

THE BURNETT BANNER

Burnett Newsletter
(including House of Burnett News)

Edition No 26
June 2014

ABOYNE GAMES & CEILIDH **SATURDAY 2ND AUGUST**

We will have our Burnett tent as usual at the Aboyne Highland Games and would be pleased to welcome any Burnetts who may be visiting. It is always useful to know in advance who is coming so please email if you are thinking of doing so: info@leyestate.co.uk

On the eve of the Games, in the Crathes Hall, there is a Clan Hay Ceilidh to which Burnetts have a special invitation. At Burnett Gatherings, we have shared such events with the Hays and the Irvines and this year The Hays are our hosts. We are very fortunate this year to have traditional ceilidh music provided by Andy Linklater and Robb McCombie with vocal accompaniment from Pandy Arthur. We hope that we shall see some Burnetts there. Anybody who is interested in attending should contact pam.rotheroe-hay@hotmail.co.uk/07777672059

I receive many enquiries about the next Burnett Gathering at Crathes. Many Burnetts come to Crathes every year and four years is a long time to wait for a

Burnett Gathering. We intend to plan a programme of events each year during the latter part of the week which ends on the first Saturday on August, which is the day of the Aboyne Highland Games at which we can offer some hospitality. We expect that other local clans will contribute to this programme which will include events which are open to all clans. The Clan Hay Ceilidh is such an event. This would not prevent individual clans from having their own functions and meetings solely for their own members

So, if you come to Scotland and Crathes, come during the week which ends on the first Saturday in August and there should be plenty to enjoy. Whenever it is that Burnetts will gather at Crathes, I look forward to joining many others in Las Vegas in April 2015

James C A Burnett of Leys

Burnett Reunion U.S. **April 11 & 12 of 2015** **Las Vegas, NV**

A member of the Burnett of Leys Family will attend

Lectures on Scottish Heraldry by Charles J Burnett Esq.,
Ross Herald of Scotland

Lectures on using DNA Testing for genealogical research

Highland Games presented by the Las Vegas Celtic
Society (www.lasvegascelticsociety.org)

Discounts on hotel rooms at the Golden Nugget

Ceilidh, Live Celtic Rock Bands, Piping Bands, Athletic
Events, Highland Dance, Celtic vendors, Clan Tents,
Burnetts as Honored Clan

Burnett Family Dinner with lecture on Burnett Heraldry
by Charles J. Burnett, Ross Herald

Spirits furnished by Mad Buffalo Brewing Company,

SCOTTISH INDEPENDENCE



It is very difficult for me and, I suspect, most people to understand fully many of the issues which are being raised. Separation costs; Pensions; North Sea Oil; Interest Rates etc. etc.

**MY THOUGHTS AND THOSE OF OTHERS
ARE WITH THE BIGGER ISSUES**

See more on pages 5 & 6

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The planning for the Burnett Reunion is well underway. We will hold it in Las Vegas on the 11th and 12th of April of 2015. The Reunion will be in conjunction with the Las Vegas Celtic Society who holds their Scottish Highland Games on the second weekend in April every year. [www.lasvegasceltic society.org]

The Reunion plans include a Burnett tent at the Games Saturday and Sunday then a dinner on Saturday night. Charles J. Burnett, Esq, Ross Herald, will give lectures on Scottish Heraldry at the Games and on Burnett Heraldry at the Saturday night dinner. We will also have lectures on the use of DNA testing in genealogical research at the Highland Games.



The Floyd Lamb Park where the Highland Games are held is a lush green area with mature trees, grass, and many peacocks. It is not out in the desert! I have many pictures of the park in the report on the Las Vegas Games in a section which follows.

Additionally, there is much more to Las Vegas than just gambling. If you enjoy fine dining many celebrity chefs have restaurants in Las Vegas. If you like shopping, the Aria Hotel has stores like Tiffany's, Dior, Dolce & Gabbana, Hermes, Valentino, Prada and Versace. If you get through all those, there are the shops at Caesars Palace! For reality show fans you can tour your favorite Las Vegas-based reality TV shows in person, including "Tanked," "American Restoration," "Counting Cars" and "Pawn Stars." Then there are many live shows that are like no others, like the several Cirque du Soleil shows especially, the Beatles LOVE and Michael Jackson ONE. (See Vegas.com for more shows and tours)

If you prefer the outdoors to the casino floor then plan a trip to the Hoover Dam, Lake Meade, or to the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, both less than an hour from the Strip. Or just rent a Harley and drive to the Grand Canyon.

I hope you, and your whole family, will plan to attend the Reunion next April. I can guarantee you a great time.

Should you have any questions email me at azlassie@gmail.com, call me at 928-788-9434, or write me at PO Box 666, Topock, AZ 86436. In addition, I will be at the Highland Games in Ventura, CA in October if you wish to speak to me in person.

Yours Aye

Jacky Daugherty

GREETINGS

After the long harsh winter in Wisconsin, it was a joy to feel the sun and 85 degree temperature at the Loch Norman North Carolina Highland Games. Friday Night we met with the Chief of the Games, where we had hors d' oeuvres (Is Haggles an hors d' oeuvre) and beverages. As soon as darkness came we gathered on the field to light torches and announce the attendance of the clans. John A Burnett and his wife Melissa helped man the House of Burnett Tent.

At the Glasgow Kentucky Games, There were 9 people helping out. Off course the young ones spent their time roaming around checking everything out but that is the purpose, to get them involved.

I'm still looking for others to help out by sponsoring a House of Burnett Tent in your area. There will be a House of Burnett Tent at the Grandfather Mountain Games.

I will be at a Burnett Reunion on 23 Aug in Somerset Kentucky. I will have a House of Burnett Tent at the Wisconsin Games Aug. 29, 30 and 31. I will also be at the Columbus Indiana Games on 13 and 14 Sep.

On a few final notes: (1) Keep in mind the Gathering in Las Vegas April 2015. (2) Sent any changes in your e-mail address. (3) Keep sending articles and pictures of family interest, for the Banner

Yours Aye

Leland L. Burnett
Secretary, House of Burnett

JOHN BURNETT AND FAMILY

It is always good to hear from John Burnett in Arkansas. Herewith an update of the proud father with Erin, Britton, Wes and Cameron



James C A Burnett of Leys

LEONARD RUTHERFORD, THE BLUEGRASS MUSIC LEGEND REMEMBERED

Some time ago I wrote an article about Blind Dick Burnett who lost his eye sight during a robbery attempt. In order to support his family, Burnett Traveled throughout the Southeastern, United States playing Bluegrass Music and writing songs.

A young 14 year old Leonard Rutherford who learned to sing and play a fiddle at an early age, caught Burnett's attention. Burnett, who needed a traveling companion, convinced Rutherford's parents to let the teenager travel with him and play "Old Time Music" or "Old Mountain Music", now known as Bluegrass. When I wrote my initial article I could find very little about Leonard.

Sadly after his death in 1951, Rutherford slipped into obscurity when he was buried in a simple unmarked grave in Somerset Kentucky. Rutherford remained forgotten for 68 years until Harlan Ogle of the Wayne County Historical Museum and Curator of the Blind Dick Burnett section of the Museum contacted Tricia Neal manager of the Somerset Kentucky Cemetery. Through their efforts they found his name written in faded pencil on the back of a index card. Tricia Neal was able to pinpoint the grave site from that information.

On March 22nd, his 116th birthday Rutherford received the recognition he long deserved, thank to the efforts of the Wayne County Kentucky Historical Museum Curator and the Somerset Kentucky Cemetery Manager.

Brothers Forest and David Rutherford met for the first time that week. They are the Grandson of Leonard. Also attending was David Rutherford, the youngest son of Leonard. The six sons of, Leonard Rutherford, had long been scattered and most were dead.

There were over 70 people who gathered at the grave site for the ceremony. The stone which was placed at the site read as follows:

Leonard Rutherford
March 22 1898 – June 30 1951

One of the smoothest Fiddlers ever to pick up a Bow
Burnett – Rutherford Duo

David the son dressed in the a Rutherford Family Tartan Kilt addressed the crowd, telling them of the family coming from Scotland to America seeking a better life settling in the Appalachian Mountains. This is where the Mountain Music began to take hold. Following this mountain tradition Leonard started playing the fiddle as a youngster.

Leland L. Burnett

LOCH NORMAN GAMES IN NORTH CAROLINA 12TH APRIL 2014



Leland Burnett and John A. Burnett at the Loch Norman Highland Games, North Carolina



John A. Burnett, House of Burnett Director, Leland Burnett, Secretary/Vice President of Festivals and Melissa McLean Burnett (Wife of John A. Burnett)

SAN DIEGO SCOTTISH HIGHLAND GAMES 28TH JUNE 2014



Walter & Eric Edwards at the Clan tent

WHO IS THE REDDEST OF THEM ALL?

Not who you might think! But more of that later. In August of 2013 a remarkable event took place in Crosshaven, County Cork. The Irish redhead convention gathered for a weekend celebration of red hair and all its glories. After red-gistration, there was carrot-tossing, a competition for the best red eyebrows and foxy braids. But IrelandsDNA attempted to introduce a light touch of science. Geneticist, Katie Barnes, gave a fascinating talk on red hair gene variants. She explained to a rapt audience of redheads that they were all of them the products of parents who both had to have carried one of the different sorts of variants. There are three common red hair variants but many rare ones—47 in all!



And who is the reddest of them all? Not the Irish! The map shows that the largest concentration of carriers of the red hair gene variants is in South Eastern Scotland with a staggering 40% of the population. Many people who took the DNA test had no idea because red hair does not always appear in the children of carriers. In fact the chances are only 25%. In my own family, who live in South Eastern Scotland and therefore boost the numbers, we had startling results. Neither my wife nor myself have red hair and yet two of our children are blessed with different colors of red hair (our scientists are working hard to work out if different combinations of the variants produce different colors of red hair—but no one is yet sure). So this turns out to be a secret hidden in our genes.

Launched in April 2012, IrelandsDNA immediately set out to innovate. By combining historical analysis with the genetic information that can be gleaned from testing for ancestral DNA, we aimed to achieve a new understanding of Ireland's history, a people's history.

A commercial company closely involved in scientific research, IrelandDNA offers a unique package of information featuring thorough historical analysis of results currently unmatched by any European DNA testing company. (Moffat also runs ScotlandDNA) The chief scientist involved is Dr. Jim Wilson.

Perhaps migration is the answer. The Northern Isles, the Hebrides and the Atlantic coasts saw significant Viking incursions and settlement after c800AD, and in the South East of Britain, the Anglo-Saxons settled in numbers after c400AD. These in-migrations may have significantly diluted the red-hair variants present in the indigenous populations before those dates.

By Alistair Moffat from an article in the *Desert Shamrock* May-June 2014 Alistair Moffat is the managing director of ScotlandsDNA, IrelandsDNA, BritainsDNA as well as an author of several books on genealogy.



Or, perhaps Tacitus was right. The Roman historian wrote the "Agricola", an account of his father-in-law's governorship of the province of Britannia in the 1st century AD. Tacitus supplied the first recorded descriptions of the Caledonians and their rainy country. He noticed that many of them had red-gold hair. Perhaps not much has changed in 2,000 years.

When Katie Barnes finished her talk at Crosshaven, there were lots of questions. Why do proportionately more people in Britain and Ireland carry the variant? Was it the climate? Living in a cloudy country do we need the lighter skin that goes with red hair so that we can absorb more vitamin D because we don't see so much of the sun? Or was it to do with attractiveness? Red heads are better looking? Perhaps the highlight of the whole convention was the last question put to Katie, herself a blonde. A wee girl in the front row with lovely, curly red hair put up her hand and asked "Don't you wish you had red hair?"



If you are wondering if you are lucky enough to carry the red hair variant, have a look at www.irelandsdna.com and find out.



VISITORS FROM TEXAS

I regret I had only a short time to spend with Tom and Barbara Burnett and family when they all came to Crathes for the first time last week. Accompanying Tom and Barbara were his sisters, Peggy Jones and Joyce Guy, their daughter, Cindy Vegil and her son, Ryland, and daughter Allyra. From Canyon, Texas, Tom is a descendant of Phillip Burnett who was born in Scotland in 1688 and emigrated to New Castle, Delaware in 1712. He kindly gave me much information on his ancestry and which will make a useful contribution to our records of Burnetts in America.



VISITOR TO CRATHES

We recently welcomed a return visit from Hendrick Van Oss who came to Crathes in August 1976. We have enjoyed visits from many of his family over the years including Gilbert Burnett, Elise and Rodman Neumann, and Hildy and her husband Dan Potts and their children. Hendrick is a geologist with the US Minerals Information Team of the U.S. Geological Survey and so he leaves me somewhat the wiser about our local granite and other minerals.



James C A Burnett of Leys

CRATHES GALLERY FIREBACK

My attention has recently been drawn, by Drew Young, to whom I must give credit yet again for what might otherwise be regarded as my personal erudition, of the fireback in the Gallery in Crathes Castle. This will have gone unnoticed by many visitors and is probably not of great interest or relevance to Burnett history. However, there has the date of 1707 prominently displayed and one might be justified in thinking that it is related to the Act of Union. The fireback depicts what appears to be a number of people at a dining table.

However, the writing below, and which one may be forgiven for thinking it is Latin, is more likely to be old German. Johanam 2 capitel. If so, it could refer to Chapter 2 of the Gospel according to St John and which includes the feast at the marriage in Cana of Galilee. The date of 1707 may be coincidental.



James C A Burnett of Leys

SCOTTISH INDEPENDENCE

On the morning of September 19th, the Scots and the rest of the British may well wake up as foreigners to each other. For many Scots this may be a reason to rejoice; for even more, on both sides of the Tweed, a moment of incredulous sorrow at the loss of our common home, a catastrophe that somehow came about in our political sleep. Our shrunken country will henceforth be divided by borders, barriers and perhaps passports. A psychological wound will open that is unlikely to heal for a very long time.

THREE HUNDRED YEARS OF SHARED EXPERIENCE, IN WAR AND PEACE, HARD TIMES AND GOOD, WILL HAVE BEEN THROWN INTO THE DUSTBIN OF HISTORY – AND FOR WHAT?

The United Kingdom has a 300 year history of success in global trading, defending, caring for and supporting our families. Our Security, Defence and Intelligence services are the envy of the world. It is probably the most successful Union in the history of the world. As an integral part of the United Kingdom, Scotland belongs to a highly respected nation with power and influence in global situations and negotiations. Scotland can have much more influence in Europe if it is part of the UK.

WHY MAKE OUR PARTNER INTO A RIVAL?

Independence already exists with regard to health, education, sport, law, transport, the environment and local government – all that is necessary to give Scotland its own cultural identity. If further devolution is desirable and in the interest of Scotland, dialogue and common sense will make it happen without full independence. Look at Quebec. It is in effect master in its own house – it has “devo max”, which, together with a shared shudder at the thought of ever going through the ordeal of a referendum again, keeps Canada in one piece. Once was divisive enough.

DEVO MAX IS COMMON SENSE

The vast majority of top leaders of Business and Industry advise against Independence. Should we distrust their opinions? We are all disillusioned with Westminster, but we are disillusioned with most politicians. We may disbelieve much of what we hear from Westminster, but should we believe a unsupported wish list on which everything will be wonderful, but which does not state how any of it will be achieved? It is too easy to cherry-pick.

LOOK AT THE WHOLE AND NOT PART OF THE PICTURE

Scotland and England have fought side by side each other during two world wars against a country which was then ruthless in its objective to dominate Europe. It failed on those occasions but that country is now achieving the same by peaceful means. Why do we want to get out of bed with our closest ally and into that of another which has a history of trying to dominate us.

STICK WITH THE DEVIL YOU KNOW

Scotland shares in the wealth created by London, the No 1 city in the world. Why do we want to give away the share of that prosperity which we currently enjoy? Euro or a new Currency? Two countries cannot possibly share a currency. Just think about it. That is why the Eurozone is in its present state. Scotland may be a wealthy

country – but it is only because it is part of the UK that we can have the best of both worlds - a strong Scottish Parliament, with the guarantee of more powers, backed up by strength, security and stability.

LETS CELEBRATE WHAT UNITES US AND NOT WHAT DIVIDES US

The next generation is the one that will be affected most by separation – it is irreversible. The personal grievances of our generation must be overcome. Remembering that our parents and grandparents offered or gave their lives for us. Scotland and England are in a marriage. Few relationships are without problems, but there should be every endeavour to overcome them in the interest of the next generation. Divorce is the last resort.

EVERYTHING WE DO, WE SHOULD DO FOR THE YOUNG

When throwing yourself over a cliff, it is customary to wear a parachute or some method of securing a safe landing. The UK's system of democratic government is probably the safest on earth – why throw it away? If an elected party does not govern satisfactorily, it can be replaced every 5 years. Such democracy cannot be guaranteed. Do we want a politically chosen President as the Head of State, and all that could go with it, instead of a Monarch? We are voting blind for our political and financial future. We may end up as a Norway or a Denmark but we may not. We also may not end up as a Greece, a Zimbabwe, a North Korea, an Albania, a Syria, an Egypt, a Libya or a Ukraine.

BUT WE COULD EASILY DO SO AND NOBODY WILL COME TO OUR AID

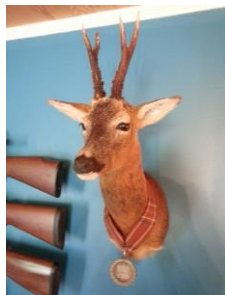
A huge number of us within the UK have both Scottish and English blood and have a family, social and business relationship in both. This Human connection must be severely and unnecessarily damaged by independence. Opposition to projects of independence is not to nationalism. It is to secession – to the breaking apart of political systems that, without violence, have enabled peoples to live together. For the breaking apart does not merely shatter a political union, it forces apart the shared identities that people like me carry in their souls. Secessionists invariably assume that a person must either be Scottish or British. What about those who feel they are both? If Scotland does secede, there will be many torn souls the day after. Where peoples have lived side by side, perhaps not always in justice but usually in peace, secession is the worst sin in politics, a gratuitous infliction of political choice on peoples who do not want to be forced to choose.

IF IT AIN'T BROKE, DON'T FIX IT. THERE IS NO GOING BACK

James C A Burnett of Leys

HUNTING AT THE BURNETT GATHERING

One of the successes of our 2013 Gathering were the evening hunting trips. Two parties went out each evening and always with success. Amongst the successful hunters was Adam Jones, who marks the event with the attached photograph. The Roe Buck proudly wears the Burnett tartan along with a special medal which Adam had made to note the hunter, date and place of the kill as a memory of the visit,



The buck resides at the family weekend house in Virginia. This was an old plantation house built in 1810 (and rebuild in 1865 after a fire). The plantation was 4,000 acres but most of that was sold off years ago. The house now sits on 25 acres of rolling hills and woodlands with a large recreational lake nearby. Enough to makes us Scots envious.



In our Gathering programmes we aim to continue with the evening hunting excursions. If any July and August visitors would like to participate in these outings, please let me know and I will explain the arrangements. We will do our best to ensure that they can return with a trophy like Adam's.

James C A Burnett of Leys

HAZEL FORBES-TURNER

We were always all sorry to hear of the passing of a Burnett. Hazel Forbes-Turner was a Burnett of Kemnay and an aunt of Mark Palumbo, a frequent visitor or communicant on Burnett life. Her father, who was born in Dakota, had a distinguished career in the Fleet Air Arm in the 1914-18 war and was amongst many members of that family with exceptional military records.



Hazel grew up in Argyleshire on the shores of Loch Awe in Scotland and was educated in convent in Roehampton and Salzburg. When her siblings moved to the USA and New Zealand, Hazel remained in the UK and married

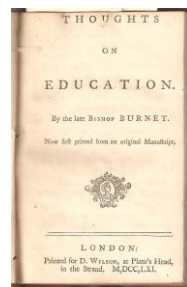
John Turner who was a major in the Cameronians in 1942. Her sister, Biddy, still lives in Vermont. Her son Brian's eulogy described her very active life which was something she had in common with many of her family. Her practical skills were numerous and vigorously applied and not least appreciated by recipients of her lethal morello cherry liqueur. She played an active part in Theatre but also, with her husband, with the production of Echo Tapes for the blind. We have lost a very dedicated lady.



James C A Burnett of Leys

BISHOP BURNETT ON EDUCATION

Now he should acquaint the youth with mathematics; and to invite him to it, he should begin quickly to show him some of the more pleasant mechanical performances in mathematicks. That which is necessarily to be known to one that would study these sciences is Euclid's Elements, at least his first six books, arithmetick and trigonometry; and without one's understanding these, one may be a mechanist, but a mathematician shall he never be. For stereometry, algebra, and conic sections, they require more subtlety and patience, than is to be expected from youth, neither are they of such use.



For the subalternate sciences of the mathematicks, it is necessary to give a youth a taste of them. All of the parts of geometry and astronomy, he should know exactly, and be prompt in using and managing instruments. The theories of musick, fortification, dioptricks, and the art of dialling, if the governour understand them well himselfe, will be easily learned; but the architecture and statues are these which he must know as his fingers; they being so necessary to humane life. Since all mechanisme depends upon the force of motion; and in these there will be no difficulty. If the youth have a delight in problemes and theoremes, and be of an active fancy, it will be good to hook him as much as can be to them; for this is by wise men judged a good advice for preserving a state quiet, to engage young nobility, who have active spirits, to mathematical sciences, which carrying their thoughts after them, will preserve them from ambition, and meddling with the state. But in this, moderation is to be observed, least their brains be too much stretched with these curiosities.

The Editor

LETTER FROM CRATHES

Red and Grey Squirrels at Crathes

Visitors to Crathes may be familiar with Red Squirrels which we have a campaign to preserve in the face of the invasive Grey Squirrel whose presence has increased dramatically over the past 30 years. This may be due in part to climate change. The Leys Estate Ranger, Thys Simpson, is responsible for the success in maintaining the Greys at a low level and the increase in the Reds on the National Trust for Scotland land as well as our own.

Grey and Red squirrels are different animals which may not be obvious at first, but is evident in the fact that they do not interbreed. The Red is native to Scotland and the Grey is from North America. Greys are bigger in size than Reds and cannot survive on scots pine or birch trees seeds but need broadleaf trees like oak or chestnut to sustain their larger bodies. Red squirrels 'slow down' in winter but do not hibernate, whereas Greys are active all the year round.

Greys are classed as an "invasive species" for two principal reasons. The Grey out competes the Red for food and also carries the parapox virus which does not affect them but is lethal to the Red.

Estate owners are legally obligated to control grey squirrels in their woodlands. Live trapping is the best method where the both species exist so that the Reds can be released. Under Wildlife and Countryside Act it is illegal to set Greys free.

The partnership approach between Leys Estate and the National Trust for Scotland at Crathes is hailed as a most successful model to resolve the problem. Thanks to Thys, there are very few Greys on either property.

This picture of a Red Squirrel has been recently taken at Crathes by local man, David Jefferson, to whom we are most grateful.



James C A Burnett of Leys

BURNETTS IN AUSTRALIA

In 2009 I had the pleasure of meeting Maree Burnett-Dorn and her husband, Colin, from Victoria, on their honeymoon which included a visit to Crathes. We are always pleased to welcome our Burnett kinsfolk from Australia and Fiona and I were very pleased that, Carmel Basset, a first cousin of Maree, came to see us last month. During her short visit, we persuaded her that a visit to the Loch of Leys to view the Crannog, was one of the 'must-dos' for any Burnett coming to Crathes.

Carmel and Maree are descendants of William Abraham Burnett who was born in Colae, Victoria in 1889. William Abraham Burnett's great-grandfather was James Burnett, a sawyer from Scotland and whose son, William, born in Banff in Scotland, moved to Victoria where he died in Illabrook in 1893. His son, John, who was William Abraham's father, married Barbara Mckay whose family came from Sutherland in Scotland. Maree and Carmel can be regarded as doubly Scottish.



The photographs include a family group at Maree's eldest son Dean's wedding in October last year and her mother who sadly died during 2013 Maree's dad's sister. They also provide evidence that Carmel visited the Crannog



James C A Burnett of Leys

IS THIS THE GREEN LADY?

When old with poor vision or if you are too young to read, it should be acceptable that instructions such as 'Please do not touch' go unheeded. Hence a young lady was seen in the Green Lady's Room in the Castle recently. Could she have a connection to the ghost? She has a remarkable likeness to our grand-daughter, Serena.

Since I am frequently asked how the grandchildren are, herewith also a recent snapshot of Tommy, Hester and Amaryllis standing in front of a monkey puzzle tree near the castle. Maybe possibly and appropriately wondering why it is hard to climb!



The castle site is approximately one mile from the shore. The tunnel is said to have eventually been filled in at the castle end. In his description of Muchalls published in "*Crannog to Castle*", the late Ian Bryce did not make any reference to the existence of a tunnel. He did, however, feel strongly that, from his research, the castle had been in existence for many years prior to 1606 when Sir Alexander Burnett of Leys first acquired it from Francis Hay, 9th Earl of Errol and began his own building/alterations.

The Green Lady of Muchalls, who has reportedly been seen on a number of occasions, including in more modern times, is said to have been a young daughter of the Laird. She accessed the shore by way of the tunnel in order to meet her lover who was returning from a smuggling venture but she slipped and was washed out to sea. On each occasion when seen, she was described as wearing a greenish yellow dress and was brushing her hair in front of a mirror. Unfortunately, as no date is attached to her death, there is no way of knowing whether the Laird, her father, was a Burnett or one of other families who earlier owned the castle.

Of course, almost every castle or ancient building has its legendary apparition(s) or presence which may or may not be believed. Whilst it is difficult to imagine a mile-long tunnel being excavated between the castle and the shore and the need to have such an access, there certainly appears to be a strong correlation between the descriptions of each sighting of the "Green Lady".

Eileen Bailey

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN BURNETT

A recent enquirer sought to trace the ancestors of Benjamin Franklin Burnett born on 14th April 1826 in North Carolina.

We were able to refer them to a publication "*A Burnett Family of the South – Thomas Burnett 1755-1780 of Virginia and North Carolina and his Descendants*" by Frances Gass published in 1964 which includes research on Benjamin Franklin Burnett and an illustration of him. Unfortunately, the ancestry of Thomas Burnett, who married an Elizabeth Littleberry in 1777/78, was not found by the author of the book during their research. It would be most interesting to find out if Thomas, born in Virginia, was a descendant of John Burnett (of the Burnett of Leys family) born in 1610 in Aberdeen, Scotland who settled in Virginia in 1635.

Eileen Bailey

ANOTHER "GREEN LADY"

Many who have toured Crathes Castle during one of the "Gatherings", or as independent visitors, will be familiar with the Green Lady's Room and the tale of the ghostly female figure which is said to have been seen there over many centuries.

There is, however, another less well known apparition supposedly associated with another property which was formerly in the possession of the Burnett family namely Muchalls Castle.

Legend states that a tunnel ran from a cave on the shore at Muchalls to the castle and was used by smugglers.

TRADITIONAL SCOTTISH RECIPES

Caledonian Cream

Here is a refreshing dessert which uses marmalade, a popular ingredient in Scottish cooking since its invention in Dundee in 1797.

Ingredients for the cream:

4oz cream cheese (about half a cup)
4 fluid ounces double cream (about half a cup)
1 tablespoon marmalade (thick, bitter marmalade is suggested but use what you have)
2 tablespoons brandy or rum
2 teaspoons lemon juice
Sugar to taste

Ingredients for base:

4 oranges, segmented and the pith removed

Method:

Blend all the ingredients for the cream in a liquidiser till smooth. Place the oranges in four long-stemmed glasses and, if you want, add a teaspoon of brandy (or rum) to these. Add the cream on top. Garnish with some orange zest (boil for a few minutes in water to reduce the bitterness). Serve chilled.

Cranachan

This is a popular Scottish dessert and there are many variations and names such as Cream Crowdie.

Ingredients:

3 oz (half cup) pinhead or coarse oatmeal
Half pint double cream
1 tablespoon Drambuie (optional)

Method:

Toast the oatmeal in a frying pan on a high heat until lightly brown. Whisk the cream into a soft consistency and mix in the oatmeal and Drambuie (alternatively, use a few drops vanilla essence or other flavouring of your choice). Serve in tall glasses. A popular variation is to mix in 6oz (one and a half cups) of fresh raspberries. Or use vanilla ice cream instead of cream

ALTERIUS NON SIT QUI SUUS ESSE POTEST VIRESCIT VULNERE VIRTUS

I am frequently being asked as to the meaning of the family mottos both of which lend themselves to different translations.

Virescit Vulnere Virtus

This is the principal motto or slogan and can be translated as "her virtue flourishes by her wound." However, the more general and meaningful translation and that which I regard as "official" is "Virtue, when wounded, flourishes"

Alterius non sit qui suus esse potest

This motto was introduced by Sir Thomas Burnett in the last century when he re-recorded the arms with the inclusion of the tartan on the highlander supporter.

Literally translated, it is "He will not be inferior who is his own man". (A sort of "To thine own self be true and everything will turn out OK."). The difficulty is that there is a seemingly wide variation in the meaning of certain words. "Suus", for example, denotes possession that is to say "his own." It can also signify "proper, due, suitable." It can also mean "his own property / people. "Esse and potest" have enough meanings to fill more than a page each in a decent latin dictionary!

I have often personally translated it, (on good advice), as "He who is true to himself cannot be wrong to others." One of my reference books states a meaning as "Let no man be a hireling to another if he can be his own master." However, and again on good advice including that of Charles Burnett the Ross Herald, I have decided that the official translation should be

"He who can be his own man should not be another's."

James C A Burnett of Leys

