden in the air

CORINNE DUNKLEE

Those who attended the 2009 Gathering at Crathes will have met or will have been reunited with Corinne Dunklee. She negotiated nearly all of the formidable buildings and endured the onerous programme of the few days visit despite her health and age which I only mention since I am aware that she has recently celebrated her 80th birthday. She did this surrounded by her children, grandchildren and great grand-children. Although I met Corinne for the first time last summer, her family friendship started when her late daughter, Mary, founded the original Burnett Society. She was very much involved in and responsible for the first gathering in 1992 and it is arguable that, without her, we may not have been able to have enjoyed subsequent reunions. Since Corinne was responsible for Mary, I must thank her and say how pleased we were that she came to Scotland in 2009. Although I have photographs of Corinne with the younger generations, I thought it more appropriate to include for the Banner one in which those in it are most likely to review the archive in 80 years time and recall this happy event



Standing: Chris Pursell-Winzler, Joanathon Russell, Hunter Russell, Meghan Pursell-Winzler & Maia Dunklee

Seated: Jocelyn Russell, Samantha Humphry & Terran Dunklee

GENERAL WILLIAM BURNETT OF BANCHORY LODGE

The monument on Scolty Hill overlooking Banchory is a memorial to General William Burnett who served in Flanders in 1793 under the Duke of York. He acquired Arbedie from his brother, Robert, and half of the estate of Blackhall from Sir Edward Bannerman. He would have been a Lieutenant-General at the time of Waterloo

although I have no record of his participation in the battle.

Letters to his brother written from Valenciennes and Dunkerque are reproduced in the appendix of George Burnett's "The Family of Burnett of Leys" and is descriptions of manoeuvres near Bagshot are of interest to a military reader. As Lieutenant-Colonel, he commanded his regiment under Sir Ralph Abercromby in the attack on Porto Fino in 1897. He was created General in 1837 and died in 1839.

I have carried out an extensive search for a painting of Sir William but in vain. If any reader is aware of any picture or image of this much admired Burnett, I would be very grateful to know of it

James C A Burnett of Leys

THE ROYAL COMPANY OF ARCHERS

I am occasionally asked about membership of the Royal Company of Archers, the ceremonial bodyguard of the sovereign when in Scotland. I was a member for many years but retired partly due to the lack of opportunities to parade for the more interesting ceremonies being less practical when living distant from Edinburgh.



The history of The Royal Company of Archers can be traced back to 1676 to a private club for archers. Members have acted as the sovereign's 'Body Guard for Scotland' since George IV's visit to the Scottish capital in 1822. The Royal Company of Archers perform duties at state and ceremonial occasions wearing their distinctive uniform.

The Royal Company has its base in Edinburgh at Archers Hall (built 1776). Today there are around 530 members, all of whom are of Scots origins or have good Scottish connections. To be elected to the Company you need to be Scottish or have very strong Scottish connections.

If readers think that the Archers might be somewhat ineffective as a bodyguard with outdated weaponry, they may be surprised to know that bows are carried when guarding the sovereign but no arrows. However, it will be reassuring to know that the swords are real.

James C A Burnett of Leys

LORD MONBODDO

I was delighted when my cousin, Malcolm Hutton and a descendant of the Burnetts of Monboddo, came to see me recently with various pieces of Burnett archival interest. They included a eulogy to Elizabeth Lindley, the Maid of Bath by a Burnett relation, Henrietta Cumine. Samuel Foote's 1771 play *The Maid of Bath* was based on the romantic adventures of Miss Lindley, a celebrated singer. It gives an account of her elopement from Bath with Richard Sheridan and the duels which he fought on her behalf..

But of particular interest was a letter of thanks to Lord Monboddo from Sarah Siddons, who was probably one of the greatest actresses in England in the 18th and 19th centuries and the undisputed queen of Drury Lane. At Covent Garden in 1812 she gave perhaps the most extraordinary farewell performance in theatre history. She was playing her most famous role, Lady Macbeth, and the audience refused to allow the play to continue after the end of the sleepwalking scene. Eventually, after tumultuous applause from the pit, the curtain reopened and Siddons was discovered sitting in her own clothes and character — whereupon she made an emotional farewell speech to the audience lasting eight minutes. Her acting skills were legendary and she died in 1831. There is a statue of Sarah Siddons in Westminster Abbey in the chapel of St Andrew.¹⁰⁰

The portrait below of Mrs Siddons was painted by Sir Joshua Reynolds in 1784 and he signed it on the hem of her dress, "for" he told her, "I have resolved to go down to posterity on the hem of your garment."



Mrs Siddons as the Tragic Muse

Sarah Siddons had mixed with the cream of London society, and amongst her close friends were Samuel Johnson, David Garrick and the Duke of Wellington. She was born in 1755 and so it must have been early in her career that Monboddo made her acquaintance.

Monboddo was popular amongst the literati of London society. He enjoyed the company of many well known ladies including Hannah More, a well known playwright and the most influential female member involved

abolition of the African slave trade. Hannah More declined a proposal of marriage from Monboddo and since he was thirty years her senior, this may not have been surprising. Sarah Siddons was 10 years younger than Hannah and so it is unlikely that he had any similar designs. The letter is for a present delivered by Monboddo but its nature is not explained.

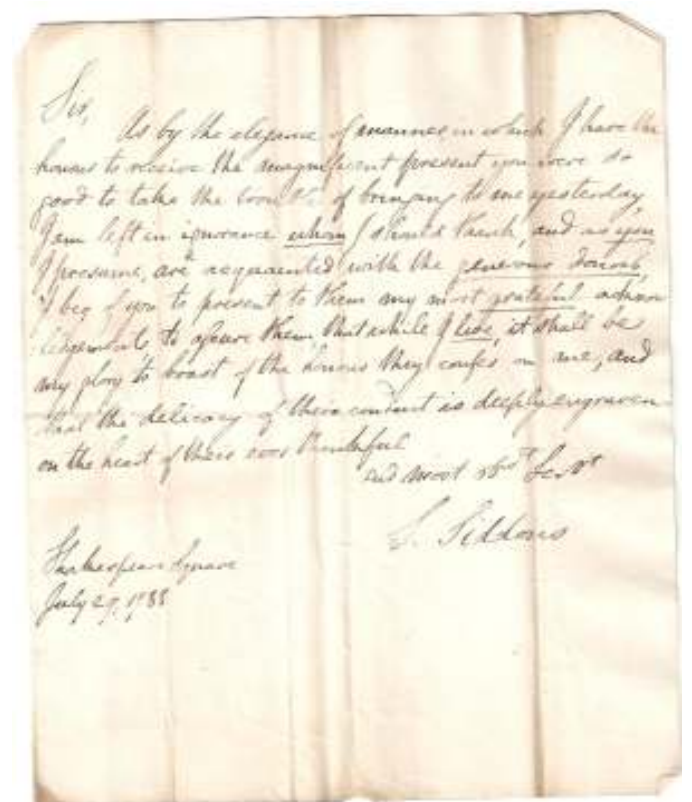
In case there is difficulty in reading the letter, please note the courtesy which is somewhat lacking in present day correspondence

Sir

As by the elegance of manner in which I have the honour to receive the magnificent present you were so good to take the trouble of bringing me yesterday, I am left in ignorance whom I should thank, and as you, I presume, are acquainted with the generous donors, I beg of you to present to them my most grateful acknowledgements to assure them, that, while I live, it shall be my glory to boast of the honour they confer on me, and that the delicacy of their conduct is deeply engraved on the heart of their ever thankful and most obedient servant, S Siddons.

Shakespeare Square
July 29th 1788

James C A Burnett of Leys



EASTER RECIPES

SPECIAL BUNNY COOKIES

Bunnies and Easter have a deep connection. Be it an Easter craft, Easter Game, Easter folklores or Easter recipes, you will find bunnies everywhere. Special Bunny Cookies is one such interesting recipe that is meant to enhance the feel of Easter. Extremely delicious to taste and interesting to look at, it is a traditional Easter recipe, that you find in every Christian home on the Easter day. If you are also interested in making this Easter special recipe at your home, you will be happy to know that it is not very difficult to make. Read and follow the instructions given below and you will end up making a tasty snack.

Ingredients:

3 cups All purpose flour
2 teaspoon Baking soda
1 -1/2 teaspoon Ground ginger
1/2 teaspoon Ground cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon Ground cloves
1/4 teaspoon Salt
1/2 cup Solid vegetable shortening
1/2 cup Sugar
1 Egg
1/2 cup Molasses
1 -1/2 teaspoon Cider vinegar

Method:

- Sift together flour, baking soda, ginger, cinnamon, cloves and salt onto waxed paper.
- Beat together shortening, sugar & egg in a large bowl with electric mixer until fluffy, for about 3 mins.
- Beat in the molasses and cider vinegar.
- Stir in flour mixture until blended and smooth.
- Gather dough into ball; wrap & chill for several hours. Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
- Divide dough in half.
- Roll out half of the dough with lightly floured surface to generous 1/8-inch thickness.
- Keep remainder of dough refrigerated while working with first half.
- To use a bunny pattern, draw a pattern onto a piece of cardboard. Make sure ears are attached to the head. Cut out pattern.
- Place pattern on dough & trace with a toothpick.
- Cut out cookies.
- Place 1 inch apart on lightly greased baking sheets.
- Re-roll scraps, using up all the dough.
- Repeat with remaining dough.
- Bake in preheated 375-degree oven for 5-7 minutes or until firm.
- Transfer to wire rack to cool completely.
- Use Decorator Icing to tint portions, if you wish.

- Decorate cookies as desired.
- Let cookies stand until icing is firm.
- Store in airtight container between sheets of waxed paper for up to 2 weeks.

CHOCOLATE EASTER EGGS

Chocolate Easter egg is an extremely scrumptious Easter recipe and to your utter surprise does not include egg as one of its ingredient! It is simply named so, because of its shape. So, even those who are purely vegetarian can relish on this luscious item. Though the entire process of making this recipe is a little lengthy and tough, you will not be able to resist making it again, if you once taste it. In case you love butter chocolates and sweet puddings; this recipe is certainly going to be one of your favorites. Given below is the recipe of Chocolate Easter Egg, simply follow the instructions to make a wonderful Easter recipe.

Ingredients:

1 cup Soft butter
2 teaspoon Salt
4 teaspoon Vanilla
1 can Condensed milk
10 cup Icing sugar
1 teaspoon Yellow food colouring
1 lb Semi-sweet chocolate

Method:

- Beat butter, salt and vanilla until fluffy.
- Add milk.
- Beat in sugar.
- Blend until stiff.
- Dust with brown sugar.
- Knead till smooth.
- Set aside more than 2/3 of mixture.
- To the remaining mixture add yellow food colouring.
- Blend in well.
- Divide yellow and white into 16 or 24 pieces.
- Shape yellow into ball.
- Mould white around yellow to form an egg shape.
- Dry at room temperature on paper towels for 24 hours.
- Melt chocolate in double boiler or in microwave until smooth.
- Dip egg shaped balls in chocolate.
- Once dipped, cool at room temperature.
- Refrigerate after cool.
- To serve, slice the eggs thus having a white cream filling with a yellow filling that appears to be the yolk.

'Twas THE DAY BEFORE EASTER

'Twas the day before Easter
..and all through the woods,
The bunnies were busy
packing their goods.
The eggs were all coloured
so pretty and bright,
All things were "go"
for the big, special night.

The baskets were waiting,
all decorated with care,
In hopes that the Bunny
soon would be there.
My little brother Sam
was asleep in his bed,
While visions of Easter eggs
rolled round his head.

And I in my pyjamas
with the cat on my lap,
I had just settled down
for a quick little nap.
When outside the window
I heard a great noise,
I sprang from my chair
and jumped over some toys.

As quick as a flash
to the window I flew,
I pulled up the shade
and, OH, what a view.
The moon on the meadow
cast a bright golden glow
And the wind blew the flowers
to and then fro.

Then all of a sudden
from out of nowhere,
Came some lively bunnies,
hopping here, hopping there!
Leading the group
with ears long and funny
Was a plump, all-white rabbit...
That's right...the EASTER BUNNY!

The bunnies hopped past,
one, two, three, four,
The rabbit called out
and then there were more.
"Come, Peter!, Come, Flopsy!,
Come, Benny!, Come, Joe!
Now hop along! Hop along! Hop along! GO!"

So up on each doorstep
the bunnies did hop,
With baskets of eggs.
(Let's hope they don't drop!)
Just at that moment,
on the porch down below,
Came the stomping of feet
'Twas the rabbit, I know!

As I stepped from my window
I heard a loud sound.
Through the door came the rabbit
with a leap and a bound.
He was furry and soft
from his head to his feet.
To see him so close
was really quite neat.

He was surrounded by eggs
that had been carefully dyed.
Easter eggs galore he soon would hide.
His eyes were all twinkles,
His nose was so pink,
And I can't be too sure,
but I think he did wink.

He had a kind face
and a big fluffy tail
That bobbed up and down
like a boat with a sail.
A twitch of his nose
and a flick of his ear
Was his way of saying,
"You've nothing to fear."

He uttered no sound
as he hopped all about
Hiding the eggs and leaving no doubt,
That the Easter bunny had come
like he does every year...
Bringing baskets of happiness
to children so dear.

