

# THE BURNETT BANNER

Burnett Newsletter  
(including House of Burnett  
News)

Edition No 12  
December 2010

## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM CRATHES!

Very best wishes for Christmas and 2011 to all Burnetts and Banner readers from all of us at Crathes. 2010 has been an eventful year for us with events of prominence including the visit by Alexander and Vinny to Grandfather Mountain Highland Games and our Theatrical production of Monboddoo the Musical. As reported in the last Banner, the US visit was a wonderful experience for Alexander and Vinny and they hope to be able to return to America before long. Monboddoo the Musical is something in which we have great faith and aspirations and of which more can be read further in this edition of the Banner.

I would like to thank all who have contributed to furthering interest in the name of Burnett and in particular those members of the House of Burnett and others who have helped in the organisation of events. Whilst Grandfather Mountain is important amongst gatherings, there are many others where the society has an impressive presence thanks to the hard work of many helpers. The number of Burnetts at Sloan's Valley (see picture below) is a testament to that effort.

One message that I do have for readers is that we do like to hear from you and receive material for the Banner. Whether it comes in the form of articles, art, photographs or whatever, all are welcome to send contributions.

We are working on the programme for 2013 and intend to have it drafted by the spring edition of the Banner

*James C. A. Burnett of Leys*



### *Sloan's Valley, KY*

*57 Burnett's at a gathering at the Burnett Pavilion. The pavilion was built by David C. & Alive Burnett of Cookeville, TN at their vacation property in Sloan's Valley, KY*

## NOTE FROM HOB SECRETARY

Greetings;

I survived the first Blizzard of the winter. The 14 inches of snow wasn't so bad but the cold 60 mile per hour wind out of Canada was brutal. I blamed it on Alex Burnett from Vermilion Alberta, Canada but he hasn't taken ownership.

Congratulations to Tony Burnett of Muncie IN. and BB McGinley of Edmond WA. who were elected to a 3 year term on the Board of Directors.

The Boards first official act of 2011 is the election of the Executive Officers, (President, Secretary and Treasurer), of the House of Burnett. If you wish to run for any of these positions, contact the President or the Secretary and your name will be placed on the Ballot.

January 1st is fast approaching and if you haven't paid your 2011 dues please do so. You can make check for \$20 payable to the House of Burnett and send it to the Secretary or pay thru PayPal on the Burnett website. When you pay your dues for 2011 you will receive a Burnett Lapel Pin. If you have paid and did not get your pin let me know.

It is time to start planning for the 2011 season and at which games we are going to have a representative. Please let me know what your plans are. I will try to get some new banners made and come up with other things of Family interest.

I have been advised of the passing of Corrine Dunkee, Dr. Clem Burnett and Thelma Kosty. I will be adding their names to the flowers of the forest at the Scottish Games I attend.

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season and a great 2011.

*Leland L. Burnett*  
*Secretary, House of Burnett*  
*5982 W. Carlsville Rd.*  
*Sturgeon Bay, WI. 54235*  
*Email: burnett@dcwis.com*

## ESTES PARK FESTIVAL

Helen Stocksill and some of her family at the Estes Park visit the Hay tent at the Estes Park Festival. Pictured here with Rodney (Hay) Village GSA Scot from Loveland CO are L-R, Brenda Jackson, Ashley Gretencord (backrow) Helen Stockstill, Daylene Linville and Rhonda Wilson. Sadly two of her grand daughters who went to Scotland in 2009 did not manage to as they were in college. Helen reports that there were over 80,000 people at the festival.



*James C A Burnett of Leys*

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## IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM HMS BELFAST

Following the Admiral Robert Burnett article which was included in the Banner, Mark Palumbo has a suggestion to anybody who arrives in London for the next gathering or at any other time. A visit to the Imperial War Museum-HMS Belfast is well worthwhile. It's docked near the Tower of London alongside the Tower Bridge. To his surprise, while watching the history channel, he saw a piece on his great Uncle Admiral Bob Burnett.

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## GEORGE MEAD

### 25 YEARS WITH BURNETT SOCIETIES

In recognition of 25 years of membership of the House of Burnett (including the former Burnett Society), George Mead was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation of the many years of service to the Society and contribution towards its activities through the participation in Scottish Games and other activities that highlight our Scottish Ancestry. The certificate was presented to George by Edward Burnett of Ventura, California on September 10<sup>th</sup> 2010 at the Seaside Highland Games, Ventura, California.



George became a Charter Member of the Burnett Society in 1985 and the accompanying picture, from an early BreaghBurnettGazette, was taken at the 1986 Santa Rosa Highland Games.



*L to R- Norm Burnett, Tom Burnett, of Chamblee, Georgia, Tracy Wrekham, of San Jose, California, Rose Mead, George Mead, Katie Mead, of Santa Rosa, California, Elizabeth Patten, of Tacoma, Washington, Stephen Kampmann, of Fresno, California, Betty Burnett, Anna Hibshmann, of Plainfield, New Jersey, Alexander Burnett, Mary Dunklee, of Fresno, California, the Chief - James C.A. Burnett of Leys*

## ELMA ASH BIRTHDAY

Elma Ash, who we were so pleased to have at our 2009 Gathering together with her daughter Terry Wood and grand-daughter, Rachel Rogerson, celebrated her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on November 19<sup>th</sup> with a surprise party thrown for her by her family. We wish her well and she is hoping that she will be returning to Scotland in 2013 with more of her family. There was no sign of her 80 years when she joined the walk up Scolty Hill in 2009 but we will understand if she prefers a less energetic option on the next visit. Best wishes from us all.



The family members in the photo below are as follows (left to right): Randy Wood, Terry Wood, Richard Wood, Rachel Rogerson, Joan Rogerson, Logan Wood, Erin Muscari, Elma Ash, Liz Hedges, Kyle Cost, Linda Miller, Cindy Hoefler, Dotty Copeland.



*James C A Burnett of Leys*

## GLASGOW, KY HIGHLAND GAMES



*Pictured Left to Right:  
James Burnette, Secretary Lee Burnett, James'  
Sister, Dixie Burnett and Walt Burnett.  
Walt passed away in Aug, 2010*



*The Mass Bands putting on a Great show!*

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## BARBARA CORINNE DUNKLEE

We were very sad to hear that Corinne Dunklee passed away on November 28<sup>th</sup>. It must be remembered that her late daughter, Mary, was arguably the founder of the House of Burnett.



Mary formed the Burnett society in the 1970 which eventually developed, with Clan Burnett inc into the House of Burnett. Corinne and her daughter Peggy came to Scotland to the 2009 Gathering and was one of the stars of the week. Despite her advanced years and her health, she stoically addressed all the events during the visit, refusing to make good use of the wheelchair that we had provided for her. Peggy confirms how much she loved her visit here and how much she enjoyed the Scottish music, dancing and other activities that were organized during those few days. We very much enjoyed her company. She will be greatly missed.

Barbara "Cori" Dunklee was born in Athens, Tennessee on October 2, 1929. She passed away in Sanger on November 28, 2010 at the age of 81.

She was the retired co-owner of Yosemite Coins & Antiques. She was an avid bowler and was a life member and past president (12 years) of the F.W.B.A. (Fresno Women's Bowling Association).



Barbara is preceded in death by her husband Howard, and her daughter, Mary. She is survived by her son Daniel Dunklee and his wife Peggy of Clovis; daughter Beverly Pursell-Mangus and her husband Chet of Sanger; four grandchildren-Chaunacey Dunklee, Christopher Dunklee, Shari Humphry, and Katie Pursell. Also nine great grandchildren-Jonathon Russell, Christopher Winzler, Maia Dunklee, Meghan Winzler, Hunter Russell, Terran Dunklee, Jocelyn Russell, Samantha Humphry, Sean McInerney.

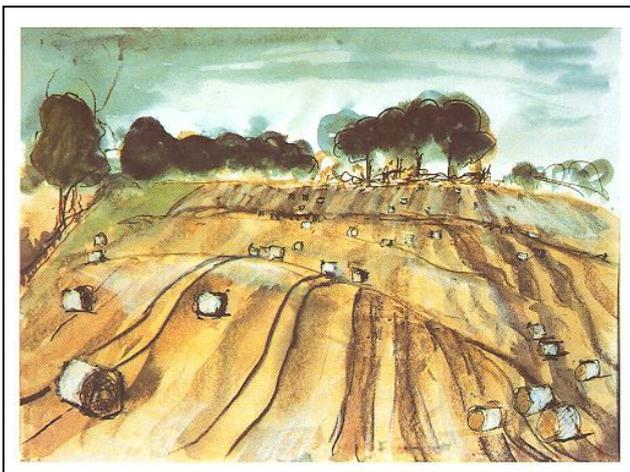
*James C. A. Burnett of Leys*

## BURNETT ART

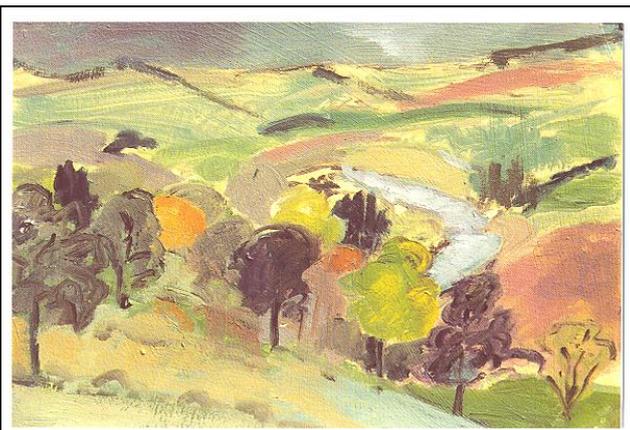
### MARY BURNETT-STUART

Mary Burnett-Stuart is mainly a painter of landscapes, particularly the beautiful and as yet unspoilt countryside around where she lives near Huntly, Aberdeenshire in the Deveron Valley of Banffshire in north-east Scotland. Being a great admirer of two great Scottish artists, William Gillies and Dawyck Haig, both of whom painted the Border Country and the Tweed Valley, she tries, (inadequately so only she says), to look at the landscape as they did – not too literally – and to see shapes and colours that make the picture “work” so not all photographic. She particularly likes agricultural scenery with the marks and lines made by farm machinery and best of all straw bales. She paints still life too especially in the winter.

It was very sad that Mary’s husband, Joe, died earlier this year. A legendary scholar as head boy at Eton College, he later went on to head the bank of Robert Fleming and Co.



*Straw Bales*



*Deveron – Spring*

### RACHEL ROGERSON

Hokkaido- Acrylic and graphite on canvas 2008  
Rachel Rogerson grew up in Dallas, Texas and studied art at the University of North Texas. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in 2008. Her artwork is often inspired by her travels and nature. Hokkaido was inspired by the courtship dance of the Japanese Crane. Traditionally, the crane is an allegorical figure and rendered literally. However, here the crane is depicted in a more expressive/abstract manner in order to emphasize the emotion their dance evokes, although the allegorical meanings, such as longevity and fidelity, still apply. We were very pleased that she came to the 2010 Gathering



*Hokkaido- Acrylic and graphite on canvas 2008*



*Firmament - Oil on canvas 2010*

## MONBODDO THE MUSICAL

Our plans for Monboddo are somewhat ambitious as was the production, but we rightly aspire to high levels and seek to similar standards. Our wish is to take the play on tour in Scotland next year although this will depend on whether we can manage to find a time at appropriate theatres. Depending on this, our thinking is that eventually we should take it abroad and hopefully to the US and Canada.

The storyline of Monboddo can be seen on the website. The production commenced with Robert Burns riding through the night to see his beloved Eliza who is dying. The performance consists of flashback from this bedroom scene taking us through the life of James Burnett, later Lord Monboddo, from Holland to Edinburgh and from his country estate to the scene of Burn's debauchery. He mixes with the great and good of the times of the Scottish Enlightenment. Quite apart from the intrigue of the story and a full complement of original songs, the cast consisted of some exceptional young talent much of which we may see again.

One minor event at the end of the final performance in Aberdeen was for the various James and Eliza Burnetts in the production to be joined by real life versions for a brief appearance!

We have learned much from the performances in Aberdeen and have already made substantial changes to the production. The script has been revised to help the audience and there are three additional songs. There will be some scenery and stage changes and the cast enlarged. It will, in my view, be a work of exceptional quality and able to match any musical on any stage anywhere. We have been to see two top musicals recently and feel that Monboddo is as good as both.

There will be a CD of the songs available shortly and visitors to the [www.monboddo.com](http://www.monboddo.com) should be able to see a short promotional video and some photographs of the production. We intend to produce a full length video from the next performances .

Part of the outcome of Monboddo is that the Theatrical Company, Blitz Entertainment International, and its sister company, KidzAct, which teaches drama to young thespians, are discussing a base for their activities at Woodend Barn, the Community Arts Centre at Banchory. Blitz, some readers may recall were responsible for Alice in Wonderland at the Garden Party in 2005. Woodend is also where we intend to make home for Monboddo the Musical.





## FROM CRANNOG DWELLERS TO CONSERVATIONISTS

Most of those who have attended Burnett Gatherings will recall the annual visit to the Loch of Leys and, for some in earlier days, to the Crannog itself. I make no apology for bringing the subject to your attention once again. We have recently been going through the process of establishing a Trust to manage the Loch and are drawing up a plan for the long term management of this ecologically and historically important site. Thys Simpson, the Countryside Ranger for the Leys Estate, who has worked tirelessly on the project, has compiled the following report.



The family, who once occupied the Crannog on the Loch of Leys, have seen many changes having transformed themselves through the ages from Crannog to Castle dwellers and with many responsibilities over the centuries of which the latest is conservation.

When King Robert the Bruce gifted lands by charter to Alexander Burnard's family in 1323, he would not have foreseen that, in 2010, the Burnett family would still be managing those very same lands. Times may have changed but the Loch of Leys, ever nearer to the expanding town of Banchory, remains. The man-made island of the Crannog also remains, although only the foundation stones of the original building are still present. There is a certain irony that the Burnetts no longer own or occupy the nearby Crathes Castle, whereas the Crannog, their ancient dwelling place, remains their responsibility. Now, in 2010, the Loch, the

original heart of the lands of Leys, requires our attention as conservationists.

The Loch of Leys dates from the last ice age and the first evidence of human activity was the construction of the Crannog which is now an officially recognised ancient monument. The Loch is fed with water from the Hill of Fare to the north and flows to the river Dee to the south. The first major human involvement was 1850 when a drainage scheme substantially reduced the area of the Loch. A drain was dug in the middle of the loch and the outlet drain was made at considerable expense to the south east of the loch. Records show that the success of the scheme, which was to improve land for agriculture, was short-lived as the land was lowered by the shrinkage from drying and a second scheme was required. The surviving stone-lined outlet channel is an impressive unrecognised monument to Victorian engineering prowess.

The importance of the Loch was diminished when the family moved to the Castle. However, during the First World War, local volunteer army units used the south side of the loch for shooting practice. A target, ammunition depot and butts can still be identified. When firing was about to start, a flag was raised as a warning for those in the area. (Health and Safety executives would have a fit if this happened today!)

The Loch itself has suffered over the years from a loss of open water as vegetation has encroached from the edge and a large build up of silt followed by much vegetation growth in a process known as succession. This build up of silt is partly due to actions of man through agriculture, forestry and general development, but also occurs naturally in the Dee Valley. If the loch had remained in its original state, the natural flow of water may have carried the silt on through the loch. However the silt has encouraged vegetation and pioneering plant species colonised initially the sides of the loch. Successful growth resulted in the arrival of more competitive plants. Shrub and tree species followed with a large area of open water consequentially being lost. With no active management for many years, the authorities initially considered special protection for the site in the 1980's, but this was not formally granted.

To me, the Loch of Leys is symbolic of much of Scotland; a large chunk of land with many natural ingredients influenced by humans in varying degrees, with a resulting blend of characteristics. It is not a wilderness but a cultural landscape with its own unique character some of which, little having been done since Victorian times, is now endangered by the loss of almost all the open water and accompanying diversity. To regain this, human intervention is again required. We cannot return the water to its original level because it would flood houses, public roads and private property. We could possibly regulate the inflow and remove much of the new vegetation in order to regain open water. In technical terms this is called "knocking back succession" and it has been done successfully elsewhere in Scotland.

So what has stopped us taking action? There is an ever-increasing amount of regulation and there are huge costs! To help us overcome these considerable challenges we have created the Leys Charitable Trust and some robust management guidelines to address the problems. I have certainly started wrestling with them, (an appropriate description of dealing with the legislation), and will be calling in expert advice as required. We are currently applying for a government grant to assist with the planning of the work for plans to recreate the open water. The charitable status of the Trust will assist in attracting some public funding which would not otherwise be available. This is no easy process and retention of my sanity and motivation is easily achieved by a visit to the Loch as a reminder of the importance of the project.

The early Crannog dwellers were able to adapt to the challenges of the time and we are following in a similar manner. I led a guided walk around to Loch last summer and similar events are planned for 2011. I have suggested setting up a group of volunteers "Friends of the Crannog" for local people to assist with the project by helping with the work or with fund-raising.

The immediate plan is to establish a scoping study for the work and this will include technical drawings and costs to recreate the

open water. Some funding for this specialised report will, I hope, come from the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) River Restoration Fund. The estate proprietors are contributing all my time and associated costs. I will be providing progress reports and the details of plans and financial requirements will become clearer in due course. Donations towards the work are always welcome and the need for funds will become clearer. Anybody interested in making a contribution to the "Leys Charitable Trust" should contact c/o The Factor, Leys Estate factor, St. Nicholas House, 68 Station Road, Banchory AB31 5YJ, Scotland.

*Thys Simpson. Countryside Ranger, Leys Estate*

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## FOX AT BURNETT HOUSES



Readers may recall the piece which I included in the March 2010 Banner of the death of Geraldine Simpson, a former owner of Muchalls Castle and the mention of the fox which had been caught in a trap in the 1980s. We kept him for about a year before we thought it wiser to find

a new home for him. We also had at the time a roe deer which had suffered similar misfortune and the space available was not convenient for all the animals including, from time to time, our dogs.

We had heard that Geraldine had kept a fox in the house in the past and might be interested in taking on ours. Muchalls, when owned by the Simpson was always akin to a small zoo. It was not the ideal animal to have living in the house as foxes do have a strong unique smell, but when we we saw him about a year later, he appeared content albeit a bit on plump side. I was recently given a photograph of what I had hoped might be our fox but the age of the Simpsons in the photograph suggests that he was an earlier member of the household.

*James C A Burnett of Leys*

## BISHOP BURNETT 'S THOUGHTS ON EDUCATION

I recently came across a small book recording Bishop Gilbert Burnett's ideas as to how children should be educated. Below is an extract and I may include further pieces from his logical and sensible thoughts to which educationalists of today might take heed

The Editors in the preface.

"The subject of this treatise is, most certainly, of a very interesting nature, not only to parents and such others as are more immediately and directly concerned in the right education of youth, but to the whole community in general: and in both these views our Author seems to have attentively and honestly considered it, never losing sight of his Pupils, even from the lisping state of infancy, up to that of ripe manhood. The counsel he gives, and the regulations he proposes, together with his reasons for them, seek well to deserve the serious and mature consideration of every parent, guardian, governor and preceptor of youth: for though every one of these will not, probably, think fit to adopt all his sentiments, in every circumstance; yet those who do not think with him, may perhaps learn from him to think for themselves"

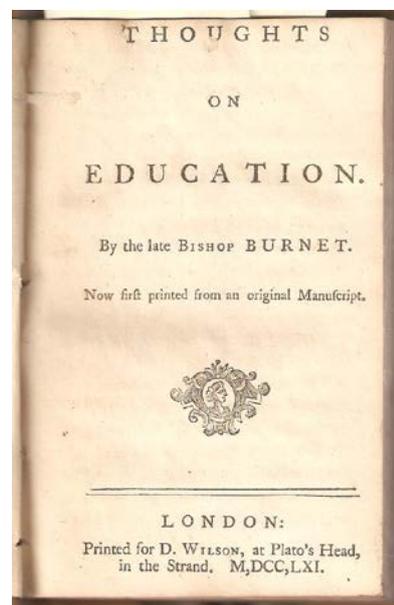
Bishop Burnett

"The first step of our Thoughts, in reference to children, should be a wise and discreet choice of her who shall be their mother; for as grasses bear fruit of the kind of the flock whence they are cropt, so often do children receive deep and lasting impressions of their mother's temper. And also parents should avoid all wasting intemperance, and excess, for since the minds of children are moulded into the temper of that case and body where they are thrust, and the healthfulness and strength of their bodies is suitable to the source and fountain whence they sprung, it clearly appears that persons wasted by drunkenness or venery must procreate unhealthful, crazy, and often meanspirited children; though there being so many things joyning in this compound of a man, none of these probabilities must pass for assertions or conclusions. "

" A child being born, the first care is its nursing; and indeed it is an affectionate and Christian piece of the mother's care, recommended by the holy women in Scripture, and the more virtuos of all ages, to nurse her own children, if the nourishment be abundant and good, and if her health and strength will permit; and to decline it upon any accounts bewraies either immodesty, or, a lazy inexcusable softness"

" All a child can be then taught is cleanliness; upon which what a value the ancients set, appears from that a philosopher, among the moral precepts he gives a child, reckons this, to keep his hands always clean; and besides the suitableness the purity of the mind hath to the cleanliness of the body, a habitual love of cleanness may prove a good curb to preserve children from many nasty tricks."

Next episode is nearer the class room



*James C A Burnett of Leys*

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## **SAMUEL REED AND MARY ANN BURNETT**

I have been in correspondence with Charlie Reed of Pryor, Oklahoma who has been searching for information on one of his ancestors, Mary Ann Burnett, wife of Samuel Reed's wife Mary Ann Burnett; He has found that she died in Crawford county Arkansas and has searched the cemetery records of that county and found nothing.

Seven generations back, Samuel Reed married Mary Ann Burnett in Tennessee in 1837. Mary Ann, born in Roane, Tennessee in 1873, was the daughter of **John D Burnett** 1776 - 1872 and was buried in Shamrock Cemetery in Crawford Co. and his 2nd wife Sarah Oliver.. According to the 1860 census, Samuel Reed was born in 1816 in North Carolina and was a farmer. He was buried in Stone County, Missouri. In the same census, John Burnett aged 84 and his wife Sarah Oliver aged 68, both born in Virginia, were living with Mary Ann Burnett Reed.

**John Burnett** was born on 11th Feb 1776 in Amherst Co. Virginia, son of John Burnett and Mary (Howard?). He married firstly in 1799 in Amherst Co Martha Ballou and secondly Sarah Oliver.

**John Burnett**, born about 1750, son of Jeremiah Burnett, joined the Revolutionary War in Amherst Co. on 2nd Dec 1776 and died at Valley Forge between Oct 1778 and Feb 1779.

**Jeremiah Burnett born** 1718 in Pitcataway Creek, Essex Co. Virginia. He had moved to Spotsylvania Co by age 12 with his mother & stepfather (David Scott). He was in Hanover Co. Virginia in 1763 & died in 1773 (location unknown). Jeremiah Burnett's children included the aforementioned John Burnett born about 1750.

**John Burnett**, husband of Amy Gatewood, son of **John( Johnne) Burnett** and Lucretia Johnston, was born in about 1660 in Old Rappahannock Co. Virginia. He died in Essex Co. Virginia in May 1718. It is interesting to note that one of the indentured servant boys imported into Virginia in 1699 by John & Amy Burnett to work on their tobacco plantation was a Thomas Reed aged 12 (born 1687) - origin unknown.

**[The above information is extracted from  
"Burnetts & Their Connections Vol 1",**

**compiled by June Baldwin Bork, which also  
contains (on p 581) details of the children of  
Samuel and Mary Ann Reed]**

John (Johnne) Burnett was the son of Thomas Burnett. The link with the Burnetts of Leys is strictly speaking indeterminate. However, Thomas Burnett was a son of John Burnett of Leys (who inherited in 1574) and his wife Elizabeth Lumsden. Although no precise birth date has been found for Thomas and two other sons and a daughter, research shows the relationship from the fact that Thomas Burnett's name appears on an inscribed stone in the floor of St Mary's Aisle of St Nicholas Church in Aberdeen bearing the Arms of Leys which has another known direct connection to the Burnetts of Leys. Thomas was a prominent merchant in Aberdeen and a burgess of the town. He married Margaret Johnston(e)/Johnstoun in St Nicholas parish on 8th November 1608. Thomas was killed on 13th September 1644 during the Battle of Justicemills or the rout in Aberdeen which followed. The Thomas Burnett, born abt 2 Sept 1574 in St Nicholas, Aberdeen, was the son of a John Burnett and Isobell Burnett and is not considered unlikely to be Thomas Burnett, husband of Margaret Johnstone.

A son of Thomas & Margaret Burnett, John (Johnne) Burnett, baptised 25 December 1610 in St Nicholas parish, also became a merchant and in 1638 was appointed by King Charles to be his sole trader for the Kingdom of Scotland with Virginia. John Burnett married Lucretia Johnston ( b 1629, Aberdeen) in Old Rappahannock County, Virginia in about 1657. Given that our research shows that the name of Thomas Burnett, (husband of Margaret Johnston), is inscribed on a large stone in St Nicholas Church also containing the name of Andrew Burnett of Sheddocksley, that the stone bears the Arms of Leys and that Andrew Burnett's grandson, James of Sheddocksley, referred to his grandfather as a "3rd son of Leys" when he formally registered Arms similar to Leys, we are confident in saying that there is a strong case to relate Thomas Burnett, father of John(Johnne) Burnett, to the Leys family.



*l-r. Roy Ree, Wilburn Reed, (Fred Reed's Brother), Raymond Reed, Floyd Reed, Reed. Roy, Raymond and Floyd are the children of Fred Reed, Mary Ann Burnett's grandson. This picture was taken in Mayes county Oklahoma in or about 1920*

Charlie will be pleased to learn all he can about his ancestors and at the same time offer any pertinent information he might have to anyone who might be interested. He has been searching cemetery and other records but found nothing about Samuel Reed's wife Mary Ann Burnett other than she died in Crawford County, Arkansas. He would like to know where she was buried or the circumstances of her death. He would also like to know how and where and when these 2 families got to North Carolina and where they lived and met in those early days. Please send any information to me and I will pass it on to Charlie

*James C A Burnett of Leys*



*James R. Reed (w/wife, Sarah) James is son of Mary Ann Burnett & Samuel Reed, probably taken in Stone county, Missouri,*

## ARIONIDAE BURNETTEI

Banner reader may recall several articles relating to Flora and Fauna associated with the family name. Herewith is something new.



Hollie Taylor, (University of Aberdeen, Geneticist & Ecologist with Leys Estate), works on various estate projects.

Her work elsewhere has included her discovery of several new species of Slug which she collected in the Pyrenees as part of a study focusing on the evolutionary relationships within invasive slug species. Consequently, as since they have to be named, she agreed that the Burnett clan could have had a new species named in their honour - *Arionidae burnettei* (Taylor 2010). The Burnett slug is part of a novel family (the large Arionid slugs) which are characterised by their astounding abilities to adapt to new habitats. Recent research by Hollie unveiled the unique parasite assemblage, which act as an invasive mechanism reducing fitness of competitor species, which have enabled *A. burnettei* to expand its range from the Iberian Peninsula to Southern France in a matter of years.

Funded by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) and the University of Aberdeen, with support from National Geographic and TOTAL, Hollie is now working on a project attempting to identify the evolutionary relationships of amphipods collected from deep oceanic trenches (up to 10,015m below the sea surface) encountering multiple new species in the process. She is also currently at the short-listing stage of two major applications including the National Geographics Young Explorers Grant and the Royal Geographical Society's Early Career Research Grants to fund a data collection trip on a research vessel to the Marianas and Japan Trench systems next year. We hope that we will be able to add some new members to the Burnett clan!

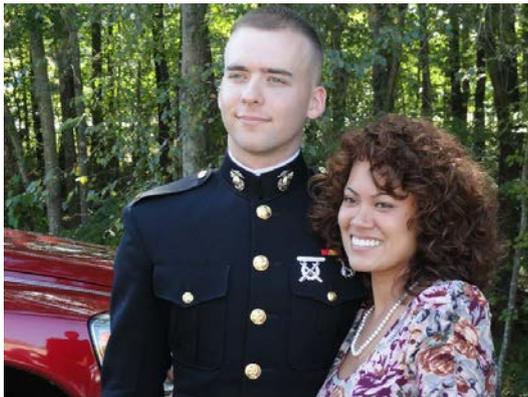


## JOHN BURNETT UPDATE

As often, John Burnett updates me with his family news which includes activity amongst his children with their matrimonial plans. Cameron is now in the initial flight training in Pensacola and has become engaged to Valerie. Wes is home from Cuba. His next assignment will be near Washington D.C. and hopefully no Afghanistan for a couple of years we. He has two bronze stars and a Meritorious Service Medal to go with his other commendations. Britton is doing well during his long term battle with cancer for which his outlook is promising. Erin is getting married soon to Jamie. We wish them all well.



*John Burnett, Cameron and Britton*



*Cameron & Valerie*



*Erin & Jamie*

## LEG WAXING!

After returning from Grandfather Mountain Highland Gathering, Alexander was subjected to the somewhat less dignified experience as shown on the attached press cutting from the local paper. However, all in a good cause!



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## ITALIAN LINK

I have communicated with Ilaria Ferrari whose grandmother's surname was Leis. She has created a free educational website to simply let other people know about the information which she collected with her father. I did tell her that our relationship might be described as "indeterminate", but we are pleased to put her website as a link on ours.

<http://utenti.quipo.it/Leis/principale.html>

section "mondo"

page "Leys Scotland"

Readers may be interested to look at it

*The Editor*

## THE TRAVELS OF HILDEBRAND BOWMAN

Following the Monboddo production, I have received much correspondence including an enquiry from the Captain Cook Society seeking to identify the anonymous author of a fictional work from 1778 entitled *The Travels of Hildebrand Bowman*, a rare book of which only 500 copies were published in 1778. The book has been scanned by the University of Wellington and can be on-line at <http://www.nzetc.org/tm/scholarly/tei-EllTrav.html>)

The pseudonymous author describes how a sailor from one of Captain Cook's voyages was stranded on New Zealand. There the sailor encountered a series of different races, each of a higher civilization. The subject is that of an article which will appear in the January edition of "Cook's Log" the quarterly publication of the Captain Cook Society attempting to identify the pseudonymous author Hildebrand Bowman. The writer has identified James Burnett, Lord Monboddo as one of the potential authors of this book with good reasoning which I should refrain from stating here in advance of the publication of his article. As the book repeatedly spells Captain Cook's name as Cooke, it is suggested that the author may have had a Scottish connection.

I was unable to offer any useful ideas. The reasons given for suggesting that the author could have been Lord Monboddo are sound enough but, generally speaking, Monboddo appears to have been confident to be associated with his writings. There was one item "Account of a Savage Girl" which was said to be from the pen of one of his clerks and to which Monboddo apparently wrote the preface but opinion at the time suggested that in fact James Burnett himself was the author. Lord Monboddo did take a great deal of interest in the voyages of Captain Cook and perhaps he felt that an anonymous publication such as the "Travels of Hildebrand Bowman" would add weight to some of his controversial published theories?

Who knows?

*James C. A. Burnett of Leys*

## TOY ESCAPE

*By Joanna Fuchs*

Late Christmas Eve, when all was still,  
And the room was dark as night,  
The Christmas tree lit magically;  
It was a fantastic sight!

Then from around the tree trunk came,  
A strange and funny sound,  
As gifts began to unwrap themselves,  
And toys jumped out all around.

The music box began to play,  
And in a crazy trance,  
The candy canes jumped off the tree  
To do a silly dance.

The big stuffed bear leaped to his feet,  
To see what he could see;  
He rode a shiny, bright red bike  
Around the Christmas tree.

The new toy kitchen started to cook,  
And before you could blink an eye,  
The oven door opened, and from inside  
Came a tiny pizza pie.

A squirt gun squirted everything;  
It knew what it was for;  
By the time that it was emptied out,  
A big puddle lay on the floor.

A beautiful doll with golden hair  
Was searching for a friend;  
A toy soldier marched up and took her hand;  
They were a perfect blend.

In the bedroom were a boy and girl,  
Asleep in Christmas dreams;  
The soldier saluted; the doll gave a kiss;  
At least that's the way it seems.

Now everything began to tire;  
The toys went back in place;  
But when mother woke in the morning,  
You should have seen her face.

The tree was fine; the gifts were there,  
Yet mother gave a roar;  
She looked at her wet shoes and yelled,  
"What's this puddle on my floor