

# THE BURNETT BANNER

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

**Edition No 15  
September 2011**

**PHYLLIS ESLER  
PRESIDENT OF THE HOUSE OF BURNETT  
24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 1943 ~ 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2011**



*See Page 2*

## **OPERA ON THE LAWN**



I am disappointed to report that our birthday / anniversary event did not materialise as we had hoped although we were geared up to invite a large number of friends as can be seen from the invitation. The numbers of guests whom the organisers sought to attract and the logistics involved whereby all could see and enjoy what was a memorable performance, prevented what we had planned which were small operatic extracts throughout the gardens. However, the evening was a success and we will seek to mark our events in some other way.

## **2013 GATHERING**

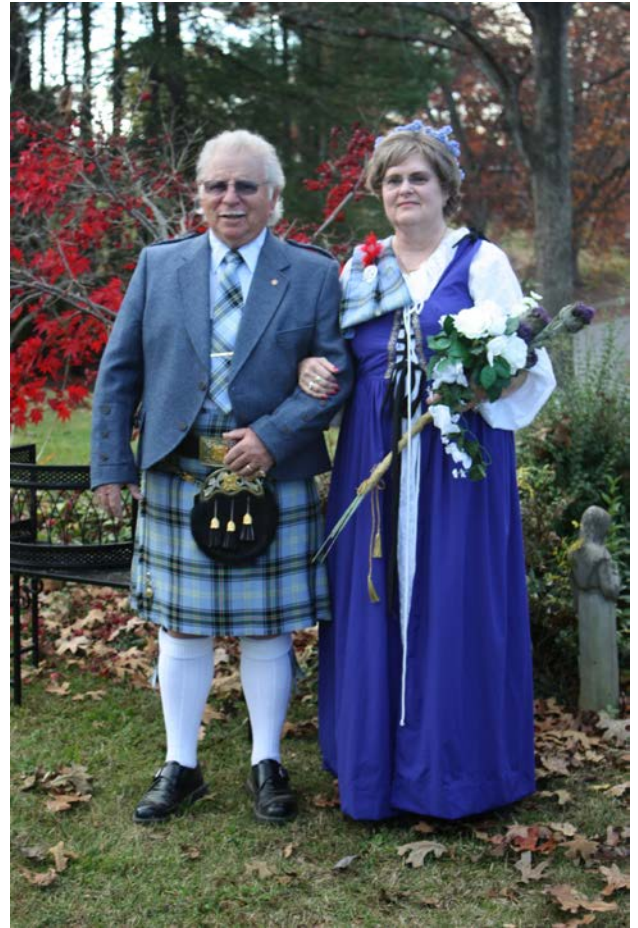
Details for the next gathering are yet to be unveiled but, those who are thinking of attending, we will not disappoint.

## PHYLLIS ESLER

We are very sad to hear that our President, Phyllis Esler, has lost her long struggle with her serious illness. Phyllis has worked tirelessly for the Society and has been largely responsible for the presence at many events over recent years. A tribute is paid to her elsewhere in this Banner, but I would also wish to thank her for her contribution towards promoting the name of Burnett and her work which that has involved. Our sympathy goes to Ron and all family and friends.

In addition to being President of the House of Burnett, Phyllis was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Granite Falls, the American Business Women's Association and the Grand Cross of Color. She was also an author of some fame. Ron and Phyllis had the privilege of working for the famous Christian song writers and composers, Bill and Gloria Gaither and Phyllis and Gloria wrote several books together. Phyllis and Ron latterly operated their beautiful and romantic bed and breakfast, Thistle House.

Phyllis and Ron visited us at Crathes in 2010 and below is a photograph taken in Alexander and Vinny's house.



*Phyllis and Ron renewing their wedding vows*



*Phyllis and Ron at Kashentoch, Crathes with Alexander, James and Thomas Burnett*



*Phyllis and Leland*



## NOTE FROM THE HOB SECRETARY

Greetings to All;

It is my sad duty to announce the passing of our House of Burnett President Phyllis Esler. When we had no one to fill the position of President Phyllis came forward to take on the job. She approached the challenge with uncommon fervor. Even in the time her health was deteriorating she continued to serve with enthusiasm. I hope others in the House of Burnett will come forward to serve in maintaining our family history and our Scottish heritage as Phyllis did. We hope that the family finds comfort, at this time of sorrow, that we share their loss. Phyllis will be sorely missed by the House of Burnett.

Other than this loss and the terrible weather, I hope everyone had a great summer. The heat, wind and rain that we had this summer, wasn't always conducive to great games. Overall I had a great time meeting old friends and making new ones.

Despite the weather it was exciting to see the numbers of Burnett's showing up at the events. I did have some medical issues and was not able to do as much as I had hoped to, but I doing better now and will be at the Wisconsin Games over the Labor Day weekend. Hope to see some of you there.

Elections for Board of Directors to take office in Jan. 2012 will be taking place in Dec. Two Board Members will be elected for three year terms. Throw your hat in the ring we need new ideas. The Board will also be electing the executive officers (President, Secretary and Treasurer). On another note I have been Secretary for 6 years and would like to step down. If anyone would like to take this on please let it be known.

Dues come due on 31 Dec. 2011. Some of you paid early and adjustments were made to others, so please look at your membership card to determine if you owe dues or you are good until Dec. 2012. 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 thing out.

Another pressing issue is the updating of e-mail address. This makes it much easier to communicate and it saves the House of Burnett money.

We continue to look for family tree information, as we try to fill in the gaps, so if you have something to add please send it in so we can publish it in the Banner. Yours Aye

*Leland L Burnett, Secretary*

## FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

At the instigation of the ambitious young brother of King of the Scots, Henry VIII led an army against Scotland. King James IV and the "flowers" of Scottish nobility were brutally slain at the Battle of Flodden on September 9, 1513, one of the greatest disasters to befall the country.

The pipe tune "Flowers of the Forest" was a soulful lament written shortly after the battle took place. The "forest" refers to a district of Scotland called Ettrick Forest where the battle took place.

Following in this tradition President Phyllis Esler's name was entered into the roll of the Flowers of the Forest at Wisconsin Scottish Games during the Kirking of the Tartan Ceremony on Sunday September 05, 2011.

*Leland L Burnett*

\*\*\*\*\*

## THE SONG OF THE ORPHAN BOY

A few years ago I wrote an article about Blind Dick Burnett and his music. He wrote a song he called the "Song of the Orphan Boy", after he was shot in the face with a shot gun while being robbed. This song later was called "Man of Constant Sorrow" and was made popular in the movie "O Brother where Art Thou", starring George Clooney.

Richard "Dick" Burnett lived in Monticello, Wayne Co, KY. He died in 1977 at the age of 94 but his music continues to live in his recordings.

The Wayne County Museum is in the process of featuring a display that will honor Richard "Dick" Burnett.

The plans are being made to have a formal opening of the second and third floors of the museum Saturday 10 September 2011 which will feature some of the instruments he played. Also on display will be some of the tools he used to build chairs to help support his family and one of the chairs will be on display. He was an accomplished carpenter and was even able to work on some clocks in spite of his blindness.

If in the area stop and see the display.

*Leland L Burnett*

A cock's eye crouse on his own midden-head  
*It's easy to be brave on your own territory*

## GLASGOW KY HIGHLAND GAMES

Our weekend at the Glasgow, KY Highland Games began with heat, sunshine and tasty Scottish cuisine. We spent the day enjoying professional and amateur athletes competing in the games, bands of pipes and drums, and an appearance from our favorite Scots band, Albannach. On Sunday, we were trying to keep cool while preparing for the closing of the games with the traditional Parade of Tartans. A big wind picked up, threatening to topple over anything and anyone not anchored down. The wind was so strong, it managed to cause several clan tents to fall, and thankfully no one was hurt. As clans came together to help hold down tents, and put away valuable items, the heavy rain began. Everyone was made to leave their tents to take shelter, as nickel sized hail was expected. Although the tornado-like weather prematurely closed the 2011 games, we had a great time, with a wet, but exciting ending!!



*The HOB tent before the crowds and the storm.*



*A collage of our Scotland trips*

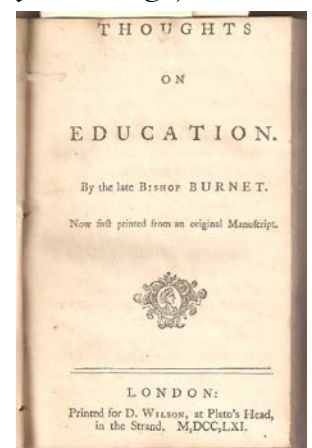
A dog winna yowl if you fell him wi a bane  
*Felt a dog with bones and he won't complain*

## BISHOP BURNETTS THOUGHTS ON EDUCATION

As for punishing children on this side of seven or eight years old, it must be managed with discretion. All the humours, follies, wildness and indiscretions of children should be passed over in laughter: for to expect or force other things from children is to contradict nature, which made children children and not men. Remisness in study should also be little considered: two hours a day until they be six, and three or four till they be seven or eight is penance enough for young children.

If a child needs strokes, it must bewray either much weakness in his father or master, or a great forwardness in the child. Praise and kindness are the best encouragements of children, and to reward their diligence and good manners with pretty knacks, gilded books, such ornaments to their clothes as their rank and purse will allow, pieces or money, and gratifications of the palate, will more sweetly engage a child, than any cross-grained carriage. The punishments also of most faults, should be a with-holding of these rewards; and if there be another whom the child emulates, to confer them upon him. If this prevail not, frowning will not, and should never be used, but in the very act of correction: for frequent chiding either makes it to be wholly flighted, or alienates the heart of the child from his parent or master. And indeed the philosopher's stone, and masterpiece of education, is so to ply a child as to gains his heart, and to retain his affection.

The faults we intend not to punish, we should not notice, for it is better a child judge that he misseth the rod through his master's ignorance or not observance, than that his faults are connived at, and he suffered to behave as he pleaseth; which apprehension may be the source of much evil. Otherways of punishing are scorning children, and publick shaming them out of their follies, which course may be practised with good success, till a child be ten or twelve years of age; but after that it is no more to be practised. Children should be seldom threatened but seldom beaten, yet when need doth require it, it should be done to some purpose; and the more infrequent and severe it be, it shall breed more terrour in the child; for customary of flight corrections make them little dreaded.



## A WATERSPOUT & A GARGOYLE

I feel that it is appropriate that I include in the Banner the contents of a message circulated by Judge Gil Burnett



Above is a photo of a water spout/tornado that was in front of the family cottage at Carolina Beach, N. C. in mid August while some of his family were there. Kendra, daughter of Barbara Burnett took this photo. NBC TV wanted permission to show some of her photos and may have shown them on the air. Photos were all over the local news. The wind did NO damage at the cottage. The spout came onto land just south of the business section and at that point became a tornado, then a water spout over the lake and then a tornado over land again. Then it fizzled out having done little damage at the beach. She actually has several minutes of video showing the water spout traveling past the cottage and going on shore. It's VERY INTERESTING!!!! The video is on WECT's webpage. Just google "Kendra Hawley WECT" and look for the 3minute 37 second video titled "Waterspout spotted in Carolina Beach2".



I don't know quite what the relationship is with the Gargoyle other than they are both spouts with a Burnett association. My wife had this made as a 70<sup>th</sup> birthday present. It is sculpted by Jane Smith who is assisting in the management of the Milton Gallery at Crathes. She has suggested that, now that we have the mould, I might make copies available. I think that she suggested it with tongue in cheek as I did not foresee a stampede to acquire them. However, others might like her to do something similar with their loved ones. Mine will complete a wall fountain at our house in Spain.

*James C A Burnett of Leys*

## AIR CHIEF MARSHALL SIR BRIAN BURNETT

Readers may recall in Banner No 7 the promotion of the autobiography of this highly successful and respected Burnett. Sadly he died very recently at the age of 98. In addition to filling very senior appointments in the RAF, he was also Chairman of the All England Lawn Tennis Club presiding over the Wimbledon Tennis Championships for 10 years. There is much to add to that article but the book is also available to read. However, there are some matters of interest which I have gleaned from the very lengthy obituary in the Daily Telegraph from which I am grateful for this accompanying photograph which was taken at the time of his record breaking flight from Egypt to Darwin in Australia. One is that he is credited with taming



somewhat the young emerging tennis champion, John McEnroe. He was also an outstanding sportsman and questioned the wisdom of the escalating prize money in the sport but reluctantly had to accept this trend.

I also noted that he played a significant role in bombing the Scharnhorst which was sunk in 1943 by a cruiser squadron commanded by his kinsman Admiral Sir Robert Burnett (Banner No 8). There was also an occasion at Wimbledon that there was an IRA scare during the championships when there was a warning given that a bomb would explode at 3.00 p.m. A search found nothing so Burnett remained in situ with some of his guests and, with one minute to go to the hour, he calmly suggested that they should remove their spectacles to avoid flying glass.

He finally gave up skiing at 80, golf at 88 and tennis at 94. In 2009 he published his memoirs, *A Pilot at Wimbledon*. An avid bridge player, he played twice a week until he died on September 16, having just returned from a holiday in the south of France.

*Editor*

## MESSAGE FROM BILL DAVIES

My late mother's maiden name was Judith Graham Burnett. I live in New Zealand. My daughter and her husband are living for the next 2 years in Atlanta GA. My wife and I visit her ever year. Last year we enjoyed a side trip to Savannah and a trip to Savannahs cemetery where we stumbled upon the grave of a Ward Burnett. He departed this world in, as I recall, 1956. My mother's late cousin here in New Zealand was also named Ward Burnett, Ward is a name that has always been part of my mother's family. Our side of the Burnett family left the US before the Civil War, returning to England and then emigrated to New Zealand in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. They built a grand home that is now an NZ architectural treasure. Since then we have flowered and prospered, there are heaps of us down here in NZ. Our daughter, Lizzie, in Atlanta will, all going well, give birth to our first grandchild on approx 12<sup>th</sup> of January 2012. We will visit her and her husband Ed, also a Kiwi, from approx October 28<sup>th</sup> to November 12<sup>th</sup> 2011 and again from approx 12 January 2012 for an extended stay. If there are any Burnett family members in Atlanta or Savannah we would love the opportunity to say hello.

20 Glendowie Rd  
Auckland 1071  
New Zealand

[bill\\_davies@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bill_davies@xtra.co.nz)

\*\*\*\*\*

## GEORGE BURNETT

Leland Burnett advises me that Brad Rhees in Oklahoma has been searching for information on George Burnett. Leland carried out some research but the best information obtained was of George Burnett born 28 July 1689 in South Leith, Midlothian, Scotland. George came to the US and died in Halifax Co VA in 1762. He believed the parents to be Thomas Burnett and Margaret Blakely.

Eileen has searched the Scottish parish birth registers and found only a George Burnet born 24th baptised 28th July 1689 in Leith (South, Edinburgh and whose parents were recorded as being George Burnet and Catherine Donaldson. (copy of record attached). She has not found a marriage record for this couple but not all parish records have survived. Some Scottish marriages around this time were "handfast" marriages where the couple simply agreed to become a couple before an assembly of friends and family and a

clergyman was not present so no formal record made.

She checked for a marriage of a Thomas Burnet and Margaret Blakely around a reasonable timeframe but found none in the Scottish marriage registers.

"Blakely" is not listed in Black's "Surnames of Scotland" and she has not come across it before. She has not found this couple mentioned in any of our collection of Burnett information.

If any reader can provide more information, please send it to me and I will pass it to Brad Rhees

## 28/07/1689 BURNET, GEORGE (O.P.R. Births 692/02 0030 0521 LEITH SOUTH)

© Crown Copyright. Image was generated at 01 September 2011 11:38



James C A Burnett of Leys

A' cracks mauna be trowed  
Don't believe all you hear

## LAURA BELL BURNETT

When I started doing my research of My Family Tree I found it difficult to find information about the females in the family as some of you can attest. One of those that I came up short was Laura Bell Burnett the daughter of my great uncle Elias Cox Burnett and wife Elizabeth Dozier. I knew she married Henry D. Smith and that they had 17 children. I had made many copies of my research and gave them to family members and after a few years I received a call from Shirley (Wyatt) Prohaska who was the granddaughter of Laura and Henry Smith. With all my travel and involvement with the House of Burnett we lost touch.

In the spring of 2011 Shirley got in touch again. So in June, on my way to Milwaukee, I had the pleasure of meeting Shirley and her husband Ervin Prohaska at their home in Germantown, WI. Shirley furnished me with the following information:



*Laura Bell (Burnett) Smith  
Born Apr. 03 1882 and died Mar. 18 1951.*

*Henry D. Smith  
Born Mar 05 1875 and died Sep. 03 1961.*

*Laura & Henry were married Nov. 11 1897.*

The following are their 17 children:

1. Allie May Smith born Oct. 15 1898 in Knox Co KY and died Mar 17 2001. She married John Blanton. They lived in Boring Laurel Co. KY.
2. Chester Arthur Smith born Mar 31 1900 in Knox Co. Ky. and died Sep. 06 1969. His first wife was May Sullivan and second was Aileen Burk. They lived in Lily, Laurel Co, KY
3. George William Smith born Sep 08 1903 in Knox Co. KY and died Jan 26 1953. He was married to Pearl Van Winkle. They lived in Highsplint, Harlan Co, KY.
4. Herbert Smith born Aug 13 1905 in Knox Co KY and died Jan 13 1979. His first wife was Nell Brown and second was Ethel third was Jennie Early. Retired US Army and lived in Brandon FL.
5. Hazel Smith born May 16 1907 in Knox Co KY and died Sep 06 1991. Her husband was Charlie Smith. They lived in KY and Dryden VA. He was a Baptist Minister.
6. Elizabeth Smith born Jan 15 1909 in Knox Co KY and died Apr 21 1998. Her husband was Lee Patton. They lived in London, Laurel Co, KY
7. Luther Smith born Jul 13 1910 in Knox Co KY and died Dec 03 1922 at age 12 from a ruptured Appendix.
8. Mary Ethel Smith born May 31 1912 in Knox Co KY and died Apr 16 1992. Her husband was Alva Engle. They lived in Williamstown, Grant Co, KY.
9. Pearleane (Pearl) Smith born May 06 1914 in Knox Co KY and died Oct 28 2004. Her husband was Clarence DeGreeter.
10. Myrtle Smith born Jan 22 1917 in Knox Co KY and died Nov 09 2009. Her first husband was Anthony Rabattini and second was Bernard Martin. Lived in Highland Park, IL. and Quincy MA.
11. Mabel Smith born Jan 22 1917 in Knox Co KY and died Sep 07 2008. Her first husband was James Wyatt and second was Chester Dillon. They lived in London KY. and Highland Park, IL.
12. William (Bill) H. Smith born Oct 02 1918 in Knox Co KY and died Jan 23 2004. His wife was Opal. Lived in London, Laurel CO, KY.
13. Lloyd C. Smith born Apr 19 1920 in Laurel Co KY and died at age 11 on Mar 25 1932. Died from a ruptured Appendix.
14. Effie Smith born Oct 11 1921 in Laurel Co and died at age 2 on Jun 29 1924.
15. Lowell Keith Smith born May 15 1924 in Laurel Co KY and died Aug 16 1998. His wife was Carrie Rowe. They lived in Vancouver, WA.
16. Denver Smith born Dec. 17 1926 in Laurel Co KY and died May 29 2011. His first wife was Darlene Lau and second was Hilda Crawford. They lived in Madison Heights, MI. and Smyrna, TN.
17. Elsie June Smith born Jun 11 1928 in Laurel Co KY. Still living as of July 27 2011. Her husband William DeWeese. They lived in Lexington, Fayette, Co, KY.

## LAURA BELL BURNETT cont.



*8 of the 9 daughters of Laura and Henry Smith.  
(left to right) Elsie, Mabel, Myrtle (Twins), Pearl, Mary,  
Elizabeth, Hazel & Allie.  
Missing: Effie who died at 2 ½ years old.*

Anyone who would like more information about this family you may contact Shirley or myself.

Leland L. Burnett  
5982 W. Carlsville Rd  
Sturgeon Bay  
WI. 54235  
USA  
(920)746-0357  
[burnett@dcwis.com](mailto:burnett@dcwis.com)

Shirley Prohask  
W132N12522 Mary Buth  
Germantown  
WI. 53022  
USA  
(262)242-0154

\*\*\*\*\*

## ROBERT BURNETT FROM BETTY SPICHER

I read the query regarding Dr. Robert Burnett in the June 2011 issue of the Banner. I responded to the questioner that I had run up against a blank wall on where he belongs in the European Burnett families in the late 1960's. I cannot link him up definitely with Eileen Bailey's book of families with the exception of a son Robert, of Thomas, who was born in 1697 and supposedly died young.

I am a descendent of the above Robert's son Andrew b.1750, Andrew's son Robert b. 1791, and this Robert's son Ansel (Robert Ansel) b. 1833, who fought in the Civil War. Robert (b. 1791) migrated with his father Andrew and some of his family to the Western Reserve in 1832 and settled in Burton, Ohio. Ansel had brothers: Sherebiah,

John Marvin, Isaac, and 2 sisters: Susan and Maria. I have quite a bit of information regarding Ansel. My great grandmother was Ansel's daughter, Edith, and she migrated to California in the late 1800's with her husband's family.

I am interested in finding other living descendants of Robert's (b.1791) and Ansel's so we can exchange information.

I am also interested in finding information about Ansel's son Louis Burnett (listed as Fr. Louis in the family Bible) who would have been born about 1850. His mother may have been Ansel's first wife. He seems to have had no contact with the Burton, Oh. family as an adult. I have a family note that says that around 1894 Louis was a professional singer in New York City.

I have about 65 letters sent from the Ohio branch of the family, many written by Jon and Elizabeth Burnett, to David and Lydia Burnett who stayed in Warwick, Mass. The letters begin in 1832 to the 1890's. They were sent to me by Charles Morse in the mid 1970's. We corresponded for about 10 years from the late 1960's until the mid 1970's and I have a copy of his book. I also have Ansel's civil war diaries and some letters he wrote home while he was serving in the war

I also have a few photos of Robert, his wife, Sue Town, Ansel and his wife and family.

I am hopeful of finding out more about this family.



*Robert Burnett b.1791 d.1879*



*Robert's son Ansel b.1833 d.1875*

**Betty Spicher**  
[ejsbetty@hotmail.com](mailto:ejsbetty@hotmail.com)



## CRATHES WOMEN'S RURAL INSTITUTE

Scottish Women's Rural Institute is one of the largest women's organisations in Scotland and boasts about 20,500 members. Members informally call the organisation *the Rural*. It consists of groups of women who meet together in centres throughout Scotland to advance the education and training of those who live and work in the countryside and to promote the preservation and development of Scotland traditions, rural heritage and culture.

Sadly, there are WRIs which suffer from the competition of alternative activities or merely the urbanisation of the countryside and a more mobile nature of population. Crathes WRI is such a victim of this new world and sadly has had to close its doors. The Chairperson of the branch has handed me some archival material which includes a photograph of the birthday party which they gave my grandmother in 1939



\*\*\*\*\*

### 1992 NEW KINSFOLK FRIENDS

If there is one family that have been most prominent at all our reunions, it is that of the Burnetts of North Carolina. Sadly, some of them are no longer with us, but it is always good to revisit the days of earlier gathering and the new friendships that develop as a consequence of meeting in Scotland. Herewith a photograph of sisters Ruth Burnett Phillips and Susie Burnett Jones being visited by Jerry Burnett from London shortly after the first gathering in 1992

*James C A Burnett of Leys*



## DOUGLAS MACDONALD HEAD GARDENER AT CRATHES

Douglas MacDonald, gardener at Crathes for 44 years and Head Gardener until 1981, died on August 11<sup>th</sup> aged 93. The standard of the gardens today must be partly due his input into their restoration and development. He began work at Crathes in 1938 but served in the Gordon Highlanders during the war. He was a highly respected gardener and had differences of opinion with my grandfather but usually as to the degree of pruning shrubs. I spent time with him about 3 years ago and enjoyed many reminiscences about their relationship. When, contrary to instruction on cutting back a buddleia, he was asked by my grandfather if the shrub had ever done him any harm - but that was the last that was heard of it and they normally enjoyed a fruitful and amicable relationship.

He was a gardening celebrity, appearing several times on television, received the British Empire Medal for services to gardening and was made an Associate of Honour of the Royal Horticultural Society. His ashes were laid to rest in the Golden Garden at Crathes.

He must be one of few people to have been struck by lightning twice and survived. Once was whilst standing by his army lorry and years later he was making a telephone call during a lightning storm and when he was thrown across the floor and knocked out.



I have been given this photograph of Douglas (left) although I am not sure during which year. The hoe is still in the garden shed and is also being held by his son, also Douglas although, like the proverbial axe, I remain unconvinced that it has the same head or handle. So what?

### Conversation notes

- How did Sir James learn about gardening? He had “ways and means”
- “He had a way with him that anyone that had a touch of horticulture could get along with him”

- He had a great imagination particularly with trees.
- Westerbirt School was selected for his daughter Rohays (my mother) because he could spend school visits at the Arboretum
- Grandparents: each had own area of influence in garden  
Grandmother: herbaceous  
Grandfather: walls, trees and shrubs  
So made a good team
- Grandfather: only interested in showing people around who had some knowledge or interest in the garden, if not, he would look at his watch and say he was needed elsewhere.
- Grandfather: didn't understand about need for pruning. Douglas pruned a honeysuckle, near the green house, as there were no flowers growing lower down, Sir James asked whether he did it and Douglas said yes, Sir James couldn't see the need as no one else could see it.
- Buddleia: by the dovecote, the flowers were getting shorter so Douglas pruned it back. Nothing was said for a few days then Sir James asked “did that buddleia do you any harm?”  
Douglas, no just needed a good prune as the flowers were too short.
- Golden garden: used to be veg
- June Border: made into a veg garden during the war then after war reinstated and widened
- Double herbaceous border: established before grandparents but lifted and replanted several times.
- The White Border with the prunus hedge was largely her creations
- Trough garden: planted with vegetables during war, split into seasonal areas but didn't work out?
- Rose garden now is based on Lady Burnett's design from the 1950's. Her largest changes were in the Upper Pool Garden from which she removed the peach houses and an oak tree and enhanced that area of the garden with her unique planting and colour combinations in the borders in front of the north wall.
- People always knew that Sir James and Lady Burnett worked in the garden, always to be found there and both interested in their own subject.
- 2 English gardeners were walking round garden. They asked Douglas if he was head gardener and said he should be proud of the gardens. They knew Sissinghurst and felt Crathes was just as good if not better, more natural and had the same feel to it.

*James C A Burnett of Leys*

## IAIN MORRISON CRATHES CASTLE - A VISUAL HISTORY

This website documents the Masters of **Design**



**project** of Iain Morrison who is studying part time over two years at Gray's School of Art, The Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen. The project investigates the visual

history of Crathes Castle by gathering over four hundred images and references of the castle dating back to when it was first built and documents them chronologically. This data is then presented through the visual outcomes of 3D timelines, information graphics, time lapse movie, books and portraits of staff. In doing this Iain hopes to create a body of work which will not only be of academic value but that will also serve as a permanent visual record for the public of one of the North East's most important historical buildings. He gathered 412 items showing an image of the castle which has been bound into a book which support his 10,000 word dissertation. It is hoped that it will become a permanent exhibition at Crathes



<http://crathescastle.weebly.com/>

Iain is also responsible for publishing a magnificent photographic record in *Crathes Castle Seasons*

<http://www.blurb.com/books/2314621>

\*\*\*\*\*

## LEGENDS OF LEYS 1856

Terry Burnett has drawn my attention to this publication, Google has made available online Legends of Leys, <http://books.google.com/> Hardback 9781113099754 from Amazon



*James C A Burnett of Leys*

## BURNETTS IN FRANCE THOMAS BURNETT MAYOR OF GALLARGUES

Few inhabitants from Gallargues are aware that two centuries before the European Union, a Scotland native was mayor of their village, located in the south of France, half way from Nimes to Montpellier. (Current name is Gallargues-le-Montueux). For the oldest, for whom anyone born out of the village boundaries is a foreigner, this is matter of deep thinking!

Who was Thomas BURNET? How could he have become mayor? He was born in BANFF, around 1734, in the nordic fogs of Scotland, a son of George BURNET and Christine WILSON and a protestant. We have no information related to his first years in Scotland. According to various documents, we can assume that he came in the Montpellier area before 1750. He was a merchant, active in the area of Sète and Montpellier cities.

Was he only there at that time for business purpose? It is possible. But the republican ideas and the federalist leanings he displayed with much enthusiasm during the French Revolution period (1789) leads us to believe he could have favourably foreseen his country's independence from the British Crown.

An answer could be found in matrimonial purpose. Around 1758, he marries Marie Elisabeth VALZ, born in 1735, Charles VALZ and Elisabeth FOURMAUD's daughter. The VALZ are an old protestant family of the village. They are rich merchants settled in Nimes. Same religion and good business deals could explain a lot.

Thomas's good deals, and maybe, Marie-Elisabeth's dowry, enable the newly-weds to build a very nice and large mansion, still named "Le Chateau" (the castle) located in "La Fontaine" (the spring) quarter. It's current address is BRUN-BAYLE street. With two parks, farms and extensive cellars, this property appears on the current land register. On top of the main entrance, Thomas displays his wrought iron initials, TB, with a nautical anchor to remind his business activities.

Until the French Revolution (1789), our Scot alternately lives in Sète, Montpellier or Gallargues, according to his activities. He is one of the three most fortunate home owners in the village. At the collapse of French monarchy, Thomas appears to be very interested in new ideas. No one knows if he does see the Marquis of ROCHEMORE's castle burning at the top of the village. However, when the Marquis's real estate is sold as "Biens

Nationaux”, (the Republic confiscated properties), he buys, (for himself or with other Gallargues inhabitants) ,various lands and vineyards for a total value of 180 000 “livres” (pounds: French currency at that time). As a good patriot, he takes part in the National effort by donating large amounts of money. Gallargues Authorities grant him a “Certificate of good citizenship” as a token of gratitude.

On its part, the VALZ family subscribes to republican messages. A close cousin, another Jean VALZ, is Chief Administrator of the Sommières District (administrative region), Constitution’s Friends club member and City of Nîmes’ Administrator. He will take a large part in the federalist movement which disturbs the city from 1793 on.

The Gallargues authorities send Thomas as a deputy to Nîmes to attend one of these meetings. Alas! In Paris, ROBESPIERRE’s party is going to overcome opponents and establish the reign of Terror. Arrested for “moderantism” and federalism, Jean VALZ is “guillotined” on the Nîmes Esplanade, on July the 19<sup>th</sup>, 1794. He was astronomer Benjamin VALZ’s and poet Isidore VALZ’s father. Imprisoned for attending Nîmes’ meetings, Thomas saves his head thanks to the people of Gallargues favourable testimony. After 2 weeks in prison, he is acquitted and released.

ROBESPIERRE is removed five months later. The new Power assigns Thomas BURNETT as Mayor of Gallargues on November 20, 1794. Of course, municipal magistrates were not elected at that time but nominated according to their personal wealth. However, Thomas came from a country that France would very soon be fighting against...After such a tormented period, it is likely that his moderated opinions had played in his favour after all.

Among others, Thomas’s main concern is to resupply the village in food. So, he informs the inhabitants that his cousin VALZ, head of the Sète District, told him a boat, named Marie-Sophie, was on its way with a wheat loading for Sommières District. He is very active too in easing relationships between Catholics and Protestants. In August 1801, he gives back to the Catholics the keys of their church. In September 1803, he gives up his Mayor’s seat to Jean BRUNETON for age reasons, and becomes a simple counsellor until 1813 (Reign of NAPOLEON the first).

He probably is still very influential because, on March 28, 1810 he buys the ruins of ROCHEMORE’s castle which he donates to the town on condition that it is used to build a protestant church. This donation enabled

Gallargues to inherit quite a huge temple, and it is also a way to preserve the remains of a nice seigniorial building, torched and otherwise doomed to absolute destruction.

From then on, Thomas seems to live a peaceful retirement with his wife, Marie-Elizabeth until she dies in 1806. Unfortunately, they have no children. But Thomas belongs to the business world. Without children, his assets must be protected. Two years later, on January 14, 1808, Thomas, aged 74 or so, marries Elisabeth VALZ, who happens to be first cousin of his first spouse. Elisabeth was born in Nîmes and lived there. Aged 45, she is the daughter of Sarah CHABAUD and Pierre VALZ, a merchant.

In 1813, Thomas resigns of his Counsellor assignment for reason of age.

Thomas had a sister, Jeanne, probably single, living in the same house. She dies in Gallargues in 1816, aged 93 and Thomas, aged 90, on June 8, 1824 in his beautiful mansion. Thomas’s assets go to the family of Moïse VALZ, and later on to the one of Jean GRIVOULET, liquor brewer.

Years later, the VINCENT family buys “le Château” from Mr GRELET and has it registered in the “National Historic Monuments’ Inventory” with the support of the “Gallargues’ Patrimony Association”. There is no doubt that its new owner, Mr BAYARD, will protect this great mansion.

Eileen Bailey adds to the story that Thomas Burnet was born in Banff, Scotland on 11 May 1734 and baptised the following day.

His father, George Burnet, was a square-wright (a carpenter making furniture) in Banff and his mother Christian Wilson. They were married in Banff on 31 December 1718 and had 13 children. In 1735 George Burnet was Master of the Trade Guild of Wrights of Banff. Christian died on 9 March 1761 and George Burnet on 21 Nov 1766, both in Banff.

We will to try to find out why Thomas Burnet went to France. He may have escaped to France after the Jacobite wars in Scotland in 1745-46. Alternatively, he may have been employed in Aberdeen, in north-east Scotland, which had strong trading links with many of the ports of France.

The House is of interest and it appears to be Thomas Burnet’s original residence of which I am indebted to the website for the following description.

"The new side entrance has a small facade of three bays but it has five east side and seven on the side street. In addition, the slope of the land is large enough and the house is built on the cellars which are very high on the ground floor street side. Side garden, a large terrace with two handrails converging catches the difference in level and gives this major front. The set is constructed of stone, of remarkably regular Buget paired. The entrance is through two gates that lead to symmetrical paths lined with pine trees, one of which leads to the front door and the other to the stables. Between the two aisles, is a round pool surrounded by boxwood hedges trimmed low. This house built outside the ramparts in the late eighteenth century has retained its original frame, enclosed by walls, the proportions of two isolated country house gardens and finishings gives it great authenticity."



We hope to discover more about this interesting and clearly energetic man. If and when we do, we will include it in a future banner. Readers may be able to help and it may be of interest to Burnett visitors to France to visit Gallargues-le-Montueux

I am grateful to Bernard ATGER - Chairman of the "Gallargues Patrimony Association" (APG) for this article.



*Photos Josette Clier © CRMH  
Languedoc-Roussillon*

## FORFAR BRIDIES

*These are said to have been made by a travelling food seller, Maggie Bridie of Glamis (in the days when the county of Angus was called Forfarshire). They were mentioned by J M Barrie (author of Peter Pan) who was born in Kirriemuir in that county. The original recipe used suet but since that is not always to everyone's taste, you can use butter or margarine.*

### Ingredients (for six bridies):

1½ lbs (700g) boneless, lean rump steak. Lean minced beef can also be used.

2 oz (2 rounded tablespoons) suet or butter or margarine

1 (or 2) onion, chopped finely

1 teaspoon dry mustard powder

Quarter cup rich beef stock

Salt and pepper to taste

1½ lbs flaky pastry (homemade or from a pastry mix packet)

### Method:

Remove any fat or gristle from the meat and beat with a meat bat or rolling pin. Cut into half-inch (1cm) pieces and place in a medium bowl. Add the salt/pepper, mustard, chopped onion, suet (or butter/margarine) and stock and mix well.

Prepare the pastry and divide the pastry and meat mixture into six equal portions. Roll each pastry portion into a circle about six inches in diameter and about quarter of an inch thick and place a portion of the mixture in the centre. Leave an edge of pastry showing all round. Brush the outer edge of half the pastry circle with water and fold over. Crimp the edges together well. The crimped edges should be at the top of each bridie. Make a small slit in the top (to let out any steam). Brush a 12 inch square (or equivalent area) baking tray with oil and place the bridies in this, ensuring that they are not touching.

Place in a pre-heated oven at 450F/230C/gas mark 8 for 15 minutes then reduce the temperature to 350F/180C/gas mark 4 and cook for another 45/55 minutes. They should be golden brown and if they are getting too dark, cover with greaseproof paper (vegetable parchment).



## LORD MONBODDO THE ENLIGHTENMENT MAN

I must always report on the progress of our musical drama, the renamed Lord Monboddo, The Enlightenment Man. With several new songs, including a rousing drinking song, *A Bottle of Malt in the Hand* it received favourable review following its performances at the Byre Theatre in St Andrews in early September. The production is now well equipped to tour with its fittingly decorated trailer. The flyer is shown elsewhere in this edition



**A Brilliant Original New Musical**

◆ "The songs were well crafted... catchy and memorable... The cast do both music and script proud... Tragic yet romantic, joyful yet sad... and plenty of passionate patriotism to boot."  
*Aberdeen Press and Journal*

◆ "This engaging and inventive show... Musical Evolution that is well worth waiting for... This new musical grips its audience."  
*Aberdeen Evening Express*

◆ "Monboddo the Musical puts philosopher back on the map."  
*The Scotsman*



**Lord Monboddo**  
The Enlightenment Man

*Booking information*

**Performance times**  
Thursday September 1st  
7.30 p.m.  
Friday September 2nd  
1.30 p.m. (schools) and 7.30 p.m.  
Saturday September 3rd  
2.30 p.m. (matinee) and 7.30 p.m.

**Ticket prices**  
Matinee Schools: £6  
Full Price: £17  
Senior Citizen: £15  
Student / Child under 16: £8  
Under 24 / Unemployed: £8  
Friend Of Byre: 10% off relevant price

**Contact**  
**Schools**  
info@monboddo.com

**All other tickets**  
boxoffice@byretheatre.com

email: enquiries@byretheatre.com  
book online at  
[www.byretheatre.com](http://www.byretheatre.com)  
The Byre Theatre, Abbey Street,  
St Andrews, Fife KY16 9LA  
Tel 01334 475000

**the byre theatre**  
The Byre Theatre and Blitz Entertainment Ltd are members of the  
Federation of Scottish Theatre [www.scottishtheatre.org](http://www.scottishtheatre.org)  
Scottish Charity No 800 13896

[www.monboddo.com](http://www.monboddo.com)

Blitz Entertainment Ltd  
& St Nicholas Productions Ltd present



**Lord Monboddo**  
The Enlightenment Man



**The Byre Theatre, St Andrews**  
September 1-3, 2011