

THE BURNETT BANNER

Burnett Newsletter
(including House of Burnett News)

Edition No 23
September 2013

BURNETT GATHERING 2013

Although the programme did not go entirely to plan, the 2013 Gathering appears to have been very successful. We Burnetts at Crathes very much enjoyed the company of all who came to it. Our thanks to all and particularly to Leland Burnett, who did so much to organise and “herd” the group and to our President, Jacky Daugherty. We were unfortunate in not being able to visit Muchalls Castle and Kemnay House, but there were other visits, events and activities. We were privileged in being allowed to include Monboddo House on our Friday tour. The single day of wet weather meant that we had to cancel the Croquet and which was most disappointing since we had our champion, Bob Burnett, here for that event. On the same day we also had to cancel the walk up Scolty Hill as it was shrouded in cloud.

After touring the Castle on the opening day and paying a visit to the Loch of Leys to view the Crannog, we met at the Raemoir Hotel for lunch. *Continued on page 2.....*



Outside Raemoir House Hotel

NEW BURNETT ARRIVAL

Serena Farzana Georgina Asghar

Born to Eliza Burnett of Leys and Azzy Asghar (pictured right) on Saturday September 7th in the Chelsea & Westminster Hospital at 4.23 am weighing 3.47 kilos (7lbs 10oz).





Loch of Leys Crannog

Many of the visitors then departed for Craigievar Castle, the fairy-tale “sister” of Crathes. Others participated in Paintball and Archery or endeavouring to catch a salmon on the River Dee. Success on the river was limited because the dry conditions had resulted in low water levels and a shortage of fresh run fish. rainfall a few days later enabled the picture to change. This is hard to plan but next time fishers will be more fortunate.

For most, the evening was spent in the company of Lord Monboddo and others on stage at Woodend Barn, whilst others, as on subsequent nights, took to the hunt with great success. Every night, each of the parties returned with a roe buck.



Adam Jones fishing on Crathes Castle Beat



Melissa Howze on hunting trip

Thursday was the only day where the weather disappointed. However, the Crathes Gardens guided tour, given by the Head Gardner, Toby Loveday went ahead, albeit partly under umbrellas, as did the journey on the Deeside Railway. The train was full and there was also a well-attended class at Scottish Country Dancing in the Crathes Station Village Hall with tuition from leading Country Dance tutor, Isobel McMillan.

In the afternoon, most went to Drum Castle where they were guided by David Irvine of Drum. There is currently much work being carried out at Drum and, whilst this will be of interest to visitors, it did physically restrict the visit although there is excellent interpretation to replace what cannot be viewed. However, during this month, there has been an exciting discovery of two mediaeval chambers which have been hidden for over 150 years. It is thought that this is where Alexander Irvine, 17th Laird of Drum and a staunch Jacobite was hidden by her sister Mary for three years following Culloden in 1746. This is a huge and important discovery.



Journey on Deeside Railway

Although not spectacular, attention was drawn to the very significant discovery of the World’s Oldest Lunar “Calendar” Archaeologists believe they have discovered this at Crathes in the Warren field which lies a few 100 metres to the east of the Castle and close to the main drive. There is more to this in an article elsewhere in this edition of the Banner.

The weather did not deter a larger than expected number of Go-Ape participants who, with a degree of trepidation, completed this tree-top adventure course close to the Castle.

Thursday evening provided an exceptional event. Charles Burnett, The Ross Herald gave us a thoroughly interesting, educational and enjoyable illustrated lecture on the essentials of heraldry.



James Burnett introducing Charles Burnett

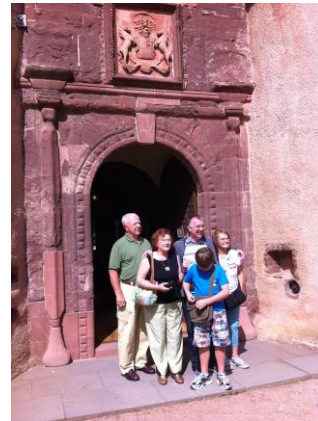
For Friday, the Gathering split quite evenly into three touring groups. Elma McMenemy accompanied by Victor Burnett took the Southern Tour to Whyte and Mackay's Fettercairn Distillery and then on to Monboddie House, (which is for sale), where they were kindly given a tour of the house by the owner Louise Crighton who had provided a display of historical papers. In addition to lunching at the Lewis Grassie Gibbon Centre and visiting the spectacular Dunnottar Castle, they visited Blairs Museum following which I received some interesting history with a formidable Burnett association and which appears elsewhere in this Banner.

Charles Burnett, with Gillian Murray, went to Aberdeen where a visit to Ian Burnett's Highland Chocolatier stand in Aberdeen provided a possibly welcome break from the more cerebral ecclesiastical subjects of that tour which included St Machar's and St Andrew's Cathedrals, St Nicholas Church and the iconic new University Library.



Aberdeen Group Tour at Robert the Bruce Statue outside Marischal College

I took the group north Haddo House and Fyvie Castle. Our day did not allow us to visit the Bishop's Palace at Fetternear, but we did stop at the memorial to the Battle of Harlaw and to view the scene where one of Leland's ancestors fell.



Fyvie Castle



Leland Burnett at Harlaw

Saturday most of us, (a few went shopping!) attended the Aboyne Highland Games. Burnett were well represented musically by the performance of the Banchory and District Band who are enjoying a revival and were resplendent in the Burnett kilts. But the individual Burnett star was Andy Burnett who finished a very respectable 48th out of 81 in the Clansmen's Hill Race despite suffering a foot problem which left him disadvantaged for the Ceilidh in the evening. It would be good if more Burnett attending gatherings in the future are able to compete in any of the events. Such contributions to the games are always welcome.



Burnetts at Clan Tent at Aboyne Games



Rhonda Wilson & Daylene Linville with their mother Helen Stockstill at Aboyne Games



Andy Burnett finishing Hill Race at Aboyne Games

The Ceilidh at Woodend Barn completed a successful programme according to all of those who attended.



Ceilidh



Scottish Country Dancing at Ceilidh

HENRY CECIL 11TH JANUARY 1943 – 11TH JUNE 2013

*A champion is someone who gets up,
even when he can't*

Another stage of the Henry Cecil story was reached when over a thousand friends and family attended a memorial service in Ely Cathedral on September 16th. Hymns included *All Things Bright and Beautiful* and *Amazing Grace*; Readings and Recollections by children and grandchildren; a Eulogy by Lord Grimthorpe; and to conclude, Highland Cathedral, piped by Pipe Major 'Dixie' Ingram, contributed to what was a moving and memorable occasion.



A new sweet pea bred by the world's leading hybridist and introduced by Mr Fothergill's has been named 'Sir Henry Cecil' in his honour. The sweetly scented chocolate flake variety was officially 'christened' by Lady Cecil on August 7.

"We knew Sir Henry loved his flower garden as a form of relaxation from the pressure of training racehorses, and so we were honoured when Lady Cecil agreed to our request to name the new variety in his memory", said John Fothergill. Sweet Pea Sir Henry Cecil was bred in New Zealand by the renowned Dr Keith Hammett and is available exclusively from Mr Fothergill's.



His widow, Jane, has just announced that she is going to continue to train horses after enjoying a successful racing season, with a temporary trainer's licence.

James C A Burnett of Leys

NOTE FROM THE SECRETARY HOB

Greetings;

Those of you who were unable to attend the 2013 Gathering, you missed out on a wonderful trip. A few interesting things were The Evening with Monboddo and the Ceilidh at Woodend Barn, where we were joined by the Hay Clan. What a party. On our last night some of us went to the Royal Edinburgh Tattoo at the Edinburgh Castle and it was well worth the price of a ticket.

Since my return from Scotland I went to a Burnett Reunion at Sloan's Valley KY. where 60 plus members of the Burnett Family attended. I also set up a Burnett Tent at the Wisconsin Games. A storm came through Friday Night and ripped my 2 tents apart. I was able to repair one from parts of both Tents and was able to finish the weekend. The Harley Davidson Company was celebrating their 110th anniversary in the area and the thousands of Motorcycles created driving nightmares.

Board of Director Elections will take place in early Dec. Two Board Members will be elected for three year terms which commences 1 Jan. 2014. The Board will also be electing the Executive Officers (President, Secretary and Treasurer). If you have interest in serving in any of these positions let me know.

Dues come due on 31 Dec. 2013. Check your membership and see when your membership expires. Any questions can be sent to me for resolution.

Yours Aye

Leland L Burnett
Secretary, House of Burnett
burnett@dcwis.com

ISLA CECIL

My nephew, Mikey Cecil and his wife, Annie, recently completed a magnificent fund-raising event in memory of their baby daughter, Isla, who so sadly died of a very rare brain tumour, ETANTR on 7th November. The tumour that appears to have started in her brain stem was

particularly aggressive, inoperable and there was no treatment. Dr Darren Hargrave, a Consultant Paediatric Oncologist at Great Ormond Street Hospital, has set up a fund to focus on High Risk childhood brain tumours. A partnership between Great Ormond Street and Royal Marsden Hospitals and Newcastle University will work on improving treatment for the disease.

The event which consisted of a 1,000 mile cycle ride in two weeks from Cornwall to Windsor Racecourse, but travelling through every place that Isla had visited during her short life. £235,000 raised at a gala dinner at Windsor, where a race was held in Isla's name and the jockeys all wore armbands in her memory. This brought the total which Mikey and Annie have raised to over £500,000. Isla, despite her terminal illness, attended Frankel's last race at Ascot last autumn.



James C A Burnett of Leys

THE GLASGOW, KENTUCKY HIGHLAND GAMES MAY 31 - JUNE 2

The weather in Kentucky in June is usually in the 90's this time of year, but this year it was in the 70's and 80's, which made it a decent weekend. We did have a little rain, but no big storms. We had 8 people, and 4 generations helping in the House of Burnett Tent.



Chief of the 2013 Glasgow, Kentucky Highland Games. Donald MacLaren of Clan MacLaren with Leland.



Dr James Stephens and his sons, with Leland.



*Parade of Tartan.
House of Burnett led by Leland's Great-Grandson, Andy.*



The Burnett's in the Tartan Parade, making the rounds of the approximately 60 Clan tents.

*The Annual Children's Tug of War.
When the "little kids" take on the "big kids" of Clan Wallace. Guess who wins?*



The kids all lined up and ready



*Leland's Great Grand-daughter,
Caprice, receiving her award*



The kids posing with their awards for their winning efforts!



*Leland with Granddaughter, Marie, and Great
Grand-daughter, Braelin.*

NEW MEMBER OF THE BURNETT CLAN

I was recently asked by one of my former godsons, Nicholas Jenkins, if I would permit him to have a kilt made of Burnett tartan. I am advised him, (having obtained the very best of advice), that there is a great deal of rubbish peddled by tartan manufacturers about the wearing of tartan created in order to sell tartan! He should wear the tartan which he likes best and wear it with pride as a son of Caledonia. If he wished to be adopted by "Clan" Burnett, (and which is quite acceptable and I have the authority to accept him). Consequently he agreed and herewith the new Burnett with his partner Louise.

Nick's parents have now settled in Australia, but he heads up the Marketing Department for an energy solutions company in Dubai.

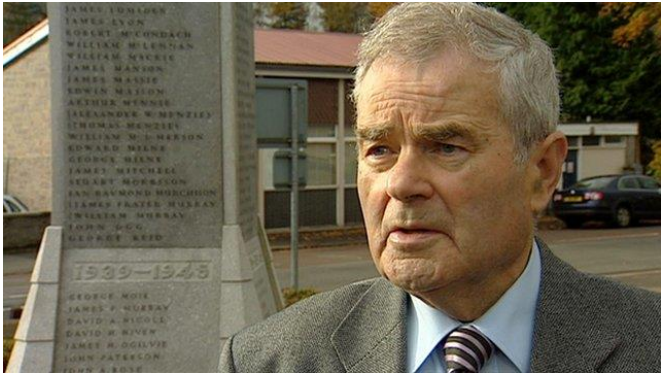


James C A Burnett of Leys

ERNEST SANGSTER

Readers will recall articles on Ernest Sangster, the much respected guide at Crathes and his success in persuading the London Authorities to raise Tower Bridge in London at 1100hrs on Armistice Day to encourage maintenance of the

two minutes silence as a mark of respect. Sadly Ernest success recipient of the British Empire Medal (BEM) has died, peacefully at his home aged 83. He was recently awarded the British Empire Medal which was scrapped in 1993 but revived in 2012 in order to recognise the dedication and hard work so many provide to their communities.



Ernie, who served as a Royal Air Force Mechanic from 1947-1950, was well known for his affiliation to the Banchory branch of the Royal British Legion of Scotland.

Editor

MONBODDO HOUSE FOR SALE

Some of those who came to the Gathering enjoyed a visit to Monboddo House which there were kindly shown by the owner, Louise Crighton. Sadly, she and her family are emigrating to New Zealand and Monboddo is on the market. It would be satisfying if the purchaser is to be a Burnett who had been made aware of the sale through the Banner.



James C A Burnett of Leys

THE WORLD'S OLDEST LUNAR "CALENDAR"

Archaeologists believe they have discovered the world's oldest lunar "calendar" at Crathes. The location is the field on the right of the main drive to the Castle. Excavations found a series of 12 pits which appear to mimic the phases of the moon and track lunar months. A team led by the University of Birmingham suggests that the ancient monument was created by hunter-gatherers about 10,000 years ago. It is on the site of a Neolithic Barn discovered in 1976.

The pit alignment, at Warren Field, was first excavated in 2004. The experts who analysed the pits said that they may have contained a wooden post. The Mesolithic "calendar" is thousands of years older than previous known formal time-measuring monuments created in Mesopotamia. The analysis has been published in the journal, *Internet Archaeology*.



The pit alignment, which also aligns on the Midwinter sunrise, provided the hunter-gatherers with an annual "astronomic correction" in order to better follow the passage of time and changing seasons.

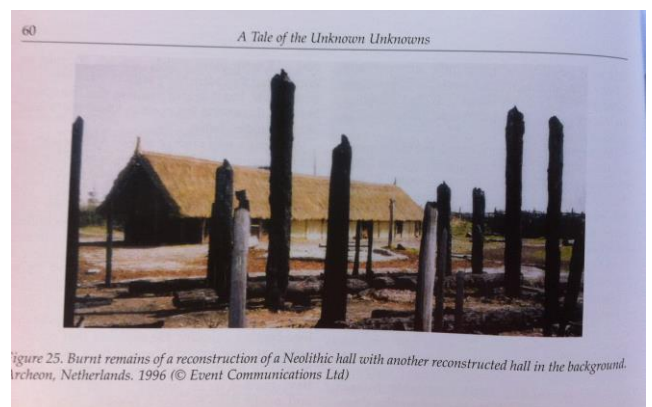
Vince Gaffney, Professor of Landscape Archaeology at Birmingham, leader of analysis project, said: "The evidence suggests that hunter-gatherer societies in Scotland had both the need and sophistication to track time across the years, to correct for seasonal drift of the lunar year and that this occurred nearly 5,000 years before the first formal calendars known in the Near East. In doing so, this illustrates one

important step towards the formal construction of time and therefore history itself."

Dr Richard Bates, of the University of St Andrews, said the discovery provided "exciting new evidence" of the early Mesolithic Scotland. He added: "This is the earliest example of such a structure and there is no known comparable site in Britain or Europe for several thousands of years after the monument at Warren Field was constructed."

The Warren Field site was first discovered as unusual crop marks spotted from the air by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. Dave Cowley, aerial survey projects manager at RCAHMS, said: "We have been taking photographs of the Scottish landscape for nearly 40 years, recording thousands of archaeological sites that would never have been detected from the ground. "Warren Field stands out as something special, however. It is remarkable to think that our aerial survey may have helped to find the place where time itself was invented."

NTS archaeologist Dr Shannon Fraser said: "This is a remarkable monument, which is so far unique in Britain. "Our excavations revealed a fascinating glimpse into the cultural lives of people some 10,000 years ago - and now this latest discovery further enriches our understanding of their relationship with time and the heavens."



Artist's impression of Neolithic Barn

The Editor

SIR ROBERT BURNETT OF MORDEN HALL

I am very grateful to John Burnett who has sent me more information on his ancestor, Sir Robert Burnett. Readers may recall articles in earlier Banners about Sir Robert whose link to the Burnetts of Leys we have been endeavouring to establish. He writes:

Everything seems to have come together all at once after a long time looking. Four sources of information were all found as a result of each other in the last couple of days which have provided the answer. I was looking for any information I could find on Sir Robert's known great-grandfather Alexander Burnet in the early 1600s and came across the reference to Dr. Burnett in Pepys Diary. I have read both Robert Latham's and Claire Tomalin's books in the past but probably never thought anything of the mention of Dr. Burnett (double t in Latham's book, but single t in Tomalin's). In quick succession I then saw your article in Banner 3 - quite rightly pointing out that there was no way that he could also be Gilbert Burnet, Bishop of Salisbury and very instrumental in replacing the Stuarts with the Dutch well after the time of the Plague. I then found in the records of the College of Physicians that Dr. Burnett was Alexander Burnet(t) who qualified at Cambridge University in 1639 and the Cambridge alumni records show he was the son of (sic) Dunkin Burnet M.D. of Norwich, (their spelling wasn't so good at Cambridge in those days), unquestionably Duncan Burnet, youngest son of Alexander Burnet and Katherine Arbuthnot.

So I believe we have the answer to your question in Banner 3 - and proved that Sir Robert was not inventing his connection to Leys. It remains that Harriet de Salis was up to her usual tricks, which got her drummed out of genealogy, of inventing the family connection to John, Factor for the Scots which looked convenient in terms of dates because she couldn't find the correct one - but then she didn't have the internet to help her !

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY RECORD

Dr. Alexander Burnet(t) - Burnet, Alexander. - Adm. pens. at EMMANUEL, Mar. 2, 1632-3. Of Essex. S. of Dunkin, M.D., of Norwich. Matric. - 1633; M.B. 1639; M.D. 1648. Adm. hon. fellow R.C.P.- Dec. 1664. Practised in London. Died of the plague, Aug. 25,- 1665. Buried at St Dionis. (Munk, I. 334; Vis. of Essex,-

1634.) (St. Dionis was in Fenchurch very close to his house)

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS RECORD

"Burnett, Alexander, b.? d.25 Aug 1665. MD Alexander Burnett, MD, was a doctor of medicine of Cambridge, of 1648; and was admitted an Honorary Fellow of the College of Physicians in December, 1664. Dr Burnett resided in Fenchurch-street, and was the ordinary medical attendant of Pepys the diarist. From his Diary we learn that Burnett died of the plague 25th August, 1665. From the subjoined statement, contained in a letter from Tellison to Dr Sancroft, it would appear that he fell victim to his own zeal, or, as some may perhaps think, to his temerity: "Dr Burnett, Dr Glover, and one or two more of the College of Physicians, with Dr O'Dowd, who was licensed by my lord's grace of Canterbury, some surgeons, apothecaries, and Johnson the chemist, died all very suddenly. Some say (but God forbid that I should report it for truth) that these, in a consultation together, if not all, yet the greatest part of them, attempted to open a dead corpse that was full of the tokens, and being in hand with the dissected body, some fell down immediately, and others did not outlive the next day at noon." - William Munk

www.rcplondon.ac.uk/heritage/munksroll/m...

(Munk's 'Roll' is a list of obituaries of all former College Fellows. It also includes licentiates of the College before 1825.)

Reading further information about Duncan, (MD in Norwich), and his brother Thomas, (MD in Braintree), I am beginning to think that our Alexander who is described as "son of Dunkin Burnet MD of Norwich" by Cambridge University may have really been his brother Thomas's son Alexander born 1613, and that Duncan - according to Middleton, a "learned, holy and good man." (The Family of Burnett of Leys, George Burnett) - supported him whilst he was there. Duncan's left virtually nothing to his own son, (yet another Thomas), in his will as it appears his lifestyle was not up to scratch so he may have favoured his nephew. I had previously found Dr. Alexander's dates as 1613 - 1665 which ties in with that, and can find no mention other than the Cambridge reference to a son with that name.

How much easier if they had not all used the same names for their children !

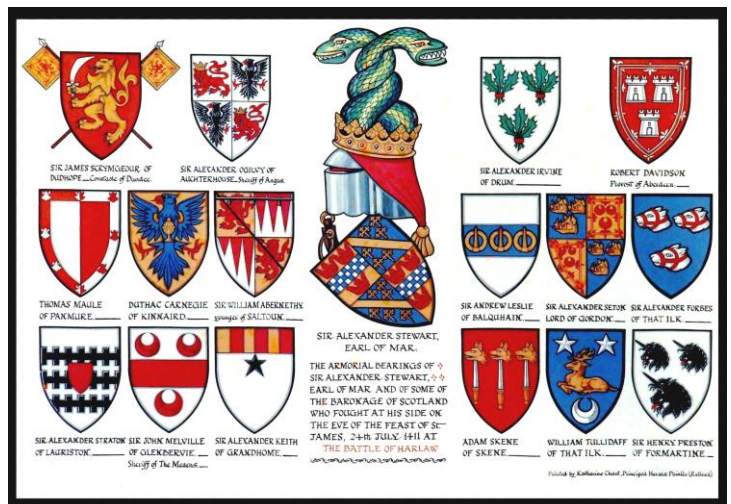
HERALDRY QUEEN'S HERALD IN SCOTLAND

On the 24th July this year it will be the 600th Anniversary of a Battle which took place near Inverurie between a Highland host and a group of Lowlanders from Aberdeenshire and the Mearns. The former were led by the Lord of the Isles, the latter by Alexander Stewart, Earl of Mar. The Lord of the Isles was seeking to establish his claim to certain lands in the north-east which had been part of the Earldom of Ross. If he had won the Battle we would probably all have been Gaelic speakers today.



1911 was the 500th Anniversary of the Battle and a suggestion was made to Aberdeen City Council that a Monument should be erected to commemorate the Battle. The Council commissioned the well-known Aberdeen architect, William Kelly, to design a suitable structure and he proposed a six-sided tower of pink Kemnay granite with six huge blocks which would be carved with heraldic shields. The cost was to be £500. This proved too much for the frugal Council so Kelly dropped the idea of the carved shields and this brought the price down to £350. This was acceptable to the Council so the Monument was erected near Inverurie, and unveiled with great ceremony on 24th July 1911.

Another reason why the heraldry was abandoned was disagreement about whose Arms should be shown. Many felt that none of the Highland clans involved in the Battle should be represented. This illustration shows the Arms of the Earl of Mar with the entwined serpents crest, along with sixteen shields of Lowland families from Aberdeenshire and the Mearns who fought against the Highlanders. This painting was commissioned by the late Joe Sutherland, merchant in Aberdeen.



The Leader of the Highland Host was the powerful and influential Donald, Lord of the Isles, who owned and controlled most of Scotland north and west of the Great Glen. His base was on the island of Islay and instead of supplying only fighting men, his vassals had also to give galley service as the main means of communication around his scattered island possessions was by sea. However it was fighting men who accompanied him from the west when he marched into Aberdeenshire in the summer of 1411.



The Lord of the Isles brought several clans with him and some of their Arms are displayed here. From left to right these are:

Macdonald, MacDougal, Mackinnon, Cameron, Maclean of Duart, and Ross.

The Battle was fought on high ground near Inverurie; casualties were high and the outcome indecisive. No outright winner emerged but the Highland Host had been stopped and they turned back to the west. Provost Davidson of Aberdeen was killed along with several Burgesses, Irvine of Drum and Maclean of Duart fought a bloody hand to hand individual battle and killed each other.

On 24th July this year the 600th Anniversary of the Battle will be celebrated. There is to be a Harlaw Conference in Aberdeen on 10th June in Trinity Hall, Holburn Street, Aberdeen, a Dinner on Saturday 23rd July, and a church service in St Nicholas Kirk, Aberdeen at 11.00 am on the actual Anniversary Day. In order to celebrate the 600th Anniversary the Harlaw Monument will, at long last, be completed by adding heraldry as Dr William Kelly intended. Money has been raised by the Burgesses of Aberdeen, the Clan Associations of Davidson, Irvine, Macdonald and Maclean, and the St Andrews Fund for Scots Heraldry to create six cast aluminium shields which have been modelled by Aberdeen sculptor Gordon Burnett. These will be painted in their correct tinctures using long-life paint developed for the off-shore oil industry.



The Arms chosen for display on the Monument are those shown here from left to right;

City and Royal Burgh of Aberdeen, Provost Davidson, Stewart, Earl of Mar, Lord of the Isles, Irvine of Drum, and Maclean of Duart.

An official commemoration of the Battle will take place at 1.30pm on the 24th July at the Harlaw Monument by a group of invited guests. The Monument with its new heraldry will be open to the public from 3.00pm that afternoon.

Charles J Burnett

BISHOP BURNETT ON EDUCATION

And hitherto I have brought our boy through the hardest parts of education, and the most unpleasant both to master and scholar; at fourteen or fifteen yeares of age, I suppose him to be well seen in the necessary tongues, in history, and geography: and so as by our law he wears out of tutory, he also shall need a preceptor; the rest of the work being more rational, and so to be performed by the governour, who is never so necessary as at the age.

And first I must condemne the applying youths to the study of philosophy; whereas to judge of a hypothesis of nature is one of the deepest thoughts can enter into the heart of a man, and so requires the greatest maturity of spirit. But though some hints might be given of hypotheses, yet to drive youths to positive assertions, and to make them tenaciously adhere to and defend these, is to overturn philosophy; but to keep them many years at this, as if it were the only learning, is the loss of youth, and the ruine of literature.

But to begin with the chieffe care; now is the time wherein the governour should with all diligence infuse in the youth's mind, the true and solide principles of the Christian religion; not so much as acquainting him, except by way of historical relation, with the janglings of divines and contravertists, but he should chiefly root in him the persuasion of these great fundamental verities. To preserve him from the poison of Atheisme. And for the other matters, two principles should be deeply infixed in him; the one not to be curious of subtile in divine matters; not to examine them by the querks of sophistry; and the other not to be fondly nor superstitiously addicted to one's own persuasion, nor to censure or judge others who differ. How necessary it is to rivet these principles in youth, out present distractions doe sufficiently prove. These foundations being well laid, other superstructures may be slowly reared.

The Editor

MORE NOBLES SPELLING

Readers make recall an article in Banner 19 and for which I give all credit, as with the following, to Drew Young, former educationalist and one of the senior guides at Crathes Castle.

In old Scots, (and old English) the alphabet included a new defunct letter looking a bit like the number but with a slightly longer tail ꝛ. The name of the letter is 'yogh' and it was pronounced somewhere between a modern 'y' ('yi') and 'j' (ji).

When printing became virtually universal, the yogh was normally replaced by a 'y' or 'j'. The yogh can be seen in the old spelling of several words ꝓung (young) and ꝓhistirday (yesterday). However, in words which retained the yogh, printers tended to use the rather similarly looking letter 'z'.

The letter yogh has now been almost forgotten but its shadow can be heard in the apparently anomalous pronunciation of several Scottish place and surnames. The most common are:

Menzies – originally Menzies, hence Mingies
Dalziel – Deeyell
Culzean – Culain
And locally to Crathes – Finzean – Fingin.

The yogh can be seen in the script on several of the beams in the Nine Nobles Room at Crathes. In particular the description of Hector of Troy has a word that looks like 'zit' but is really 'ꝓit' (a yogh and not a zed) and would be pronounced 'yet'.

"...had not Achilles slain me tressonable, Troy ꝓit had stand & lost no libertie."



James C A Burnett of Leys

BURNET AND BLAIRS MUSEUM

Some who came to the 2013 Gathering and visited the Museum at Blairs were maybe made aware of a daring rescued by David Burnet of some of the items on view and which are on loan from the National Museum.

The items shown are a chalice with paten (plate) on top, a ciborium with its lid and a Sanctus bell (rung at various points during the Mass). All have the Royal monogram 'J R' (Jacobus Rex). I am grateful to *The Tablet* for the use of this photograph.



HOLYROOD CHRISTMAS, 1688

One winter day in mid-December, 1688, one of the royal chaplains of His Majesty King James VII and II was seated in his room, secure from the icy air without. But he did not feel so secure as he looked. It was an extraordinary state of affairs, this sudden efflorescence of royal Catholicism here in the heart of Edinburgh. The full splendour of the Church's ceremonial was paraded before the bitterly hostile eyes of the muzzled ministers, to the deep misgiving of many wise heads among the faithful, including that great Catholic, the first Duke of Gordon, soon to prove himself one of the last to hold out for King James in Scotland. Here, in the palace of Holyrood House, the use of the chapel for its true purpose had been followed by the King's conversion of the largest hall under that historic roof into a church, in 1687, so that the chapel

might be richly adorned. His Majesty had appointed a number of chaplains, both secular and Jesuit : Mr. Dunbar, his Dean and Almoner, Mr. David Burnet, Mr. George Gordon and Mr. Strachan (temporarily), Fr. Widdrington (whose alias lost his real name to posterity), and Fr. Gordon of Leith, both Jesuits, as was also M. le Cerf, the predicateur. For some time the question of obtaining the appointment of a Bishop had been mooted ; a meeting of the clergy was called to discuss the matter at Gordon Castle, in May 1687, to the great alarm of the more cautious. The Angelus rang out over Edinburgh once again ; every Sunday bells were rung when High Mass was celebrated, and at the times of public instruction and Vespers.

And for nearly two years this audacious ostentation seemed to be justified, judging by the effects of the royal boldness. Here, in the stronghold of No Popery, Protestant crowds flocked to hear celebrated preachers, such as Mr. David Burnet himself—whom a priest familiar with the whole University of Padua declared to be the best speaker he had ever heard—especially in their Lenten instructions. Yet this indiscreet zeal, to quote the late Canon Clapperton, that devoted biographer of Scotland's missionary priests,* "this seeming triumph of Catholicity had wearied out the patience of the most forbearing, and roused to fury the hatred of the more fanatical ministers. They recognized the new-born strength of a cause which they had deemed utterly crushed, and dreaded the assumption in its turn of the weapons they themselves had wielded. They appealed to the mob to silence what their books, their discourses, their challenges had failed to refute, and the end of all revealed itself at last in a tempest that rivalled the wildest days of Knox and iconoclasm, and left its desolating traces on

many a dreary dungeon and exile life, whose records are yet before us."

The first rumour of that gathering mob reached Mr. Burnet 's quick ears as he sat in his room at sunset, this 10th (20th) of December, 1688. And in that instant when the alarm came, he proved himself a typical Scottish missionary priest. Without waiting to catch up one single possession of his own, he "rushed from his room," straight to the chapel, "seized some of the richest vessels and fled in the darkness towards Leith," to hide there until he could cross the Firth at sunrise. He had a double purpose ; to reach the Enzie in Banff, "as a place of comparative safety for the rich plate he had rescued at the sacrifice of his own property," and also (for this true Scot left nothing to chance) to give the alarm to his brother-priests in the North, "by outstripping the report of the riots." But about four in the morning, "when the night was darkest and the frost keenest, the shouts and yells of the approaching rioters forced him from the shelter of a friendly roof to wander for four hours in the open fields with his precious charge." However, with the first gleam of daylight he managed to hire a boat about half-a-mile above Leith, crossed the Firth, and on landing "he presently horsed for the north country."

Meanwhile the gates of Holyrood were stormed by a mob seven hundred strong, reinforced by six hundred of the town guard and train bands, despite the heroic defence of Captain Wallace with only forty soldiers. The rioters made straight for the chapel : "Everything within its walls was torn down, broken, defaced and cast forth at the windows into the outer court. They then rushed to the Abbey Church. Its decorations of exquisite carved work were not yet completed ; nearly eight thousand crowns had already been expended on them. . . . The whole was carried to the outer court, and cast

into one great heap, where books, ornaments of the altar, carvings, vestments, everything combustible, went to feed the flames. In the midst of the frantic mob were seen several of the disloyal nobility, encouraging them. The personal property belonging to the eight secular priests, in vestments, books, Church plate, etc., that was carried off was valued at 920 crowns." For several days after this orgy of destruction the rioters pillaged Catholic houses in and near Edinburgh.

Clearly, Mr. Burnet 's escape was known or suspected, for his enemies were on his trail before he was half an hour beyond Kirkcaldy, although he neither stopped there nor spoke to anyone ; he was followed for about a mile, but outrode his pursuers. He snatched a brief rest at Montrose, "but scarce had he remounted and left the town, when the magistrates searched his lodgings to seize him." Yet, hot as the chase had become, he succeeded in warning the priests wherever he passed, especially at Aberdeen, "to seek concealment for themselves and their sacred vessels, so that the rioters who copied the lawless doings of the capital found less than they to wreak their fury on." And it is exhilarating to record that this high-hearted priest reached the Enzie safely, having accomplished both his purposes ; besides the sacred treasures he had saved intact by the sacrifice of his own goods, the repeated risking of his life as he checked his wild ride to warn other priests must have saved many lives and much church property of a kind particularly difficult to replace in penal times. For a year he paid the price, lurking in the friendly Enzie—usually with another priest, Alexander Leslie—now on the hill of Auldmere, near Keith, now in cottages, both endangered and straitened by his welcome presence, so that he had to change frequently from one to another, spending the winter in a roughly improvised hut, familiar with cold and hunger. In the following Spring

(1690) he was sent to Ireland to take King James the assurance of the loyalty of the clergy and some of the leading Catholic laity. Subsequently he went to Paris, there devoting his energies to issuing strong appeals to Rome on behalf of his persecuted and destitute brethren. Finally, after repeated efforts, he succeeded in making his way back to Scotland, and resumed his work in the Enzie. He had the happiness of dying there among his flock, in 1695, and was buried in the church of St. Ninian, among the people he had served so faithfully.

But the sequel to this fine true story is worthy of it. For, with one comparatively recent exception, all the sacred vessels saved by Mr. Burnet from the sack of Holyrood chapel are still safe in Catholic Scottish hands. The more ornate of the two large chalices was formerly used on great feasts at Preshome, and is now at Blairs. The other was long preserved at Tynet, until it met with an irreparably tragic fate as late as the summer of 1847, when a burglar broke into the sacristy and stole it. He was captured, but alas ! the historic treasure was by then in almost unrecognizable fragments, to the deep grief of priest and people alike. The ciborium is still in use at Preshome. The bell still sounds its sweet, silvery note in the private oratory of the Bishop of Aberdeen. A magnificent silver monstrance (now gilded), with bosses of cherub heads (formerly at Aquhorties), and a rich silver thurible and incense boat were also saved from the sack of the Chapel Royal at Holyrood. These were fittingly given by Bishop Patterson to St. Margaret's, Edinburgh, the first convent established in Scotland after the Reformation, and already over a hundred years old, where they are still in use, mute witnesses of the "Second Spring."

*Blairs MSS (All the quotations are from this source)

NOEL MACDONALD WILBY

The Tablet, page 13, 24th December 1938.

GRANNY'S GAIRDEN

This poem by George P Dunbar is of fond memories of a grand-parent's garden - and of the old folk themselves.

Oh, weel yet div I min' on't
In days lang, lang gane bye,
The dear aul' ramblin' gairden
Sae clear in memory's eye;
There a'jist mixer-maxter
The sweet aul' favourites grew,
The roses an' the aul' maids' pride,
Rosemary, thyme an' rue.

The honeysuckle clim't the wa',
An' aye at early morn
A guff o' sweetness creepit in
Tae tell o' day new-born;
An' through it a' was marjoram,
Fite bells an' mappie-moo,
An' mony ithers dear tae me
O' ilka shade an' hue.

Anaith the thrawn aul' aipple tree
The aul' fowk aft wad sit,
An' grandad there wad smoke an' dream,
An' granny eest tae knit;
They were pairt o' that aul' gairden,
An' tho' lang since awa'
They linger fondly in my he'rt,
The best lo'ed o' them a'.

Meaning of unusual words:
div=do

mixter-maxter=jumble
guff=smell

Fite bells=white bell-flowers
mappie-moo=literally rabbits mouth
(antirrhinum/snapdragons)

ilka=every

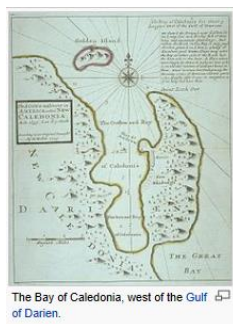
Anaith=beneath

thrawn=stubborn, obstinate



THE DARIEN VENTURE: THE COLONIAL DREAM THAT ALTERED COURSE OF SCOTLAND'S HISTORY

The Darien Colony was founded by Scottish emigrants on November 3rd, 1698. Although the scheme failed, it has been seen as marking the beginning of the country's transformation into a modern nation oriented toward business.



On July 12th, 1698 five ships carrying 1,200 eager colonists left the Port of Leith in Scotland to a rapturous send-off. Most of the ill-fated emigrants did not know where they were going and did not find out until the sealed orders were opened at Madeira, but they were brimming with enthusiasm anyway.

A voyage of three months took them across the Atlantic to a harbor on the mangrove-studded Caribbean coast of Panama. On November 3rd, they took formal possession of their new territory, confidently naming it Caledonia and laying the foundations of the settlement of New Edinburgh. But it all went horribly wrong. Hundreds died of fever and dysentery before the colony was abandoned.

The idea was to establish a colony in Darien, open to ships of all countries, and to carry the cargoes of the Atlantic and the Pacific across the narrow Isthmus of Panama, cutting out the long voyage around Cape Horn. Holding the key to the trade of both oceans, the colony would be hugely profitable and would make Scotland one of the richest nations on the globe. This scheme was the visionary brainchild of the brilliant Scottish financier William Paterson, who made a fortune in London and was the leading founder of the Bank of England in 1694, while still in his thirties.



A year later, the Company of Scotland Trading to Africa and the Indies was authorized by the Scottish Parliament. It was meant to be a rival to the East India Company, but powerful interests in London did not want a competitor and obstacles were put in the new

institution's way. So fierce was resentment at this treatment by the English that thousands of Scots put their own money into the enterprise. Fervent national pride was aroused and a crowd cheered to the echo as the ships – Caledonia, St Andrew, Unicorn, Dolphin and Endeavour – sailed from Leith. Scores of stowaways who hoped to go along had to be ejected tearfully from the ships before sailing.

The first passenger rightfully on board was William Paterson, with his wife and son, neither of whom would survive the expedition. Many of the others would not survive either. The promoters had failed to allow for the Darien climate, the insuperable difficulties of transporting cargoes through mosquito-infested tropical jungle and the fact that the Spanish considered the territory their own and were not about to tolerate intruders.

Already on the voyage across the Atlantic the expedition's leaders had started to quarrel among themselves. Once landed, the settlers were treated kindly by the local natives, who enjoyed flying the cross of St Andrew gaily on their canoes, but the Scots were desperately short of food, a prey to disease and riven by feuds. The English colonies in the West Indies and North America were forbidden to communicate with them or send them help by order of the government in London, which had its foreign policy and its relations with Spain to consider. The Spaniards were mobilizing against the colony and a ship sent from the Clyde with extra supplies never arrived. In June, the exhausted survivors decided to go home. Paterson himself was now too starved and ill to persuade them otherwise. They sailed painfully back to Jamaica and New York, abandoning ship after ship on the way. Only the Caledonia finally made it back to Scotland.



Unaware of all this, a second consignment of settlers reached Darien at the end of November 1699, but the ship carrying their food supply caught fire and burned, while a Spanish fleet arrived to blockade the harbor. The enterprise was abandoned in March 1700 and a capitulation was signed with the Spaniards in pelted rain while a solitary piper played a lament. Traces of the settlement were found in 1979 at what is still called Caledonia Bay.



Scotland blamed the whole fiasco on the English. Paterson himself was bankrupt, but still believed in his scheme and tried vainly to revive it. Meanwhile, the Darien disaster seems to have persuaded hard-headed Scotsmen that their country could not prosper by itself, but needed access to England's empire, and it helped to pave the way for the Act of Union between the two countries in 1707. Under the Act the investors in the Darien scheme were quietly compensated for their losses at taxpayers' expense.

Burnett Connections:

There may have been Burnett investors in the Darien Venture; my research did not uncover any. These are two connections that I found:

Gilbert Burnet, History of His Own Time, 6 vols. (Oxford, 1823), Vol. V, p. 291; Records the story of the Darien Scheme. (Gilbert Burnet, 18 September 1643 – 17 March 1715, was a contemporary to the venture as well as a Scottish theologian and historian, and Bishop of Salisbury.) See:

<<http://archive.org/stream/anabridgmentbis00stacgoog#page/n385/mode/2up/search/Darien+Scheme>>

Cliff Burnett played a character in the play, "Caledonia", by Alistair Beaton, satirist and political dramatist. The play featured bankers, speculation, "greed, euphoria and mass delusion". It was performed at the Edinburgh International Festival in 2010. Cliff Burnett's theatre work includes Peer Gynt (National Theatre Of Scotland/Dundee Rep Theatre/Barbican); Fall (Traverse Theatre);

Romeo and Juliet, Hedda Gabler, The Tempest, Moby Dick Rehearsed, Equus and The Cherry Orchard (Dundee Rep Theatre).

There are many more interesting twists and turns in the Darien story. Explore some of these references to uncover those we were unable to mention here.

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