

# THE BURNETT BANNER

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

**Edition No 21  
March 2013**

## FISHING AT CRATHES

Last year we had made, with the assistance of our Fishery Board, a video of our Crathes Castle where some of our Gathering visitors may be trying out their skills in the summer. The film is about 8 minutes and in it the beat is described by the ghillie, Brian Sim who was born on the estate where his father was chauffeur and joiner. One of highlights of the video comes at almost seven minutes into it. Old Lord Monboddo was not far wrong when he considered Orang Utans to be humans in all but speech

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CjK1iP7n5Bg&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CjK1iP7n5Bg&feature=player_embedded)

or

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uAXe1PqJFpg>



~~~~~  
**Burnett Gathering Crathes 31<sup>st</sup> July – 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2013**  
See [www.burnett.uk.com](http://www.burnett.uk.com) for full details

We look forward to seeing many Burnetts at Crathes in July  
If readers have been thinking of coming and have yet to make arrangements, it is never too late.

~~~~~  
In addition to the Banner, I am planning to update the website homepage more frequently with any items which may be of interest to readers before the next edition. I will also include any information on the Gathering.

*James C. A. Burnett of Leys*

## CRATHES GARDENS IN WINTER

Crathes in the winter with Chris Wardle, Head Gardner at Crathes  
Readers might be interested to watch this video

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kf0w1cpK6lw>

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



The House of Burnett is steadily expanding the use of Social Media. The Burnett Banner has been brought to you electronically for some time. We have a Facebook page that I have invited members to use and have posted to frequently and invite all members to do the same. We currently have 122 "Likes" on our Facebook page. A year ago this January I started the bi-monthly e-newsletter using Constant Contact. The most recent addition is the Twitter page for the House of Burnett. Presently, we have 8 people "following" our Tweets. Still under construction is a Google+ page.

All of these forms of Social Media are a way for the Burnetts to stay in contact with each other and reach out to other Burnetts worldwide. Social Media is faster, more far-reaching, and less expensive than printed materials that are mailed. This means we can communicate with each other more frequently. We can also share photos and even videos with each other. Try each of these sites yourself, or tell your children, or grandchildren about them.

Should you have any questions, or comments, on any of these Social Media sites please email me at [azlassie@gmail.com](mailto:azlassie@gmail.com)



Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Burnett/134138613279417#!/pages/Burnett/134138613279417>



Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/WeAreBurnetts>



Google+:

<https://plus.google.com/b/109534789770172029162/109534789770172029162/about#109534789770172029162/about/p/pub> or  
[house-of-burnet-5612@pages.plusgoogle.com](mailto:house-of-burnet-5612@pages.plusgoogle.com)

Cordially,

**Jackelyn A Daugherty**  
**President**

## NOTE FROM THE SECRETARY HOB

Greetings,

Last year I complained about the early Spring and no snow in March of 2012 in the State of Wisconsin. As the saying goes all you have to do is wait and it will change. This year I have over 5 feet of snow and it not over yet..

President Jacklyn Daugherty will be representing The House of Burnett at the Arizona Highland Games in Phoenix on 23 and 24 March, Las Vegas Celtic Gathering and Highland Games on 21 and 22 April, and Prescott Highland Games on May 11<sup>th</sup>. I will be at the Loch Norman Games on 19 – 21 April. I will also be at the Glasgow Kentucky Games 31 May thru 2 June.

As I receive information of Burnett participation in games we will enter them on the events page of the Burnett web site. If you are going to be involved in your area send me the information.

Those of you who are Celtic Music fans and live in the Winston-Salem North Carolina area clear your Calendar for Saturday May 11<sup>th</sup>. The following groups will be performing at the Bethabara Highland Games, James Laval from the Asheville area, The Red Willies for Asheville and The Thisletown Tinkers from Charlotte.

We are still looking for articles and pictures for the Banner. Send me anything you thing would be of interest to other family members.

Please keep me informed with address changes, both e-mail and home addresses.

As of this writing you still have time to make reservations for the Scotland trip but in the near future unused accommodations will have to be released. I hope to see lots of you in Aug.

**Leland L Burnett**  
**Secretary, House of Burnett**

## PHYLLIS ESLER

*President House of Burnett until 2011*

Readers will recall the obituary to Phyllis in the September 2011 issue of the Banner. Ron has sent me this photograph of her headstone to accompany it. Whilst it was suggested that Phyllis's grand-daughter had her hands and teddy bear removed from the photograph, I think that Phyllis would have liked otherwise.

The inscription signifies Phyllis's Burnett association and Ron's 50 years as a Mason. His son Joel, who took the photograph, is now the fifth generation of Masons in the family.

Ron's inscription also acknowledges his 8 years of service as a US Coast Guard. He might have also included reference to his mother's Scottish origins in Clan Bell.



Best wishes to Ron and may it be a while before he joins Phyllis

*James C A Burnett of Leys*

---

## CHRIS BURNETTE



Recently elected to the House of Burnett Board of Directors.

Mentioned in last Edition

President, Mad Buffalo Distillery

## LELAND BURNETT

*Secretary of the House of Burnett*

Leland was recently serving drinks at a non-profit charity event.

Two of the 29 flavors of Vodka and a bottle of London Dry Gin bearing the name of Sir Robert Burnett were donated in the name of the House of Burnett for silent auction.

The story is told that Sir Robert Burnett was a liquor merchant in London in the 18th Century.



The rights to the Sir Robert Burnett brand was sold to the Heaven Hill Distilleries of Bardstown, KY in 1992.



## HENRY LAWRENCE BURNETT

(December 26, 1838 – January 4, 1916)



Photo

National Archive

“For no ruler who ever lived, I venture to say, not excepting Washington himself, was the love of the people so strong, so peculiarly personal and tender, as for Abraham Lincoln” – H. L. Burnett

Brigadier-General Henry Lawrence Burnett. Union soldier, lawyer was born in Youngstown, Ohio, the son of Henry and Nancy Jones Burnett, and a descendant of William Burnet, colonial governor of New York.

At fifteen, determined upon getting an education, he stole away from home, equipped with a bundle of clothing, forty-six dollars, and copies of *Thaddeus of Warsaw* and the *Lady of Lyons*, he walked about one hundred miles to Chester Academy. Admitted to the school, he remained for two or three years, when he entered the Ohio State National Law School, from which he graduated in 1859. In the same year, he began the practice of law at Warren. On the outbreak of the Civil War, he became active in support of the Union. At one of these meetings he was challenged by a man in the audience with the question, "Why don't you enlist?" "I will," he promptly replied.

He at once volunteered in Company C of the 2nd Ohio Cavalry, of which he was chosen captain on August 23. With his regiment he was sent to Missouri and saw service in the actions at Carthage (near Joplin in the southwest of the state), Fort Wayne, and Gibson, later taking part in the campaigns in Southern Kentucky. In the fall of 1863, with the rank of major, he was appointed judge-advocate of the Department of the Ohio. A year later at Governor Morton's request, he was sent to Indiana to prosecute members of the Knights of the Golden Circle and later took part in the cases growing out of the Chicago conspiracy to liberate the Confederate prisoners at Camp Douglas.

In these trials, he obtained seven convictions. He was also prominent in the trial of L.P. Milligan for treason before a military commission. He was brevetted a colonel of volunteers March 8,

1865, and in the omnibus promotions of March 13 was brevetted a brigadier-general.

### Lincoln Assassination Trial



Henry Burnett (right) along with John Bingham (left) and Joseph Holt (center) were the three judges in charge of the Lincoln assassination trial.

After the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln in 1865, Burnett was called upon by Secretary of War Edwin Stanton to be an Assistant Judge Advocate General. Along with him were John Bingham and Joseph Holt, the Judge Advocate General. The accused conspirators were George Atzerodt, David Herold, Lewis Powell a.k.a. Paine, Samuel Arnold, Michael O'Laughlen, Edman Spangler, Samuel Mudd and Mary Surratt. The trial began on May 10, 1865. The three spent nearly two months in court, awaiting a verdict from the jury. Holt and Bingham attempted to obscure the fact that there were two plots. The first plot was to kidnap President Lincoln in exchange for the Confederate prisoners the Union had. The second was to assassinate Lincoln, Vice President Andrew Johnson and Secretary of State William H. Seward in a plot to throw the government into electoral chaos. It was important for the prosecution not to reveal the existence of a diary taken from the body of Lincoln's assassin John Wilkes Booth. The diary made it clear that the assassination plan dated from the 14th of April. The defense surprisingly did not call for Booth's diary to be produced in court. Holt was accused of withholding evidence, but it was never proven. On June 29, 1865, the eight were found guilty for their involvement in the conspiracy to kill the President. Arnold, O'Laughlen and Mudd were sentenced to life in prison, Spangler six years in prison and Atzerodt, Herold, Paine and Surratt were to hang. They were executed July 7, 1865. Surratt was the first woman in American history to be executed. O'Laughlen died in prison in 1867. Arnold, Spangler and Mudd were pardoned by President Andrew Johnson in early 1869.



Photo - "Twenty Days"

### Burnett in his later years

After the trials he moved to Cincinnati, where he practiced law with Judge T.W. Bartley until 1869, and then with Ex-Governors J.D. Cox and John F. Follett until 1872.

He then moved to New York, where at various times he was in partnership with E.W. Stoughton, with B.H. Bristow, William Peet, and W.S. Opdyke, and with Judge James Emott. He was for a time counsel for the Erie railroad, and was engaged in many noted cases, including the litigation over the Emma mine, in which he acted as attorney for the English bondholders.

Probably his greatest case was that of the Rutland Railroad Company against John B. Page: in the closing argument he spoke for sixteen hours with a "consummate ability"



Photo - "Famous Men of New York"

that stamped him "the peer of the greatest advocate of the age" (D. McAdam and others, Bench and Bar of New York, 1899, II, 64). He was an organization Republican, a participant in the party councils, and was on especially close terms with McKinley who used to call him "Lightning Eyes Burnett."

In January 1898, McKinley appointed him federal district attorney for the southern district of New York, and on the completion of his four-year term, he was reappointed by Roosevelt.

Burnett married three times.

His first wife was Grace (Kitty) Hoffmann died about age 26: Daughter - Grace Hoffmann Burnett [von Oertzen] Grace married Major General and Baron Victor Siegmund von Oertzen

in Paris; von Oertzen ran a POW camp in Germany during WWI, and the family was financially ruined; there were no children.

His second was Sarah Gibson Lansing, daughter of Brig. Gen. Henry L. Lansing, treasurer/secretary of the Buffalo and Erie Railroad, and granddaughter of Henry B. Gibson (1783-1863), banker and president of the Rochester and Syracuse Railroad, and one of the richest men in western New York. Daughter - Sarah Lansing died age 29: Son - Lansing Burnett died unmarried age 24, Daughter - Catharine Olivia Gibson Burnett [Van Deusen], first female newspaper publisher in Colorado

His last wife was Agnes Suffern Tailer, daughter of Edward Neufville Tailer, a director in The German-American Bank and The Northern Dispensary, in NYC, a prominent New York family, who survived him. Son - Edward N.T. Burnett Yale '09, date grove owner, son - Henry Lawrence Burnett, Jr. institutionalized, unsound mind

In his later years he spent much of his time at his country home, Hillside Farm, Goshen, NY, where he kept a large stable of harness horses which he drove on the track of the Goshen Driving Club.

In the middle of November 1915, while at the farm, he was taken ill with pneumonia. Despite his serious condition, he insisted on being taken by train to his city home, where, two months later, he died.

He was buried in Goshen, NY. [Slate Hill Cemetery, Goshen, Orange County, New York, Plot 38] There was a bronze plaque in



the center of the memorial that was taken by vandals sometime in the late 1990's. In 2004, a historical marker was placed at the grave by the Sons of Union Veterans of The Civil War, Department of New York, Colonel Augustus van



Horne Ellis Camp 124, who maintain the gravesite. <http://suvchw.org/>

## Bibliography

(Burnett's article, "Assassination of President Lincoln and the Trial of the Assassins," in History of the Ohio Society of New York (1906); David Miller DeWitt, The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln (1909); The Conspiracy Trial (3 volumes, 1865-1866), ed. by Benj. Perley Poor; Official Records (Army); Who's Who in America, 1912-13; obituaries in the New York Times and New York Tribune, January 5, 1916.)

Henry L Burnett's great-granddaughter, **Mary S. Van Deusen** has compiled several excellent web pages on her family. These two links are examples: [The General Burnett Website](#), The General's Memories of the [Lincoln Assassination Trial](#)

### *Jackelyn A Daugherty*

## SUTHERLAND TO CANTERBURY

### *A Scottish Burnett Family In New Zealand*

I was asked if I could find any information about this Burnett family who were said to have originated in Scotland. The following is a brief summary of the findings.

Donald Mt. Cook Burnett (1915-2010) died in Timaru, New Zealand after a life spent on Mount Cook Station, close to Mount Cook in the Mackenzie Country, South Canterbury. His skill and hardwork were dedicated to preserving the environment and developing the family lands eventually leading to his becoming an acclaimed merino woolgrower.

Donald's father, Thomas David Burnett (1877-1941) was born in Timaru, son of Andrew Burnett & Catherine (nee Mackay). He inherited Mount Cook Station & Cave from his father and was prominent in public office before becoming a Member of Parliament. On a hillside at Cave, South Canterbury stands St David's Church, dedicated to the patron saint of shepherds, which Thomas D. Burnett erected, at his own expense, to the memory of his parents & the early settlers.

Andrew Burnett was born in Farr parish, Sutherland, Scotland on 5 Feb 1838 and died at

Aorangi, South Canterbury, on 21 Sept 1927. His wife Catherine Mackay was born around 1837 in Sutherland and died at Aorangi on 8 July 1914. They were married at Achrimsdale in Clyne parish, Sutherland on 26 May 1861 when Andrew was a shepherd aged 23 and Catherine was a Dairy Maid aged 24. By 8 Oct 1861 they had arrived at Lyttleton, New Zealand to start a successful new farming life there together and to raise 8 children.

Andrew's father, also named Andrew Burnett, was born around 1800 in Inverness-shire and married Mary McDonnell. He was a shepherd in Glengarry where they lived and had several children before moving to Sutherland. There Andrew was a shepherd for Eriboll Estate Farm from about 1830. Further children were born at remote Strathbeag, Durness parish. Andrew & Mary lived in Sutherland for the remainder of their lives and were buried in Arnaboll Burial Ground on the shores of Loch Hope. From details on several death certificates, the parents of Andrew Snr. and siblings were a Thomas Burnett, Shepherd/Farmer and a Betsy/Betty Moffat. They appear to have had lived around Culachy nr Fort Augustus and in Glengarry, both of which are close to Loch Ness, but records are sparse.



*"Strathbeg, Sutherland 2012 .  
Copyright: mountainbothies.org.uk"*

Research will continue but we would be delighted to hear from any Burnetts with connections to this family especially descendants of Andrew's brother Thomas Burnett, born in Glengarry in 1830, who apparently lived most of his life in Nova Scotia before dying in South Canterbury in 1921 aged 90.

**Eileen Bailey**  
*Genealogist & Historian*

## GILBERT BURNETT FAMILY HISTORY VISIT

In December 2012, seven Burnetts visited the North Carolina Senate Chamber where the patriarch of their clan, John Henry Burnett, represented Pender County from 1916 to 1917. He had previously served as reading clerk for the Senate, was an active member of the state's political and judicial sphere and during World War II served as an officer in the National War Work Council.

Although the legislature no longer meets in the historic State Capitol, tours of the building are available and one can almost hear the echoes of long-lost debates and oratories sounding from the Grecian ceilings. John Henry's granddaughter, Betsy Burnett, is a docent at the Capitol and led her family on a tour to see where their father / grandfather / great-grandfather sat in office. Here they were able to each take a seat in the senate chair the family had donated in memoriam of their honoured patriarch several years before.



*Seated in the chair is John Henry's son, Judge Gilbert Burnett, and behind him (from left) are: Sandra Burnett, John William Benning, Stephen Burnett, Betsy Burnett Benning, Melanie Lark Benning, and Barbara Burnett*

**John Benning and his Grandfather,  
Judge Gilbert Burnett**

## UNUSUAL ARMS

I recently came across the attached in a copy of Scottish Arms 1370-1678 - being a collection of Armorial Bearings AD 1300 - 1628 by R R Stoddart published in 1881.

Charles Burnett, Ross Herald, has advised me that there is really no explanation for the version with the man chopping a tree with a sword except it echoes the current crest of a knife pruning a vine! The Irvine arms are completely wrong. Early Armorial, which Stoddart used for his publication, were created by heralds as a working tool. Information would be passed by word of mouth and it was not always accurate.

David Irvine of Drum echoed Charles's verdict on Irvine - even in 1464, the Irvine Arms feature Holly leaves most strongly. In fact the Arms of Burnett of Barns, are remarkably close to the present day Irvine crest.

Readers may be aware that the Burnetts of Leys and the Irvines of Drum both received charters granting them their lands in the fourteenth century

### *James C. A. Burnett of Leys*



# THE 49TH ANNUAL ARIZONA SCOTTISH GATHERING & HIGHLAND GAMES

*March 23 and 24, 2013, Steele Indian School Park in Phoenix, Arizona*



The weather was perfect and the crowds came out for the 49<sup>th</sup> Phoenix Highland Games. The House of Burnett was there with a water-side spot and one of our most successful Phoenix Games ever. There were over sixty Clans or associations represented. Below is a picture of part of the Clan Tent area and the Desert Irish Wolfhound Club's tent. The honored Clan was Mac Lachlan as they had their annual meeting. Glenmorangie Scotch had a very upscale tent with their own DJ-MixMaster and offered Scotch tastings for \$10.00 a session. And of course Burnetts stopped-by to visit.



*Eleia Burnett Nessler and daughter, Arianna*



*David Todd Burnett and son, Graham,  
(Evelyn Kafura is in background)*



## FRANKEL

Frankel (Article in last Edition) has been officially rated as the greatest of all time – with the Horn and Holly Leaves.

This will be the final report on Frankel whose stellar career has been capped off with the news he has been confirmed as the highest-rated horse in modern racing history. Sir Henry Cecil's charge, unbeaten in his 14 career starts, has been allotted a final mark of 140 by the group of international handicappers who compile the World Thoroughbred Rankings.

I don't think Henry will mind his card with the coat of arms being reproduced in the Banner



*The Editor*

## FISHING AT CRATHES

Last year we had made, with the assistance of our Fishery Board, a video of our Crathes Castle where some of our Gathering visitors may be trying out their skills in the summer. The film is about 8 minutes and in it the beat is described by the ghillie, Brian Sim who was born on the estate where his father was chauffeur and joiner. One of highlights of the video comes at almost seven minutes into it. Old Lord Monboddo was not far wrong when he considered Orang Utans to be humans in all but speech

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CjK1iP7n5Bg&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CjK1iP7n5Bg&feature=player_embedded)

or

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uAXe1PqJFpg>

## SUPPORTERS IN BRONZE

Readers may recall the supporters on either side of the coat of arms in the Burnett achievements.



These have been cast in bronze by Jane Smith (Pictured Left) who is co-manager of the Milton of Crathes Gallery and so this article qualifies for the Burnett Banner also on that account.

Jane returned to making sculpture in 2010 having graduated from Edinburgh University and College of Art with an MA in Fine Art in 1986. During the intervening years she concentrated on drawing and printmaking until she had the studio space and extra time to return to her favoured medium of sculpture. She was drawn in particular to working in bronze and the availability of a foundry facility with technical support at the Scottish Sculpture Workshop in Lumsden, near Aberdeen, gave her the ideal opportunity to begin learning how to cast in bronze.

“There are many things I love about casting work into bronze, the versatility of form it allows, the qualities of the metal itself, the intricate surface detail possible, the variety of finishes. I also find the process itself very satisfying despite its lengthy and labour intensive nature.”

Her main focus for the foreseeable future is to continue learning & developing her skills although she has also completed 4 commissions in bronze. That said a sense of artistic direction is slowly emerging especially towards themes inspired by the seaside e.g. shells, boats, swimming figures, fossils etc.



The Milton Gallery is planning a major bronze exhibition in 2014 together with the National Trust for Scotland and Woodend Arts Ltd

*James C A Burnett of Leys*

## BURNETTS IN FRANCE & BANFF

In Edition 15 (September 2011) the story was told of a Thomas Burnet who arrived in the Montpellier & Sete area of southern France from Scotland in about 1750, became a very successful merchant and was subsequently elected Mayor of Gallargues where he died in 1824 aged 90. Research found that he was born on 11 May 1734, son of George Burnet, a square-wright (carpenter) in Banff, who married Christian Wilson in 1718. They had 13 children. George, who was Master of the Trade Guild of Wrights in Banff, died in 1766. Christian predeceased him in 1761. Sadly, records also revealed that many of the children died young. Thomas's sister, Jean, latterly lived with him in France & died there in 1816 aged 93.

In 2012, a search was made of the many gravestones in the old St Mary's churchyard in Banff and eventually a large flat "table stone" on stone supports was discovered. The lower surface of the stone was moss-covered but evidence of a range of emblems of the tools of a square-wright could be seen. The inscription, as far as was visible, read:

"THIS STONE WAS ERECTED BY GEORGE BURNET SQUAREWRIGHT AND BURGESS IN BANFF AND HIS SPOUSE CHRISTIAN WILSON IN MEMORY OF THEIR CHILDREN WILLIAM.....ALEXANDER..."(other names obscured by moss).



It is presumed that George & Christian & possibly other children, not named, were also interred there. Based on the size and quality of the gravestone, George Burnet must have been a successful craftsman in his lifetime.

Records (1722) show that George Burnet, Wright, and another were paid to go to a port west of Banff to select 120x28ft trees and to agree a purchase price (£324 Scots) for them. The timber was later shipped to Banff where it was used for the church roof. Because of his role in selecting the timber, it would be reasonable to assume that George Burnet also carried out some of what would have been repair work. The church is said to have been in a ruinous state by 1749 and was pulled down in 1797 with only the "Banff Aisle" remaining.

The task now remains to solve the mystery of why, & how, Thomas Burnet went to France and what his connections, if any, were with Montpellier prior to the 1750s. To be continued.....

***Eileen Bailey***  
***Genealogist & Historian***

---

## LIME WALK AT CRATHES



Those who have visited Crathes will have noticed the young lime avenues leading away from the Castle. These were planted in 1985/6 to reflect the form shown in the 1861 survey. If anybody has imagined how they might appear in 100 years or more from now, this photograph of the previous walks may help

***The Editor***

## A GIFT FROM THE LAIRD

I recently found a message sent to the Burnett Forum in 2010 in which the correspondent had asked about candleholders that he had been shown whilst working at a location on the Gold Coast of Queensland, Australia. They were inscribed "To George James Walker and Mrs Walker on their Silver Wedding" "From Sir Thomas Burnett of Leys" and each bore the date of 1899. He was curious about the background and whether they would be genuine.

Research revealed that George James Walker was a very respected architect, land agent & surveyor who married a Margaret Wilson of Ladylaw House, Wilton, Roxburghshire on 22 Oct 1874 - thus making 1899 their silver wedding anniversary. His home was Hillside House, Portlethen, Kincardineshire where he died on 20 Feb 1914 aged 76.

George James Walker was factor to many of the local estates and a great supporter & promoter of the Aberdeen Angus breed of cattle so would have been well known to Sir Thomas Burnett. Architectural records showed that he did architectural and surveying work for a number of properties on the Crathes Estate in the 1880s-1890s including a layout for Crathes Gardens. He also designed alterations, stables & farm buildings at Muchalls Castle in 1894-95. George J. Walker was a guest, seated on Sir Thomas's left, at a dinner to honour Mr Davidson, Factor at Crathes, in 1906 (see pp 321 & 326 of "Crannog to Castle")

It would be most interesting to know how the candleholders found their way to Queensland!

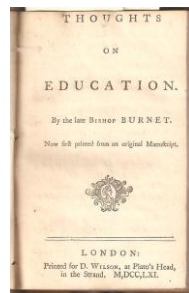
**Eileen Bailey**  
**Genealogist & Historian**

---

## BISHOP BURNETT ON EDUCATION

And first, our grammaire, how good soever, of full, it be in itself, is certainly the unfittest to teach by that can be imagined.: for it is so tedious, so crabbed, and unpleasant, that it serves rather to fearre than to invite boyes. There is no need for learning anomalys, of all

particular rules , by grammaire; for these are best taught by practise; and to force boyes to get so many barbarous rules by heart, is to torture rather than to teach them. The rudiments, Lillie's accidence, or Vossius his grammaire, are the best; and as to what is wanting in these, it must be supplied by practise. The other way of teaching parcels of manny authors I as little approve; though it be true that variety breeds dedication: yet that desultory way of study losseth them as to a style. I should therefore choose one or two of the best authors, such as Caesar and Terence, and oblige the boy to read these over and over again; by which means he should learne much better how to forme his stile. As for poets. Virgile alone is worth all for purity and nobleness of stile; thought for his fancy he deserve not the name of a poet, but a eloquent verifier. These therefore I would have children learne exactly. I should also advise boyes to be made to read Castellio his Bible; where the knowledge of the matter will facilitate the understanding the language; that translation I recommend for the elegant purity of the stile; thought it be none of the Bibles I most value of approve of.



Another error in schools is, the making boyes speak Latine one with another. I know to many this will seem a great paradoxe; since exercise is the properest meanne for acquiring languages: but this holds only where we speake to those who understand better than ourselves, and can correct us when we say amisse. But to boyes to talk one to another, may well learne them a readiness of speaking, and a command of words, but will assuredly prove the occasion of ruining them as to all ornacy or purity in diction: for if one in the acquiring any language get at first any wrong sett, it will prove a greater labour to wear out that, than the teaching the whole language; and such confabulations among boyes at play, where their master is not by to correct their errors, will teach them a base and rascally stile. The unfrequency of the exercising boyes in versions and translations, is also a great error: for this will be found a better mean to inure them to Latine than either grammaires, lessons, or confabulations.

(Note – all spelling as original)

## NATURAL HISTORY IN HERALDRY

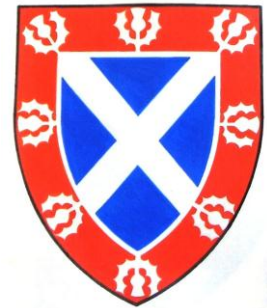
The days are getting longer and soon it will be Spring when new growth will appear from the ground as nature prepares for another annual cycle. The plant life around us has provided a source of inspiration for heralds when new Arms were required. Trees, plants, flowers, and vegetables, all appear on coats of arms, sometimes rendered naturalistically, at other times depicted as stylised forms.



Although regarded by many as a weed, the thistle was chosen by James III, King of Scots, as his royal Plant Badge c1471. Since then the thistle has become synonymous with Scottish identity and has been interpreted by artists and designers in a huge number of ways.

The Scottish Rugby Team sport a thistle on their strip and numerous coats of arms feature the thistle to show national identity. The Queen still uses the crowned Thistle Badge on the silver used in the Dining Room at the Palace of Holyroodhouse.

The St Andrews Fund for Scots Heraldry was set up in 2000 to encourage the study and practice of heraldry. Since then over £95,000 has been distributed to support the original ideals. Naturally the Fund petitioned the Lord Lyon for a grant of arms which consists of the St Andrew's Cross surrounded by a border of thistles on a red background to symbolise the martyrdom of Saint Andrew. This arrangement echoes the royal tressure which consists of two parallel lines decorated with fleurs-de-lis which alternately point inwards and outwards.



In 1902 James Findlay of Aberlour was granted these Arms which incorporate both thistles and a red rose. The crest consists of Mercury, the messenger of the gods who carried information between the deities. The Findlay family owned *The Scotsman* newspaper when it really was a national organ of information, and one member, James Findlay, was responsible for underwriting the construction of the Scottish National Portrait Gallery in Edinburgh.

This happened in the last decade of the nineteenth century which had witnessed a remarkable era of private philanthropy to benefit the common weal. We do not experience the same benevolence from private sources today.

Another Scottish family which features roses in their Arms are the Dunbars from the south-east of Scotland. The family are cadets of a more senior line and had to differentiate their Arms by adding a silver bordure round the central shield bearing a lion. The bordure was then decorated with eight roses. This system of distinguishing members of the same family is called cadency and the use of bordures is very much a Scottish practice. Portugal is another country where bordures are found – they are seldom seen in English heraldry. The principal rule in heraldry is that no two people can use the same coat of arms, and this is very strictly enforced by the Lord Lyon King of Arms.





To continue the flower theme I next feature the Arms of Primrose, Earl of Rosebery. This is an example of punning Arms as the main charges are primrose flowers, and the crest has a lion holding a primrose. The Primrose family eventually acquired the Rosebery and Barnbogle estate just north of Edinburgh on the south side of the Firth of Forth by the 16<sup>th</sup> century and were made peers in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Eventually during the 19<sup>th</sup> century the 6<sup>th</sup> Earl of Rosebery became Prime Minister and married into the wealthiest Jewish family in England – the Rothschilds.

Leaves are also found in heraldry; in Canada the maple leaf is the national plant badge, in Scotland docken leaves are used as charges, and in the case of the Burnetts holly leaves have appeared on Burnett seals since the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Once the Burnetts were granted the hunting lands of Leys on Deeside by King Robert the Bruce which the family had to manage, the hunting horn became their symbol of office as royal foresters. The horn was then added to the Arms. The crest of the Burnetts of Leys features another plant – the vine. Just as the vine is harvested for grapes so do the Burnetts wisely harvest their resources. The crest translates as “Strength draws vigour from an injury”.



The Irvine family were also granted the lands of Drum by King Robert the Bruce which marches with the Leys estate. Although the families have been neighbours for over 600 years no marriage has taken place between a Burnett and an Irvine! The Irvines also use holly leaves in their Arms which are grouped as three bunches of three leaves on the shield, with a large bunch of leaves for a crest.

There is an excellent 15<sup>th</sup> century carved version of the Irvine of Drum Arms to be found on the wall of the Drum Aisle in St Nicholas', the 'Mither Kirk' of Aberdeen. As with the ancestral home of the Burnetts, Crathes Castle, the Irvine Castle of Drum is now managed by the National Trust for Scotland.

From individual leaves to whole trees, an oak tree eradicated [and often fructed] is a charge found in both Scottish and Italian heraldry. Eradicated means torn out with the roots showing and fructed indicates the oak tree bears acorns. Such were the Arms of Pope Julius II who gave Scotland its Sword of State. The Sword bears the papal Arms. The MacGregors in Scotland have an oak tree bearing roots, but no acorns, coupled with a sword and crown.

The family were outlawed at the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century and many were forced to change their surname, amongst their number was the notorious bandit Rob Roy MacGregor. In 1775 the clan MacGregor was restored finally to their rightful name





Scots Pines feature in the Arms of Farquharson of Invercauld who have been associated with Deeside since the 14<sup>th</sup> century. A Donald Farquharson married Isobel Stewart, heiress of Invercauld, and thus inherited that estate. The King then made him keeper of the royal forests of Braemar and thus the pine tree was adopted as part of the Arms. The family owned Braemar Castle, a tower house near the Burgh of Braemar which is now owned and run by the Braemar community as a tourist attraction. Recently Invercauld House, seat of the Farquharsons, was put on the market for sale.

Plants are harvested as food, or for the production of various kinds of drinks. Cereal crops were once cut by hand, gathered into bundles, “stooks” in Doric, and stood up in fields to dry. A bundle of corn is called a *garb* in heraldry and three garbs have featured in the Arms of the Comyns since the 12<sup>th</sup> century. At one time the Comyns were the most powerful family in Scotland and owned vast tracts of fertile lands including Buchan. Their power and influence were destroyed by Robert the Bruce in his struggle to become King of Scots. Comyn heraldry can still be seen on various buildings in Aberdeenshire, such as Pitsligo Castle near Rosehearty and Pittendrum House at Sandhaven by Fraserburgh.



The last Arms to be featured are those of Flora Fraser, Lady Saltoun. She is Chief of the Frasers and the first quarter of her Arms shows the Fraser armorial bearings. This consists of three *cinquefoils*, the heraldic term for a stylised strawberry flower. In French a strawberry is a *fraise* so from that word derives the surname *Fraiser*, or Fraser. Thus fruit are also included in the heraldic lexicon, from strawberries to grapes to apples to oranges and to pomegranates. Vegetables are also featured, the most common in the United Kingdom being the leek of Wales.

Natural history is yet another facet of the world which has been absorbed into the science of heraldry, and next month we will look at another quite different area, namely the religious use of armory.