

THE BURNETT BANNER

Burnett Newsletter
(including House of Burnett
News)

Edition No 11
September 2010

BURNETTS AT GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN HIGHLAND GAMES



(Further details and photographs of Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, see pages 12 & 13)

BURNETT GATHERING 2013

Our next Burnett Gathering is in 2013. I am already receiving enquiries for 2013 and will start to provide more details early in 2011. All Burnetts will be welcome and, as always, we will endeavour to ensure that each visit will be particularly memorable and will have original events and activities.

BURNETT REUNIONS

I am aware that Burnett reunions and gatherings take place in many countries. We are always pleased to know of these and would be pleased to include photographs and other details in the Burnett Banner or on the website.

James C. A. Burnett of Leys

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I can't begin to tell you how excited I was that we completed my number one task for the year...revamping our Constitution and By Laws. This was something that needed to be done for a long time and even though the job had been talked about for over a year, we were able to make the needed changes in a matter of a couple of hours.

Hopefully, the minutes of the meeting and the new Constitution will be ready for printing in this issue of the Banner, but I just want to hit some of the highlights and report on other decisions that were made at the meeting,

We revised the Officers duties to include them in the Board of Directors, with the President being the President of the Board of Directors. We, also, clarified details on the election of Members of the BOD and their term commitments. A decision was made to look into the registration as non-profit in the state of North Carolina as our new "headquarters."

It was mentioned that since the BOD is not a "secret organization" that our private message board on Yahoo really had no value as far as continuing with that venue. We will instead be using the Burnett forum on the HOB website, and mass email directives to our members instead.

We also decided to give pins to our new members (you probably saw pictures of them in a previous Banner.) Current members will also be allowed to order pins at a reasonable price.

Business cards of a generic nature were purchased and sent to every board member in July. The cards are blank on the back for each member to write in their names and contact information. The front of the card is glossy with a full color logo, names of our clan chief, James Burnett; our President, Phyllis Esler; and our secretary, Leland Burnett. Cards are to be available at Festivals and other gatherings where our family members may be interested in hearing about the benefits of joining our group.

It was my pleasure to make a pilgrimage to Scotland in July/August with my husband and renew our newly formed friendship with

Alexander and Vinny and was pleased to meet two of their three children. We especially enjoyed having dinner with Jamie, Fiona and their friends at their home. It was a wonderful trip, one that we had looked forward to for a couple of years. We even picked up a length of Burnett of Leys tartan that we plan to have a kilt made for our son, who just became a member at Grandfather Mountain Games.



God bless you all and remember that courage is strengthened through adversity.

Phyllis Esler, President, House of Burnett

YOU ARE WANTED!

At the end of this year, there will be an election of officers and Board of Directors. We need you to participate.

First of all we need you to toss your hat into the ring. Even though we have some who are so completely loyal to the House of Burnett that they have told us that they would "like to step down" but if we can't find a replacement, they will stay on.....(Now doesn't that sound as if they REALLY DON'T want to go?) Do you get the impression that what we do is fun?

Here are some things you should know: There is no mandatory travel involved. You would basically be helping the ruling body to make decisions about things that come up during the year. We take care of a lot of business by Internet. If you are a "frequenter" of Highland Festivals and would like to get more involved in representing the House of Burnett, we will be glad to help you do this. Other responsibilities

are spelled out for each office in the Constitution which can be viewed on the Burnett website.

Second of all, we need you to vote. When you hear from our secretary, Leland Burnett, please respond right away and vote your favorites. Look back into the more recent Banners and read the articles about meet the Directors.

The Officers are elected for one year terms and include: President...Secretary...Treasurer

The members of the Board of Directors are elected for 3 year terms and are the voting body of our organization.

We need one more Board Member, and someone to take over some of the secretarial duties working with Leland Burnett until the new person can be trained.

If you are interested in becoming involved, please let us know by sending an email to either myself at hobideas@gmail.com or to Leland Burnett at burnett@dcwis.com.

Looking forward to having you aboard!

Phyllis Esler, President

NOTE FROM THE SECRETARY

Greetings to All;

I hope everyone had a great summer. I know I did, except for the heat in KY and NC, followed by the cold wind at the Wisconsin Games.

It was exciting to see the number of Burnett's showing up at the events I attended and I know others noticed the great turnout:

At the Glasgow, KY Games 29 Burnett's checked in and 2 new members signed up. At Grandfather Mountain, NC we had 54 Burnett's with 4 new members. In Sloan's Valley, KY there was 57 Burnett's at a Burnett Gathering. Even with the cold winds, the Wisconsin Games had 17 Burnett's and 4 new members.

I'm also happy to have gotten several emails from members commenting on the grand time they had at Scottish events in their areas.

Elections for Board of Directors and Officers to take office in Jan. 2011 will be taking place soon. Two Board Members will be elected for three year terms. Throw your hat in the ring!

Membership dues are due on December 31st, 2010. Some of you paid early and adjustments were made to others. Please look at your membership card to determine if owe dues or are good until Dec. 2011. Those who pay thru PayPal auto pay may have to go to PayPal and reset your payment so the payment is in Dec. of each year. If there is any confusion contact me and I will sort it out.

The revised Bylaws will be on the Burnett web site soon.

Yours Aye

Leland Burnett, Secretary

MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HOUSE OF BURNETT 10 JULY 2010

At 2:08 PM meeting was called to order by House of Burnett President Phyllis Esler. Present were Board members Jim Burnette, Barbara Kreider, Secretary Leland Burnett, President Phyllis Esler and Vinny Burnett. Alexander Burnett joined the meeting later after returning from another meeting he attended was completed. The President holds the Proxy vote for Board member Kim Marie Graham and Treasurer Mike Burnett. Barbara Kreider holds the proxy vote of George Kreider.

A discussion was conducted on what need to be done to the Constitution and Bylaws.

A motion was made by Jim Burnette seconded by Barbara Kreider to make the Executive Officers voting members of the Board of Directors and the President will also be the President of the Board. Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Barbara Krieder, seconded by Jim Burnette to look into incorporation in the State of North Carolina. Motion carried.

Secretary Leland Burnett made the suggestion to revise the Bylaws rather than amend each Article. The changes being considered have been discussed for almost a year, so revision is fitting. The persons at the meeting agreed.

The Members present reviewed the Articles that had been discussed earlier and changes were made. At the conclusion of the discussion Leland Burnett made a motion to except the revisions to the Bylaws. The motion was seconded by Jim Burnette. Motion Carried. The President ask the Secretary to make the changes and return it to her by Mid August for her review.

A motion was made by Barbara Kreider seconded by Jim Burnette to buy the new lapel pins, that are now available on the Burnett web site and to give them to members upon paying their dues in Jan 2011 and to new members as they join in the future. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Jim Burnette, seconded by Barbara Kreider to cease using the Yahoo Message Board, since most members were becoming flustered with the site and to use e-mail or other methods as agreed to by the Board. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Barbara Kreider, seconded by Leland Burnett to get some generic business cards made. Motion carried. The President Phyllis volunteered to get some done.

At 3:16 PM Secretary Leland Burnett made a motion to adjourn the meeting until the next meeting is called per the Bylaws. Seconded by Jim Burnette. Motion Carried.

Submitted By Leland L. Burnett, Secretary

HOUSE OF BURNETT - VISITORS TO CRATHES

Shortly after the Grandfather Mountain Games, we were fortunate enough to be visited by no less than our President, Phyllis Esler, and her husband Ronald. Their visit was short but it is not the first time that they have been to Crathes. Their itinerary was particularly exhausting but we did have time to catch up with Grandfather news - it is good to hear from another source as to how the Scottish representation fared! We were joined by David and Caro Irvine of Drum

for dinner and were able to appreciate the extent of Phyllis's activity for the House of Burnett

We were very pleased to be able to welcome John and Melisa Burnett from Canton, North Carolina in August together with Melissa's mother, Nancy McLean and with whom we had a very enjoyable tour of the Castle. They had just been visiting Duart on the Isle of Mull and home of the McLean's of Duart from whom Nancy is descended. Coincidentally, Sir Lachlan McLean of Duart's daughter and her husband are our nearest neighbours living in Woodbine Cottage, 200 metres from House of Crathes.



JCAB, John and Melissa McLean, Nancy McLean

James C A Burnett of Leys

THE NTS AT CRATHES

The Trust's serious financial situation has resulted in sensible and rational changes at Crathes. One of the Trust's flagship properties, it is much visited but consequently with high costs. Visitors will notice these changes. The retail area has been moved across the Courtyard to the former Horsemill and the area now used as a small centre for conferences and groups. Plant sales are now in the Courtyard. The biggest addition will be the construction in the woods behind the Castle complex of Go Ape. a wholly safe and eco-friendly high rope adventure course providing an eco-educational experience high up in the tree canopy. Extra enjoyment for an increased number of visitors will help to ensure the future of Crathes.

James C A Burnett of Leys

WALTER B. BURNETT

Walter B. Burnett, 76, passed away on August 11, 2010, at Marian Hospital in Santa Maria, California. Walt was retired from Lockheed Missiles and Space Corporation at Vandenberg Air Force Base, where he had worked for 33 years.



A resident of Mission Hills in Lompoc, California since 1959,

Walt was born in Benton, Illinois on September 5, 1933. He graduated from Benton High School in 1951 and received a B.S. in television electronics in 1956 from the American Television Institute in Chicago, Illinois. From 1953-1955, Walt served on active duty with the U.S. Army Signal Corps in Europe.

Walt worked for Convair as an environmental test engineer and Chance Vought Aircraft as an auto-pilot engineer. Then, in 1959, Walt joined Lockheed at Vandenberg Air Force Base, working as a Guidance and Control Engineer and then as a Launch Conductor on the Agena reconnaissance satellite program. In 1959 Walt was a member of the launch team for Discoverer 1, the first polar-orbiting satellite, and in 1960, Discoverer 13, the first recovery of a man-made article from space. In 1982 Walt was part of a team that laid the groundwork for a contract Lockheed won to service launches of the Space Shuttle, and in 1984 he became a Project Operations Engineer. He retired from Lockheed in 1992. During his career at Lockheed, Walt worked on more than 350 successful launches.

Walt took great pleasure in his community service. He was instrumental in creating the Mission Hills Community Services District, which was formed by voters after privately owned water and wastewater systems failed repeatedly. Within a few years, the volunteer public district was successfully managing its own utilities and rates. From 1979 to 1984, Walt served as the District's first President, and he remained on the Board of Directors for 20 years. He also served as a member of the Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO).

Walt enjoyed waterskiing and boating and was commander of the local Costa de Oro Power Squadron in 1980-81. For many years he was an active member of the Lompoc Sportsman Association. He was fond of cars and campers and the open road. Walt was very good at card games and especially liked Bridge.

Walt married his beloved wife, Dixie Allred, a journalist and college English teacher, on October 28, 1956 at the Jade Chapel in Chicago, Illinois. In addition to his wife, Walt is survived by his sons Mark (Carol) of La Jolla and Edward of Ventura, California, and grandchildren Tracy, Steven, Michael, and Sarah Burnett of La Jolla. He was raised with his cousin Kenneth Hungate, who still lives in Benton, Illinois. He was preceded in death by his mother, father and sister.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Sansum Diabetes Research Institute.

A celebration of Walt's life is scheduled for August 29th from 12:00 to 4:00 at the Mission Hills Community Services District offices at 1550 E. Burton Mesa Blvd. in Lompoc.

DONALD SELPH

We were very sorry to hear of the death of Donald Selph early in the year. Donald was one of the early members of the House of Burnett, a long time member of the Board and convenor, and an enthusiastic supporter of the name of Burnett. He made many visits to Highland Games on behalf of the Society and Convener at the Richmond, VA.

He attended the first Burnett Gathering at Crathes and we met up again when I visited Arlington. He had some strong and definite views on life and was candid in expressing them thereby providing engaging and enjoyable company which many will miss

Donald passed away January 2010. His name was added to the Flowers of Forest at the Wisconsin Highland Games during the Kirkin'O' The Tartan on Sunday 5 Sept. 2010.

James C A Burnett of Leys

MONBODDO THE MUSICAL

The production took place recently at The Aberdeen Arts Theatre over 4 nights. It was an ambitious project but received the highest praise as is evident from press reports. There are details of the show on www.monboddo.com and there will be a report in the December edition of the Banner. A video and a CD of the production will be available shortly, more information on www.burnett.uk.com

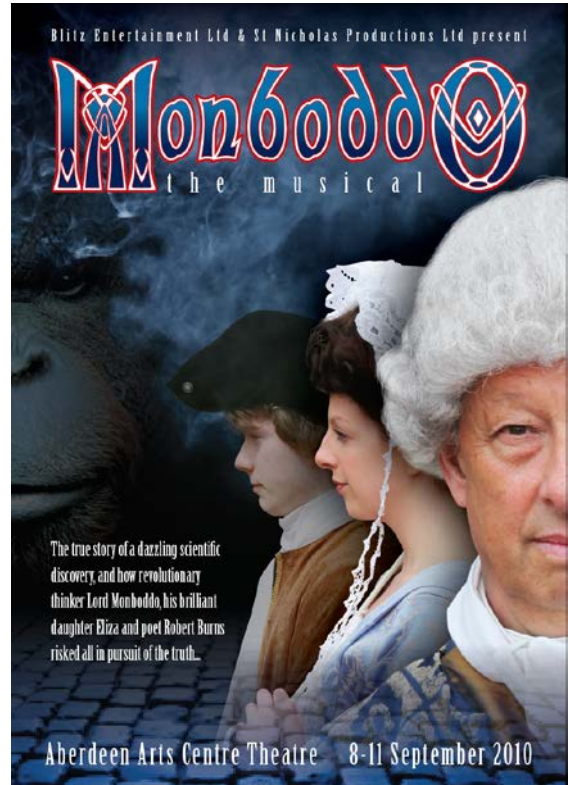
"The songs are well crafted... Catchy & memorable..."
Iain Currie, The Press and Journal, Sept 10, 2010

"The cast do both music and script proud... the show is a success."
Iain Currie, The Press and Journal, Sept 10, 2010

"Tragic, yet romantic. Joyful, yet sad... and plenty of passionate patriotism to boot."
Iain Currie, The Press and Journal, Sept 10, 2010

"A lavish production... stunning..."
Jennifer McKiernan, Evening Express (Aberdeen), September 9, 2010

"The highlight of the night was an operatic performance from Jordan O'Neill, as Monboddo..."
Jennifer McKiernan, Evening Express (Aberdeen), September 9, 2010



Front page of Programme

An introduction to Burnett the young advocate – and his eccentric ways. A stirring reel that conveys something of the excitement, curiosity and affection surrounding Burnett.

BURNETT OF MONBODDO

With his bright white suit and walking cane
He's an advocate to follow
Through city streets the dandy strides
Burnett of Monboddo!

He doesn't like to take his place
Behind a horse's backside
He thinks that it's undignified
And not the best place to hide

He's a canny man, we understand
But a most peculiar fellow
The town's abashed but he's not fashed

He drinks no wine.....however fine
No cooked meat he will swallow

He likes to walk his wee prized pig
Burnett of Monboddo!
He exercises as he bathes
Burnett of Monboddo!

He's a canny man, we understand
But a most peculiar fellow
The town's abashed but he's not fashed

To the theatre he repairs at night
Where his deafness causes sorrow
He wants the lines repeated twice
Burnett of Monboddo!

Anointed with venetian soap
And aromatic spirit - oh!
Perfumed, dapper, off to court
Burnett of Monboddo!

He's a canny man, we understand
But a most peculiar fellow
The town's abashed but he's not fashed

With his bright white suit and walking cane
He's an advocate to follow
Through city streets the dandy strides
Burnett of Monboddoo!

His carriage has wig and gown
While the young lawyer does follow
Marching through the teeming rain

He's a canny man, we understand
But a most peculiar fellow
The town's abashed but he's not fashed

In the court.....he defends a case
That for two years we have followed

The douglas fortune, up for grabs
Burnett of Monboddoo!

The douglas fortune, up for grabs
Burnett of Monboddoo!

He's a canny man, we understand
But a most peculiar fellow
The town's abashed but he's not fashed
Burnett of Monboddoo!

The prosecution want the cash
They claim the heir's not rightful
They say he was snatched from a cot
And raised as an imposter

Mondoddo says they've got it wrong
That the boy's an orphaned nephew
Before lord kames he puts his case
Burnett of Monboddoo!

TO ANOTHER ARISTOTLE LORD MONBODDO

Some readers may be aware of the works of the 18th century historian George Isaac Huntingford and in particular "*Metrica Quaedum Monostrophica*" in which he wrote a poem about Monboddoo. In it Monboddoo is addressed as "the other Aristotle" and is pictured coming out of the Lyceum, scattering tastless, phenomenon-bound men by his clear arguments proving the power of the mind in all things in the universe. It is written in Greek but for readers who are not wholly familiar with this ancient language, I have provided a Latin translation.

The Editor

ΕΙΣ ΑΛΛΟΝ ΑΡΙΣΤΟΤΕΛΗ.	
ΣΙΓΑΤΕ παλίων ανδρες ευθεσαιοι, Φρονεϊτε μηδεν το ωρεπον, Οι συν γενει θηρων ταπεινω κριτης Ανθρωπινην καλην φυσιν.	
Τις εκ Λυκειου ερχεται, και νυθειν Ουτως διδασκων ηρξατο	5
“ Αρ’ εστιν-υδεν, μεραπας ημας συλλαλειν “ Ομιλιας τε, και λοιοις;	
“ Τι δ’ ην, το πεισαν εξ ορυκτων κρεσι “ Αντρων ανερπειν τις Βροχης;	10
“ Τι δ’ ην, το πεισαν και πολεις δεδμηκεναι, “ Ευρειν τε την ευλαζιαν;	
“ Εντευθεν ησαν Τεχναι εξησκημεναι “ Εν πασιν ερσοις θαυδαλοις”	
“ Μυσαι προσηδον και διδασκων οι Σοφοι “ Ευχαισι, τιμων ευσεβως	15
“ Το ΚΡΕΙΤΤΟΝ αυτον ΟΝΤΑ τον ΝΟΤΝ— “ ε νομοις	
“ Το ΠΑΝ τελευταται, σωζειται. “ ΑΝΑΞ Ολυμπε εις ΕΤ μεν παντοκρατωρ.	
“ Ανθρωπος εν γη φερτατον.	20

Ad* Alterum ARISTOTELEM.	
SILETE viri omnium absurdissimi, Sapitis nihil quod decet, Qui comparatis humili generi ferarum Pulchram humanam naturam.	
Quidam venit ex Lyceo, et admonere Sic docens coepit:	5
“ Est igitur nihil? nos articulatam-vocem-habentes “ colloqui	
“ In congressibusque, et orationibus? “ Quid autem erat, quod persuasit in montibus ex “ defoffis	
“ Antris ut exirent; Hominibus? “ Quid autem erat, quod persuasit etiam ut aedifi- “ caverint urbes,	10
“ Atque invenerint rectum ordinem? “ Ex hoc artes erant exercitatae “ In omnibus operibus daedalis:	
* Honoratissimum Jacobum Burnett, Dominum de Monboddoo.	
“ Musae accinebant: et sapientes docebant “ Precibus pie honorare	15
“ Numen: ipsum Existentem Animum: cujus le- “ gibus	
“ Univerfum ordinatum est, conservatur. “ Tu quidem Olympo Rex es Omnipotens: “ Homo in terra est praestantissimum.	20

BURNETTS FROM SCOTLAND TO THE WEST INDIES/BRITISH GUIANA

MONTGOMERY BURNETT, born 16th October 1814, sixth son of James Burnett of Barns (in south of Scotland) and his wife Christian Catherine Lees, became a merchant in Trinidad where he was a member of the Corresponding Committee of Society of Arts, and a Director of the Botanical Gardens. In December 1858, he married Maraval Georgina Fuller, daughter of the Hon Henry Fuller, Judge of Supreme Courts, Trinidad.

Montgomerie and his wife later lived in Torquay, Devon, England. He died at Park View House in Bath, England on 10th March 1887 leaving an estate of £10,844 which would have been regarded as a substantial at that time. During his lifetime, Montgomery Burnett had an interest in the history of his branch of the family in & around the parish of Manor. After her husband's death, Maraval, lived at 24 Devonshire Terrace, Lancaster Gate in London.

THOMAS YOUNG CRICHTON BURNETT, born 12th September 1813 was fifth son of James Burnett of Barns and his wife Christian Catherine Lees. Thomas also became a merchant in Trinidad and was appointed a Justice of the Peace there. He died at sea during a fire on board a ship in the Bay of Biscay in 1852 aged 38.

ALEXANDER CUMINE, born in 1851, was the son of Harriet Hay Burnett and James Cumine of Rattray in north-east Scotland. He died in the West Indies in 1909.

MAITLAND JAMES BURNETT was born in 1844 in Demerara, British Guiana, the first and only son of William Burnett and his wife Elizabeth Wilday. Maitland became a journalist in London but travelled extensively in Europe. Unmarried, he lived at 13 Grays Inn Square in London until 1885 when he moved to live on the continent, his father & mother having died in 1884 and 1885 respectively. He died in Rome on 15th September 1918 aged 75. An enthusiastic and greatly respected philatelist, Maitland Burnett was a member of the London Philatelic Society and Editor of the Philatelic Record from 1877-86 but before leaving England he sold his collection which was said to have contained many early & rare stamps.

WILLIAM BURNETT, born on 4th January 1810, was the third son of James Burnett of Barns and his wife Christian Catherine Lees. William followed a military career reaching the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He was an Assistant Adjutant General in the Militia of British Guiana where he married Elizabeth Wilday, daughter of Charles Wilday, Colonial Registrar and Secretary of the Supreme Courts of British Guiana. William & Elizabeth and their four daughters, all of whom were born in London, were living at 6, Charles Street, Paddington, London in 1851. In the census record taken that year, William Burnett is described as a "West India Merchant". By 1871, William & Elizabeth and their daughters were living in Scotland. William Burnett, who was a Justice of the Peace for Peebles, died at Hay Lodge, Peebles, Scotland on 5th March 1884 and his wife Elizabeth died there in 1885.

JAMES BURNETT, born on 2nd February 1804, eldest son of James Burnett of Barns & his wife Christina Catherine Lees, became a Writer to the Signet in Scotland and was an Attorney at Law in Georgetown, Demerara. He died, unmarried, in Demerara on 6th December 1836 aged 32.

ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL BURNETT, born in 17th August 1817, was the seventh son of James Burnett of Barns and his wife Christian Catherine Lees. He became a merchant in Demerara. Archibald died on 24th January 1868 at Mayville in Stevenson, Ayrshire, Scotland.

Any further details of the lives of any of the above whilst they were living in Trinidad or Demerara would be greatly appreciated. We would particularly like to have a date of birth in 1844 for Maitland Burnett. There are other Burnetts who are recorded as having been born or died in the West Indies, for example Elizabeth Mary Burnett born in Barbados who married an Abel Cobbin on 13th March 1813, a Henry Burnett who died in about 1815 in Barbados and a James Burnett who died on 16th November 1824 in Essequibo. We would like to find any relevant links to known Burnett family history. There is a Burnett International University in Haiti. Can anyone provide information as to the Burnett connection?

Eileen A. Bailey
Burnett Genealogist & Historical Researcher.

ROYAL DUTIES LORD LEIUTENANTS

In a recent edition of the Banner I included a short article on the Royal Company of Archers. The Burnett family has been involved in another royal duty

Each county in the United Kingdom has a Lord Lieutenant who is the Queen's personal representative and who has a wide range of public duties. One of the duties is to take the salute in each town on Remembrance Day in November. Each Lord Lieut. has several deputies who have to be on parade.



My wife, Fiona, is one of the deputies for the county of Kincardineshire and took the salute in Banchory last year. The photograph was taken before the salute during which the one-step-behind spouse takes on handbag duty at the appropriate moment in the ceremony

Lieutenants were first appointed to a number of English by Henry VIII in the 1540s, when the military functions of the sheriff were handed over to him. He raised and was responsible for the efficiency of the local militia units of the county, and afterwards of the yeomanry, and volunteers. He was commander of these forces whose officers he appointed. These commissions were originally of temporary duration, and only when the situation required the local militia to be specially supervised and well prepared — often where invasion by Scotland or France might be expected.

The Lord Lieutenants wear uniform, dark blue uniform along with a cap and sword with a steel scabbard, when on official duty, but this is something from which the deputies are excused.

James C A Burnett of Leys

THE CRATHES CASTLE KEY AT KEMNAY

Some readers may recall the contest to be the 6th Baronet of Leys. Sir Robert Burnett of Leys, the 17th laird and 5th Baronet 1758 – 1759 died unmarried at the age of 29 and rivalry for the succession arose between George Burnett of Kemnay, for his son, and Thomas son of William Burnett of Criggie, who had officially succeeded as 6th Bt. During the case, George locked the castle and took away the key which is still at Kemnay. He lost the case. The key still remains at Kemnay although Susan Burnett of Kemnay prudently takes particular care of it when Crathes Burnetts are visiting. I recently found in the archive at Crathes a picture showing the key hanging at Kemnay. It is somewhat of a blessing that technology over the years has allowed us to have something more convenient.

James C A Burnett of Leys



From the scrapbook

**LORD KITCHENER AT
BANCHORY.**

VISIT TO CRATHES CASTLE.

Lord Kitchener, who is staying with his relative Miss Hutcheson, Woodfield, Banchory, drove yesterday afternoon to Crathes Castle, and was the guest of Sir Thomas and Lady Burnett. Lord Kitchener was accompanied by Miss Hutcheson. His lordship's visit to Banchory is of a private nature on account of the recent death of the sister of his hostess.

Sir Thomas Burnett, who is convener of Kincardineshire, takes a large share in the administrative work of the county. He is among the most popular of Scottish proprietors, and owns from 12,000 to 13,000 acres. Sir Thomas served for some time in the army, being connected with the Royal Horse Artillery.

MAITLAND JAMES BURNETT A GREAT PHILATELIST

I have recently had correspondence with Chris King who is researching Maitland Burnett, a prominent 19th century philatelist who died in Rome in 1918. He was born in Demerara, British Guiana, in 1844 to William Burnett and his wife Elizabeth who was also born in British Guiana, possibly c.1814. With the help of Eileen Bailey we have unearthed certain information

Maitland J Burnett was born in Demerara in 1844, the first son of William Burnett and his wife Elizabeth Wilday whom he married in 1843. William Burnett was one of the "Southern Burnetts" being the son of James Burnett (of Barns) and his wife Christian Catherine Lee. William became a Lieutenant Colonel and was an Assistant



General in the Militia of British Guiana. [see pages 20 & 22 of "Crannog to Castle"].

His wife Elizabeth was the daughter of Charles Wilday, Colonel Registrar and Secretary of the Supreme Courts of Justice of British Guiana. William & Elizabeth's other family comprised four daughters all of whom were born in (Marylebone) London. They & their daughters were living at May Lodge in the town of Peebles in 1871. Further research indicates that the residence of William & Elizabeth Burnett in Peebles was Hay Lodge, not May Lodge as it appeared to be written in that census.

In 1881 census, Maitland Burnett was recorded as aged 37, a Journalist, living at 13 Grays Inn Square, London. Eileen has not been able to trace him in later census records in England or Scotland. Burnett was a member of the London Philatelic Society, became its Honorary Secretary and Treasurer in 1879 and guided it through the difficult times when its survival was anything but certain. He made a remarkable

collection of the rarer varieties of stamps, many of which were later acquired by T K Tapling. Burnett was Editor of The Philatelic Record for the first seven years of its publication from 1879-86. He moved to the Continent in 1885 (presumably after the death of his mother Elizabeth who died in Peebles in that year). Prior to moving he apparently sold his collection which was said to have contained many early rarities

When William Burnett died of hemiplegia & bronchitis on 5th March 1884 at May (Hay) Lodge in Peebles the death was registered by his son Maitland Burnett. William Burnett was a Justice of the Peace for Peebles. Elizabeth (Wilday) Burnett died in Peebles in 1885. Maitland J. Burnett died on 15th September 1918. His address at that time was 4 Via della Fontanella, Babuine, Rome. In his will, administered in London in June 1919, he left his estate of £2347 to his sister Kate Egan Fullarton Burnett. She was the eldest of his four sisters.

In the obituary from the London Philatelist 1918 E D Bacon writes,

To the present generation of collectors the name of Mr. Burnett is known but to few, and yet for the decade from 1875 to 1885 no one occupied a more prominent and important position in philatelic circles than he did. With one exception, he was the oldest Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, which he joined as far back as March, 1877. At that time the Society was passing through a critical period, which, it is not too much to say, threatened its very existence, but when in 1879 Mr. Burnett was elected Honorary Secretary and Treasurer, the energy he brought to bear in its affairs quickly infused fresh vigour into its constitution, and from that day to this the progress of the Society has been one of continued prosperity. In recognition of the valuable services he rendered to the Society and of the affection in which he was held, he was presented, in January, 1883, with a handsome piece of plate by his fellow - members, and subsequently to his resignation of the post of Secretary at the end of 1886, he was made an Honorary Member in May, 1888.

The story of the way in which Mr. Burnett was attracted to Philately has already been told in a biographical notice published in the number of

the Philatelic Record for January, 1887, to which an excellent portrait of him was attached. We do not propose to repeat this narrative, interesting as it is, in the present memoir, but we must be content with calling attention to the fact that, in the course of a very few years by dint of great perseverance he got together a collection of stamps that was remarkable for the number it contained of the rarer class of varieties, which can only be obtained by great philatelic knowledge and diligent search. His specimens were selected with rare discrimination and were arranged and mounted with particular neatness. This collection, compared with many of those of the present day, was a small one as regards numbers, but it included an unused and used specimen of practically every stamp then known, with the exception of the two "Post Office" Mauritius, the first set of the Hawaiian Islands, and the first Two cents value of British Guiana. Shortly before leaving England at the end of 1885 he disposed of his collection to the old and respected firm of Pemberton, Wilson and Co., and a large number of the principal rarities then passed into the collection of the late Mr. T. K. Tapling, M.P. We know of no one who attained a profound knowledge of Philately in all its branches quicker than Mr. Burnett did, and he was one of the few collectors we have met who had what is known as the "imperceptible sense" of determining at once on seeing a doubtful specimen whether it was good or bad.

In addition to his work for the Society, he undertook the editorship of the Philatelic Record, the publication of which was started by Messrs. Pemberton, Wilson and Co. In February, 1879. With the exception of a few odd numbers he had control of the journal for the first seven years of its existence, and under his able guidance it became the most important philatelic journal of the day. In this sphere alone collectors owe him a deep debt of gratitude, for the journal had an immense influence on the advance and well - being of Philately, at a time when help of this kind was urgently needed.

Mr. Burnett, who had been a great traveller, always had a predilection for a continental life, and when he left London in 1885, he went to reside on the Continent. There, with the exception of short visits few and far between to this country, he lived until his death, mostly in Belgium and Luxemburg, but in latter years in various parts of Italy. He was a man of vast

attainments, a great linguist, and an authority on the Flemish language, to which he had devoted years of study. He had great personal charm of manner and quickly endeared himself to those he came in contact with.

Mr. Burnett was the head of a very ancient Scottish family with its home in Peeblesshire, of which county he was a Justice of the Peace; and his last wish was that his remains should be cremated in Italy, and that the ashes should be laid to rest in the old burial - place of his ancestors in the Manor Valley in Peeblesshire.

Chris King, who would be pleased to come up with the full date of Maitland Burnett's birth, would be pleased to receive any communication on the subject on chris_king28@hotmail.com



BURNETT HERALDRY

I was recently asked by a lady from Italy why I have both a coat of arms and a crest and why they are not similar. With some assistance from Charles Burnett, the Ross Herald I advise the enquirer that a full achievement of Arms in Scotland consists of a shield, helmet, mantling, crest, and motto. For certain people added to these are supporters on either side of the shield. What is on the shield is the principal device. The crest is additional, but not essential. Many people have recorded Arms without a crest.

My crest is purely symbolic and nothing to do with growing grapes in Aberdeenshire! It shows that the vine is improved by pruning to encourage growth and the motto translates as "Strength draws vigour from an injury". This is a sentiment which obviously appealed to the first Burnett of Leys who decided to make it his motto. Had he been beset by trying circumstances at the time?

James C A Burnett of Leys

GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN HIGHLAND FESTIVAL 8 – 12 JULY 2010

Judging by the post emails and the smiling faces at the games, we, the Board of Directors of the House of Burnett, agree that the entire weekend was an unqualified success. Leland Burnett, Secretary of the HOB attends Festivals all over the US and he said that it was the largest gathering of Burnett's outside of Scotland he had ever attended. The final accounting is still being made at the time of this writing, but we estimated at least 50 Burnett's came to the tent and made themselves known to us.

We were honored to have Alexander & Lavinia Burnett with us throughout the weekend. Not only were we very proud to have them represent our family, but they added dignity to the occasional "interesting" situations that sometimes punctuate gatherings of Scottish-American get-togethers. We found both of them fun, helpful, and most delightful company

Judge Gilbert Burnett and his family of twelve added so much to the festivities. Many of the pictures that we see were taken by Gil & Barbara; The Board of Directors picnic wouldn't

have happened without them and Vinny setting out food, organizing the buffet line, and generally handling hostess duties.

Friday night we had a large table at the reception full of Burnett family members. Food, fellowship and fun were enjoyed by all.

Saturday afternoon, the Board of Directors met for a couple of hours and had a very productive meeting in working on the Constitution. Please read more about that under Message from the President. We had several members of our family join the parade of Clans on Sunday, led by Alex & Vinny walking behind our newly furnished HOB banner, carried by one of the newest members of the House of Burnett, John Novotny.

Parting on Sunday from our newly formed friendships and family bonding was difficult, but promises were made to keep in touch with each other and, hopefully, try to do it all over again next July.



This is a handful of the Burnett's that we met at the games. Picture was taken after our Board of Directors picnic.



Alexander and Vinny pose with Phyllis Esler, President of the HOB near the one of the two Burnett tents.



Alexander was presented with a framed photograph of MacRae Meadows with Grandfather Mountain in the background. He was pleased to show it to those of us at the table. ...and we can report...Yes, it did arrive safely in Banchory, Scotland.



ELIZA BURNETT



The painting left is of Eliza (Elizabeth) Burnett, the daughter of James Burnett, later Lord Monboddo. She was a renowned beauty and was a favorite of Robert Burns. She died of consumption in 1790 at the age of 22.

The Monboddo production was an opportunity to locate it.

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/1899564>

The picture, which is reported as being painted by the Scottish artist, Alexander Nasmyth, was owned by Gladys Burnett, whose husband was a member of the Burnett family of Monboddo in Kincardineshire. Family papers were catalogued and sold by Gladys Burnett to the National Library of Scotland. She died in Canada where she was living with her son, who thought that the painting of Eliza Burnet together with another picture was gifted to the City of Aberdeen Art Gallery. However, exhaustive enquiries to the Art Gallery and the National Galleries of Scotland indicate that this was not so and although the painting was on loan to the gallery for at least two years and returned to the owner in 1967, it is neither on the National Galleries of Scotland database or in the private collection lists. There is a note in the file saying it was sold by auctioneers in Aberdeen but officials of the most likely Aberdeen salesroom have no record of it. There is no clear record of its disposal but it is assumed that it was in the late 1960s.

I would very interested to know the location of the painting although I respect the privacy of the owner. If it was sold in Aberdeen, it is very likely that it is hanging in an Aberdeenshire House. It would be even more satisfactory if that house was a Burnett house

James C A Burnett of Leys

TRADITIONAL SCOTTISH RECIPE PORRIDGE

Oatmeal was once described as "the backbone of many a sturdy Scotsman". Porridge was one of the main ways of eating oats, in days gone by. There is a lot of mystique about making porridge and lots of traditions associated with cooking and eating it (most of which can be ignored). The important thing is to obtain good quality medium-ground oats (rather than rolled oats) and to keep stirring it to avoid solid lumps.

Ingredients (sufficient for two people):

One pint (half litre) water; some people use half water and half milk

2.5 ounces (2.5 rounded tablespoons) medium-ground oats

Pinch of salt

Method:

Bring the water (or water and milk) to a good rolling boil, preferably in a non-stick pan. Slowly pour the oatmeal into the boiling liquid, stirring vigorously with a wooden spoon all the time. Keep stirring until it has returned to the boil again, reduce the heat, cover the pan and simmer very gently for 15 minutes, stirring frequently. Add the salt at this point and simmer and stir for a further 5/10 minutes (time depends on the quality of the oats). It should be a thick but pourable consistency. Serve hot in wooden bowls if you have them.

Traditions:

Stirring the porridge should always be clockwise (though going in different directions probably mixes more efficiently).

Porridge used to be served with separate bowls of double cream. A spoonful of porridge (in a horn spoon) was dipped into a communal bowl of cream before eating.

Porridge is eaten standing up. While some people have suggested that this is out of respect for the noble dish, it probably arose from busy farmers doing other things while eating their morning porridge - or as an aid to digestion.

While some people frown at the idea of sugar on porridge others not only approve but suggest a tot of whisky. Each to their own!

Porridge used to be poured into a "porridge drawer" and, once it had cooled, it could be cut up into slices. These were easier to carry than brittle oatcakes.

