

THE BURNETT BANNER

Burnett Newsletter
(including House of

Edition No 4

BURNETT GATHERING 2009

29th July - 2nd August



The programme for the 2009 Gathering at Crathes remains on course with a few minor additions. We are making excellent progress with *Monboddie the Musical*. The script and the songs have been completed. Orchestration with the various arrangements for various instruments has already been completed for half of the songs. This has been done by Ken Hossick who is musical director with the Aberdeen Youth Music Theatre, which staged *Les Misérables* to great acclaim at the city's His Majesty's Theatre. Enjoyment of this production should be guaranteed!

We have still to decide as to whether we will be present in Edinburgh for *The Homecoming* events in the capital. However, it is looking increasingly likely that family efforts will be concentrated on the following week for our own gathering here in the North East and to which, as always, we look forward.

For any reader who wishes more information on the 2009 Burnett Gathering or is not aware of the details of the programme, please refer to the last edition of the Banner or contact info@leysestate.co.uk

James C.A. Burnett of Leys



Alexander, Amaryllis, Vinny & Thomas Burnett

THE HOUSE OF BURNETT FROM THE SECRETARY

Greetings; I was able to get to the Glasgow, Kentucky Highland Games again this year and we all had a great time. I met David Irvine 26th Baron of Drum. He is our neighbor in Banchory. He was the Chief of the Glasgow Games. I tried to get into the Grand Father Mountain Highland Games but was unable to work it out. I am thinking about trying to set up at the Loch Norman Highland Games in Apr. of next year. These games are near Huntersville, North Carolina. I will be at a Burnett get to gather in Pulaski County, Kentucky the first Saturday in August, so if you get this in time and are in the area let me know and I will directions to the location. I will be at the Wisconsin Highland Games and Celtic Fling 5 thru 7 Sept. I have some other trips I'm working on. I will let you if I am going to be in your area.

If there is a Highland Game near you please go and see if you can set up something for the House of Burnett. Our objective is to spread the word about the Burnett Family. I have seen some Clans do a simple setup by just having a large umbrella and a small table so I don't think it has to be to elaborate.

We are now a member of Council of Scottish Clans and Associations (COSCA). They usually set up a tent at the games. Stop by and ask your questions. They have answers.

The 2009 Gathering is just a year away, I hope the 150 who were planning on going can still swing it.

We still have not filled the position of President and we need some new members on the Board of Directors. If you think you can help let me know.

Look at your Membership Card and see when it expires.

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

BURNETTS IN JAMAICA

A Burnett writes to tell me that he was born in Birmingham, England from Mother and Father of Jamaican decent. My mother's mother was adopted and she looks mixed with white from somebody in Jamaica. Unfortunately, the history is mostly forgotten by his grandmother. Who went to Jamaica in late 1800's or early 1900's from Burnett Family? Where can the enquirer find more information?

If any reader can be of assistance, please forward it to me

Editor

SANDRA BURNETT

One of the earliest Burnett "Gatherings" that I can recall was a visit by Judge Gilbert Burnett to Crathes in 1974 with his daughter Sandra. During the next 35 years we have had the pleasure of being visited by many of Gil's family, Fiona and I have also enjoyed their hospitality in the US on several occasions.

The accompanying photograph, kindly sent by Gil, was taken in 1974. Sandra had finished school at Peace College in Raleigh, N. C. - went to England - and decided to go to nursing school there. Gil flew over and they both came to see us. Sandra was the first of Gil's family to contact us and the members of the family have been present at all the Burnett gatherings to date and usually in force.

Readers might like to know that Sandra has been quite busy during these last several years since she graduated from the English nursing school. She owns Sisters' Catering Company in the Raleigh, N. C. area and which is one of the most successful catering businesses in the US. You might find it interesting to look at her website: <http://www.sisterscatering.com/>

A co-founder, Sandra is very active in SchoolHeart, Inc. Website: <http://corp.schoolheart.com/> and one of the original investors in AIHF which is into sickness prevention with many doctors and others involved. Website: <http://www.aihf.net/>. She is, also, involved in a small way, in real estate. Gil has every reason to be very proud of her.



Jamie & Sandra

James C.A. Burnett

BANCHORY WEBSITE

Anyone visiting Crathes at any time might find the Banchory website of interest or to find out about up and coming events, promotions and offers: www.visitbanchory.com

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

ELIZABETH WOOD of Zimbabwe is looking for the following information:

She is the Daughter of Gordon Stewart Burnett, and granddaughter of Thomas Burnet who came from Scotland to Rhodesia (with Cecil John Rhodes) as a pioneer in the 1880's. Thomas was married to Bella Kay Stewart, an opera singer from Dundee.

ROBIN BURNETT WARD from New Zealand is searching for information on the following relatives:

John Hare Burnett, born 1817 in England. John went to New York City with his parents and siblings in the late 1820's. He was last heard from in Caldwell, Texas in 1855 and is believed to have been a farmer. There was a daughter born in 1839. According to one of the family's old letters from his brother (Ward Benjamin Burnett 1810-1884) he was still alive and living in Texas in 1872. Ward Benjamin (whose portrait still hangs in New York City Hall) . John and Benjamin were Robins G.G. Grandmother Mary ann Burnett's brothers. She was married to her cousin Joseph Augustus Hornsby Burnett, 28 Apr. 1833, and they eventually went to New Zealand in 1856 with their family of 5 children.

I know we have a few Burnett's who live in Texas so if you know anything about either of above please let the Secretary know and the information will be forwarded on.

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

STUART BURNETT writes to seek more about his family history and the origins of his surname. Stuart Burnett (DOB: 10/07/1989 - place of birth: Aberdeen/Maud is the registration for his birth certificate.)

He recently lost his mother (Catherine Anne Burnett formally known as "Catherine Anne Wilson" before marriage to his father) - she died on the 12th of September 2007. His father is: Sydney Duguid Burnett born on the 10th of July in the 1950's (possibly 1956). His maternal grandmother was Katy Wilson. But he does not have much more information about his family. Stuart's father is still alive but has moved overseas and he has lost contact with him.

Stuart is hoping if any reader can help in any way or point him in the right direction, as he would like to find his relatives, or even know of anything about them. If any reader has any information which may be of interest, please submit it and I will forward it to Stuart.

Editor

PRONUNCIATION OF BURNETT

A reader from Auckland, New Zealand writes:

"I wonder if you would kindly help me with an issue concerning the pronunciation of Burnett.

My mother's maiden name is Burnett and her family always pronounced it "*Bur- net*". Research suggests that this pronunciation is at least consistent with the theory supporting Norman or French origin of the name, being derived from the Old French word *burnette* and distinguishes the family from Burnet of Barns which, I understand, is not connected and I am told is pronounced "*Burn- it*".

However a relative has recently returned from Scotland and insists that after 140 odd years in New Zealand, the family should change the pronunciation of their surname to "*Burn- it*".

As you can imagine this has caused some consternation. I also note that all Burnetts I have encountered here, in Australia or USA pronounce the name "*Bur-net*"

Would you please provide some guidance?"

Editor's response:

I should be able to but cannot help. To save repeating myself, I pronounce my name Burn-it in Scotland and often Burn-ett in England or the USA. I have yet to visit the Antipodes. Any advice or comment will be welcome

James C.A. Burnett

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BURNETT OF LEYS TARTAN POINT PILLOW

Handmade exclusively for members of the House of Burnett of Leys is stitched with 100% wool in our own tartan colors with a needlepoint technique that looks like woven tartan. It has a zippered back for easy cleaning and is 14"X 14".

The pillow shown is on display in the House of Burnett room at Thistle House Bed & Breakfast in Granite Falls, NC (about 30 minutes drive from Linville, NC...home of the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games.) For \$75.00 the shipping is free to any US address. Contact Phyllis toll free at 888-256-0745 for details or to place an order.



HAS ANY DNA TESTING BEEN DONE SHOWING CONNECTIONS TO BURNETTS OF BARNS?

Following the article in the last Banner I have pleased to receive information from Fred O'Hair. He is a descendant of John Burnett (born 1610) of Essex County, Virginia. His parents were Thomas Burnett and Margaret Johnston of Aberdeen and asks if any of the male Burnetts of Leys ever had any Y-chromosome testing done?

Such testing could be of immense value for two reasons:

1. It could show a definite genetic link between the Burnetts of Barns and those of Leys.

2. There are probably descendants of the Burnetts of Leys who have hit a brick wall and can't continue any further simply because the paper trail has run out. Barring a miracle, these Burnetts will never be able to prove a kinship to the Burnetts of Leys.

However, with a Y-DNA test, not only could they prove they are related, but if they take a high enough resolution test, such as a 37 or 67 marker test, they may be able to figure out with a high degree of probability how they descend from the Burnetts of Leys. For example, if two men match 66 out of 67 markers, there is a 95% chance they have a common ancestor no further back than 6 generations. If 65 out of 67 match, 95% chance that the common ancestor is no further back than 9 generations, and so on...

My short answer was that there not been any Y-Chromosome testing carried out. Although the Burnett or Barns relationship is somewhat indeterminate, it has always been assumed that the current members of that family are descendants of those who settled in the Borders and of whom some ventured north and on to Crathes.. The difficulty is that, whatever the results of any testing, they would be not be 100% conclusive. Moreover, there is a certain benefit in being indeterminate because there can be an assumption of relationship. If the tests proved negative, that assumption might disappear. I suggested that maybe the Burnetts of Barns wish the relationship to remain as it is!

Fred replies as follows:

Although not known with absolute certainty that the Burnetts of Barns have the same Y-chromosome that the Burnetts of Leys do, I believe the circumstantial evidence given for the relationship between the two groups, as well as the connection to the Bedfordshire and Wiltshire English Burnards, shows they are all probably related. Both Leys and Barns have a rich heritage.

As you probably know, for some Scottish clans or houses, there may be more than one (different genetically from each other) ancestor for the same surname. A couple of reasons are: Some clans or

families were so decimated by war that they sought protection from, and became allies with, a more powerful clan or family in the area. In so doing, often times they would take the surname of the more powerful family. In some parts of Scotland, such as the Borders, a man might assume his mother's last name. He would have the Y-chromosome of the father's family, which could later cause DNA research to conclude wrongly that this man had none of the DNA of the mother's surname (he would also have his mother's DNA, but that wouldn't show up in a Y-DNA test).

Interesting things some of the Scottish or Scottish-American families have discovered who have had Y-DNA tests: Some of them have been shown to be Haplogroup I1a or Haplogroup R1a, which usually means in their direct male line, their ancestor was a Viking or a Saxon. Many of the Scottish Families are shown to be Haplogroup R1b which is the most common haplogroup in Western Europe. It can mean their direct male line ancestor was "Celtic" (I mean the people who inhabited the British Isles before the Romans, I think better used as a cultural term instead of an ethnic one), or Saxon, (because one of the subdivisions of R1b is called Frisian, and is present to a significant degree in the Netherlands, Northern Germany, and Denmark), or Viking, or Norman. Evidently the Saxons had at least two or three different Y-haplogroups. Norman DNA can be R1b, R1a, I1a, or even others, because the term "Norman" has included not only descendants of Vikings, but also groups of people who lived beside the Normans such as the Flemish and Bretons, as well as people from deeper into France. Subdivisions of R1b make up about 75% of the Y- haplotypes in Scotland.

There is also the Scot's Modal Haplotype (a division of R1b) that is common in Scotland (about 21 % of the R1b there), but only a small percentage of the Irish have it. There are also lots of matches between Scotland and England, and, some matches with other European countries. Some members of the Scottish Mac surnames (some Mac surnames are indigenous to Galloway and Carrick, not the Highlands) and some of the Lowland surnames (especially in Galloway and the Borders) point to the Y-Haplogroup R1b1c7 (a subdivision of R1b). Being a member of this subgroup, puts these men in a genetic relationship with some of the Ui Neill descendants in Ireland (represented by such surnames as O'Donnell, MacLoughlin, and some of the O'Neills). Some of the indigenous Scottish MacLoughlins are also R1b1c7. As for some of the other subdivisions of R1b, there are some matches between some of the families of Ireland and Scotland.

Since the male direct line ancestry technically is only a small proportion of our total ancestry, in some cases, the bulk of one's ancestry will be from a different group of people than the male direct line. For example, it is possible to have a "Celtic" name and be mainly Saxon or Norman in ancestry, or, have a Saxon or Norman name and be mainly "Celtic" in ancestry. Similar examples in the U.S. are American

Blacks. About 30% have a European Y-chromosome, which means that their direct male line will eventually wind up in a white man. Actually the percentage of them who have some white ancestry is around 75 or 80%! For the big majority of them, the bulk of their ancestry will be African.

Whilst further information on the subject of DNA is welcome, please keep it brief

Editor

SMALL WORLD

Bob and Connie Burnett come from Burlington, Ontario and reported to me as follows of a chance meeting with a couple, Frank and Betty Murdo,

"We were on a Mediterranean cruise May/June 2006. While on a shore excursion on the Greek island of Santorini we came upon this couple, he was wearing a Panama Canal T-shirt. We had done a Panama Canal cruise a few years before and struck up a conversation, we learned that they were on the same ship from our Mediterranean cruise. Subsequent to further meetings on board ship we discovered they were from Banchory and knew you and Crathes Castle. We had been thinking of a trip to Scotland to search out my ancestors pursuant to information I had gathered over the years from my father and by having the Family Bible in my possession so this chance meeting with Frank and Betty solidified our plans for the trip".

A brief historical genealogical tree as found in a family bible traces the lineage back from Robert John Burnett, born August 27th, 1941 and William Francis Burnett, March 25th 1947 at Montreal, Quebec to George Burnett born April 4, 1790 at Logie, Scotland, died October 25, 1842 and who is buried at Cowie Churchyard, Stonehaven, Scotland. The information contained in the Bible also shows the names of all spouses and all children of the above together with certain dates of births, deaths and marriages as well as certain places of births and deaths.

I was very pleased to meet Bob and Connie on their recent visit to Crathes whilst they were staying with Frank and Betty and during which I had the pleasure of touring the Castle with them. Bob reports back after his visit.

"We used the information to search out my family ancestors and we located the graveyard at Cowie Churchyard, Stonehaven. After an exhaustive search we located a gravestone for a George Burnett which I hope is the correct one mentioned in our Family Bible. The date on the stone is partially obliterated. We then stopped at the Archives Office in Aberdeen and researched names on their system, I think I found the correct George Burnett to connect with the information I have, that being the George Burnett who died October 1842, married to Ann Taylor and whom had 10 children."

Frank Murdo is a retired Managing Director of our construction business. A few years earlier, whilst on a holiday in Aruba off the coast of Venezuela, they recognised an Aberdeenshire accent whilst walking down the street. He stopped and entered into conversation with the person who told him that she was Nina Littlejohn and came from the north east of Scotland and more specifically, Crathes Castle. Her father, Phillip, was the National Trust Head Forester and Nina and my brothers used to play together as children when we were on holiday at Crathes. We should encourage early retirement combined with increased travel.



*(Front) Bob & Connie Burnett &
(Back) Frank & Betty Murdo*

James C.A. Burnett

WOLFPIT PLANTATION

Betsy Burnett Benning and Thomas Fleetwood Benning have recently opened their home (circa 1849) as a Bed and Breakfast in rural North Carolina (approximately thirty minutes outside Raleigh). They invite you to stop by **Wolfpit Bed and Breakfast** in Louisburg, North Carolina. It would truly be their pleasure to share a cuppa tea with any Burnett traveller! Please go on line to learn more at www.wolfpitbandb.com



GLASGOW HIGHLAND GAMES, KY, USA
29TH MAY - 1ST JUNE 2008



*HOB Secretary with David Irvine (Chief of Games)
and his wife Carol*



The Pipe Band entertaining the crowd!

THE TARTAN FESTIVAL, JONESBOROUGH, TN, USA
5TH APRIL 2008



*Chief Irvine Salutes The HOB in
Tartan Parade*



Herbert Burnett in the HOB tent



The House of Burnett Clan lining up and marching in the parade of tartans



SANDIEGO HIGHLAND GAMES, CA, USA

28TH & 29TH JUNE 2008



Left: Grant Burnett, Jr (back) & Eric Edwards
Right: Grant Burnett Sr (back) & Walter Edwards



Left: Guy Burnett & Right: Walter Edwards



Burnett Clan visiting the
birthplace of Abraham
Lincoln in Hodgenville, KY



The "Sunday Post" newspaper is a Scottish institution, not least for the long-running cartoon strips "The Broons" and "Oor Wullie." Here is a poem about the lad himself, written in the style of Rabbie Burns.

Oor Wullie

Fair fa' your rosy-cheekit face,
Your muckle buits, wi' broken lace,
Although you're always in disgrace,
An' get your spansks,
In all our hearts ye have your place,
Despite your pranks.

Your towsy held, your dungarees,
Your wee snub nose, your dirty knees,
Your knack o' seeming tae displease
Your Ma an' Pa.
We dinna care a tuppenny sneeze
We think you're braw.

You're wee, an' nae twa ways aboot it,
You're wise, wi' very few tae doot it,
You're wild, there's nane that wad dispute it,
Around the toon. But maist o' a' ye are reputit
A lauchin' loon.

Weel-kent, weel-liked, you're aye the same,
Tae Scots abroad and Scots at hame.
North, south, east, west, your weel-won fame
Shall never sully.
We'll aye salute that couthie name:
Oor Wullie.



TATTIMOLE BAGS BY TANIA CHAMBERLAIN

Tania is a god daughter of mine and a daughter of Marcus and Sabrina Humphrey, whose family are proprietors of a large estate stretching west from Aboyne. Marcus is always prominent at the Aboyne Games and I am sure that many of you who have attended the games would recognise the family.

Tania Chamberlain has designed some luxury tartan bags for ladies who love to show off their clan heritage! Made from tartan and moleskin she and a friend came up with the name Tattimole.

As a keen designer and living in Scotland, Tania has introduced this style of bag for ladies who love tartan. Tattimole bags blend the tartan with a similar colour of moleskin, and of course, are made in Scotland!

These bags are very easy and secure to use, and are also very practical. The larger bag can be a handbag or shoulder bag, by altering the length of the cord handle.

Tattimole bags can be made in a huge variety of tartans, with either black, navy or green moleskin to match. The bags come in 2 sizes: 28"x 8" or 20"x 6", and with a quilted lining and inner pocket, can hold a lot of everyday items.

Tania has also created a small evening bag, which is made from tartan and velvet, with a drawstring top and 2 tassels. They are very elegant and essential for a smart night out, with enough room for the lipstick and purse!

The designer label can be as shown, underneath, inside or excluded as preferred

Tattimole bags are now on available in Dress or Hunting Burnett tartan on our website and may provide an attractive present to give a daughter, mother, friend or keep for yourself!

Prices.

Large Tattimole bags cost £30

Small Tattimole bags cost £20

Velvet Tattimole bag costs £25



JW'S ALASKAN BLOG

One can be sure that many readers will be interested in a college student's experiences while working in the wilderness of Alaska this summer.



John William Benning is the grandson of Judge Gilbert Burnett and son of Fleet and Betsy Burnett Benning. He recently finished his second year at Boston University and has decided to major in photo and magazine journalism. With the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill -- the original UNC-- being one of the premier journalism schools in the nation, he has decided to transfer to that institution.

During the summer of 2007 he interned with a local bi-weekly newspaper in his hometown of Louisburg, NC. His first assignment was to cover the murder of a merchant at a country store near Louisburg, providing both the copy and photos. During the summer, before joining Barbara and Gil to sail to Okracoke, N.C., the newspaper had published numerous photographs of JW's and over 40 stories written by him.

You can take a look at JW's photos and read about his adventure at jwalaskansummer.blogspot.com More of his photography can be seen at <http://photo.net/photos/jwbenning>.

The Burnett roots are deep and wide when it comes to loving Life and the wonderful awesome adventures Life has to offer! God bless you everyone as you continue on your personal adventure in Life!



JOKE OF THE DAY



A chip walks into the bar and says to the bartender "Hey, could I get a beer please"

The bartender looks at him shaking his head and says "No sorry, we don't serve food here"

BURNETT AND JAFFRAY

I have had correspondence with Mrs Jean Birch who has been researching her maternal family history and have discovered some very interesting and unexpectedly exciting early history about her Scottish ancestors.

She started by researching the Jaffray family and during her research she discovered that an Alexander Jaffray married a Christian Burnett, (her grandparents eleven times removed), and who was the daughter of Alexander Burnett of Kynneskie and grand-daughter of Alexander Burnett of Leys, Laird, and Janet Hamilton. This led her to the surprising and exciting realisation that it must have been her grandfather thirteen times removed, if her calculation is correct, who began the construction of Crathes Castle.

The Family of Burnett of Leys by George Burnett includes a passage referring to John Burnett of Leys, Laird 1574-75, being a "tutor testamentary" in about 1560, of Alexander and Robert, sons of Alexander Jaffray, who is believed to have been a baker and burghess of Aberdeen. It appears that Alexander Jaffray's son, Alexander, went on to marry John Burnett of Leys's niece, Christian Burnett. Jean Birch is curious to discover the relationship between John Burnett of Leys and Alexander Jaffray, the baker, that led to Alexander's sons, Alexander and Robert Jaffray becoming wards of John Burnett of Leys.

The term "Tutor" was used to designate someone who assumed responsibility for the affairs of children whose father died before they were of an age to legally take control of the property/land to which they were heir. Tutor testamentary indicates that John Burnett had been named in Alexander Jaffray's Testament as the person who should be Tutor to his sons. Both were certainly burghesses of Aberdeen, a fact which would have created some bond between them, but there may have been some Burnett/Jaffray link through marriage at an earlier stage.

The children of Alexander Burnett & Isabella Chalmers (see Chapter 12 of "Holly & Horn" pp 186/187) each had a Jaffray as one of the witnesses at their baptism. Isabella Chalmers' sister married William Burnett of *Slowy* and it seems that they had a daughter Christian Burnett (niece of John Burnett of Leys) who married the eldest of John's two wards, Alexander Jaffray.

Another point of interest is that the aforementioned Alexander Burnett owned land on the north side of the Shiprow in Aberdeen where he built a prominent townhouse and the records of St. Nicholas Church show rent from land on the south side of the Shiprow belonging to Alexander Jaffray (father of Alexander & Robert) being donated to St Nicholas in the 1540s.

"Memorials of Aldermen, Provosts & Lord Provosts of Aberdeen" in describing Alexander Jaffray who was

Provost from 1635-36 suggests that the first Jaffray to settle in Aberdeen may have been a Robert Jaffray who was admitted as a burghess at the beginning of the 16th century.

Taking everything into account there certainly seems to have been a close bond between the Burnetts and the Jaffrays in the distant past, and the possibility of a Burnett/Jaffray link through marriage before that of Christian and Alexander suggests a good enough reason for Alexander Jaffray to name John Burnett as Tutor to his sons in his Will. Jean Birch would really like to find out to whom Alexander Jaffray, (father of Alexander and Robert), was married. Was she a Burnett, and if so, was that lady the mother of his sons?

It is believed that Alexander Jaffray was admitted as a burghess of the Baker Craft in 1534. Landownership suggests that Alexander Jaffray was quite prosperous by 1540 and soon after he was probably admitted as a burghess of the Baker Craft and probably in 1534 and which probably puts him in the same generation as John, William, and Alexander Burnett. Could he have married a Burnett sometime in the 1530's, and could he have benefited from a dowry from his bride?

Jean Birch continues to be intrigued with the possible links between the Burnetts and the Jaffrays. Through her research, she has discovered a substantial amount that has been documented about them, in particular the life of Provost Alexander Jaffray's (1635-36) son, another Alexander, who was also a Provost of Aberdeen (1649 and 1651), a politician, Quaker leader and diarist. Alexander Jaffray's biography states that, in 1632 when he was eighteen, he was sent by his father to study law at Edinburgh, and stayed with his relative Robert Burnett, father of Gilbert Burnett (the bishop?). The biography goes on to say that in 1633 Alexander Jaffray attended the Coronation of Charles I in the city and whose son Andrew was married to a Christian Skene, daughter of an Alexander Skene, a family with ties to the Burnetts of Leys

Jean Birch would be more than pleased to hear from any readers who can add any more to the links between the Burnetts and the Jaffrays. Please forward to me and I will pass it on.

Editor

TRUE FRIENDSHIPS

Friendship is like the sun above, that's always shining bright,

Friendship is like a golden smile that warms the coldest night,

Friendship is a priceless gift of faithfulness and grace,

And nothing in this world could ever take true friendships place.

COY BURN AT THE MILTON AND THE NEW FISH PASS

Although for visitors to Crathes the Castle and the Gardens are understandably the main attractions, the area around the East Lodge and the Lake might also be of interest. The area includes a considerable number of 'corridors', all of which make some contribution toward local history.

Other than the Coy Burn itself, probably the oldest is the Old Deeside Road of which there remains a small bridge over the Burn to the south of the former railway line. This was replaced in 1806 by a road which crosses the Burn and runs close to the East Lodge itself and which in turn was replaced in 1939 by the current road bridge and within which there are most of the usual service conduits.

The Deeside Railway was constructed in 1853 but the bridge which carried it over the Coy was demolished when the line was closed in 1966. (The Railway has since reopened but hitherto only to the west of the Milton and as a tourist attraction). There is a large brick water main constructed in 1924 running between the two more recent roads and crosses the Burn as a large iron pipe. In parallel to the Burn, there is also the lade which tunnels under new road and the former railway and through which water flows to the nearby former Milton Farm where it divides to power the water wheels for the farm corn mill and estate sawmill. Both of these uses are obsolete but the restored wheels are still turning with the power of the water. There is another modern and purely functional bridge across the burn to the playing fields beyond and a wooden footbridge carries walkers over the dam which itself includes a sluice which can allow water to pass through the dam when the lake is required to be emptied and the silt removed. In addition to all of these are the numerous service conduits alongside the public roads of which one, a fibre optic, maybe carries this article.

And now there is a newcomer in the form of a fish ladder to allow salmon and sea trout up into the Coy Burn for the first time in nearly 200 years to spawn and for the burn to become naturally a nursery for young salmon. In past years salmon fry have been put into the burn but current requirements are that all dams have to be adapted to allow fish to climb those watercourses. This dam, and those on other tributaries of the river, have been installed to restore the river to its former glory as one of the world's great salmon rivers and famed for its spring run of fish.

The following pictures are of the pass, (apparently known in the trade as a Denil Fish Pass), on the left of the weir and another of the internal baffles which help the fish to run up such a steep gradient. The photograph above right shows no water flowing over the dam due to the recent drought.

Editor



Dam on Fish Pass



Interior of Fish Pass

ABOYNE GAMES

I cannot recall an Aboyne Games when we have not met up with some new kinsfolk. It is particularly good when we are visited by a Burnett who has returned to live in the North East of Scotland. This year we were pleased to meet Alistair Forbes Strachan, whose grandmother was a Burnett who farmed at Cullen in Banffshire, and his wife Geertje. Coincidentally, we shared a hospitality tent with Clan Forbes at this year's Games as we have a number of friends in common, and we had no less than three visitors who had both a Forbes and Burnett connection.

James C A Burnett of Leys



SCOTTISH FISH RECIPES

CULLEN SKINK

The name of this rich, tasty soup comes from the fishing village of Cullen, in Morayshire. "Skink" is a soup made originally from a shin of beef. But in this case, the main ingredient is smoked haddock.

Ingredients:

A large smoked haddock (weighing around 2 lb)
1 medium onion, finely chopped.
1½ pints (900ml) milk
2 tablespoons butter
8 oz mashed potato
Salt and pepper
1 bay leaf
Chopped parsley
Water
Triangles of toast (as an accompaniment)

Method

Cover the smoked haddock with water, in a shallow pan, skin side down. Bring to the boil and simmer for 4/5 minutes, turning once. Take the haddock from the pan and remove the skin and bones. Break up the fish into flakes, return to the stock and add the chopped onion, bay leaf, salt and pepper. Simmer for another 15 minutes. Strain, remove the bay leaf but retain the stock and fish. Add the milk to the fish stock and bring back to the boil. Add enough mashed potato to create the consistency you prefer (don't be afraid to make it rich and thick!). Add the fish and reheat. Check for seasoning. Just before serving, add the butter in small pieces so that it runs through the soup.

Serve with chopped parsley on top, accompanied by bread.



ST TERNANS EPISCOPAL CHURCH, BANCHORY AND THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

Our Episcopal church in Banchory had the pleasure of a visit in March from a group of 'pilgrims' from the University of Tennessee. I regret that I was not able to have a photograph of the group as my only meeting with them was at the church, but one of them was Megan Edwards, whose family traces their ancestors back to one of the younger Burnett sons who sailed to the Colonies in 1642. When their trip to this area was originally planned, our Rector didn't know that, and only found out because she had suggested a Crathes Castle tour while in the area, and Megan recognized the name. They had their tour on Palm Sunday.

James C. A. Burnett of Leys

MONBODDO V DARWIN

From The Sunday Times February 17, 2008

Natural Fact

What an excellent suggestion that Alfred Russel Wallace's image should join that of Charles Darwin on the ceiling of the Natural History Museum (Wanted: new Michelangelo to laud Darwin, News, last week).

However, even were this to happen there would still be an important image missing, namely that of the Scottish tree expert Patrick Matthew. Both Darwin and Wallace were brave enough to admit that Matthew (and others) beat them to the theory of natural selection. Surely, after some 150 years of covering up this fact, it is time that the curators of the museum, and biologists in general, accepted the simple truth.

Dr Milton Wainwright, University of Sheffield

Response Sunday Times February 24th 2008

(Original letter was longer but was edited by Sunday Times)

Darwin's Forebears

While some plagiarism may apply to most theories, who had the most original thought which led to those of Darwin? (Letters, last week?)

Étienne Geoffroy Saint-Hillaire, the French naturalist, was a colleague of Jean Baptiste Lamarck and expanded and defended Lamarck's evolutionary theories which Darwin acknowledged. Geoffroy's friend Robert Edmund Grant shared his views on unity of plan. Grant corresponded with him while working in the late 1820s in Edinburgh assisted by none other than his student, Darwin.

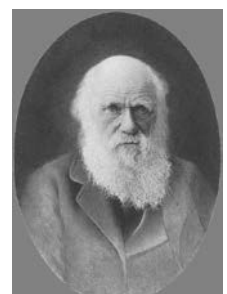
Lord Monboddoo, (1714-99), spending most of his life in Edinburgh and one of the most innovative personalities of the Scottish Enlightenment, produced his own theories of evolution. These started whilst at Marischal College in Aberdeen and he was famed for his analyses of evolution and the unexploited potential of the Orang-utan. Darwin compares the emotional behaviour of his son with that of Jenny an Orang-Utan and he used it in *The Expression of the Emotions in Men and Animals*.

It is inconceivable that Monboddoo's theories of evolution did not give Darwin at least inspiration

James C. A. Burnett of Leys



Lord Monboddoo



Charles Darwin

GATHERING SURPRISES

Family Gatherings usually provide us with something unexpected.

After the fire at Crathes Castle in 1966, many objects which were damaged worthy of retention in the hope that they might be repaired were put into storage. There was little incentive to restore them new accommodation had limited space in which to put them. One such object was painting of my grandfather by a war artist, Eric Kennington. The frame was partially burned, the glass broken and the picture affected by smoke and water.

Last week I attended a 'clan' gathering of my father's family. The present Marquess of Exeter, one of the heads of the Cecil family, had organised this at the magnificent family home at Burghley in England. Burghley is one of the great houses of the world and well worth a visit. The large family assembly included a strong representation from another great Cecil house, Biltmore, in North Carolina (p100 The Holly and The Horn).

Whilst at the gathering, I happened to talk to a man whose label told me that he was Christopher Kennington. When I asked him if he was any relation to the artist, he told me that he was his father. I did not know until then that I had Kennington cousins although the large number of leaves on the many branches of that family tree maybe excuses me.

I unearthed the picture (top right), cleaned it as best I could and sent him a photograph. The following is extracted from his reply

"I've located a black-&-white photograph of it in our albums, labeled "Col. Sir James Burnett of Leys. Bt.. C.B. C.M.G. D.S.O., with Junior", and there is also a head-and shoulders of him in the same pose. Very nice pastel portraits. I suspect that he did the head from life, then your picture in the studio. There isn't a specific date on them, but the album is labeled as containing "Misc portraits 1944-1947", so I would plump unhesitatingly for 1945. Your portrait has suffered rather; pastel is not a long-lasting medium unless 'fixed' (sprayed with glue), and the fire damage won't have helped. The photo shows it originally had much sharper lines than it has in its present state. But it is nevertheless recognizable as a good example of my father's work, and it's nice to see the colours"

Not only do gatherings produce some nice surprises, but it also gave me another reason for restoring the picture.

James C. A. Burnett of Leys



JAMES FORBES FORESTER FOR 40 YEARS

It is over 600 years since Alexander Burnard was granted the royal forest of Drum and became its keeper. It is therefore appropriate that forestry is given a special place amongst estate activities. James Forbes was born at Crathes. His father was a gardener and somewhat of a hero-figure for me and my brothers as he was given the responsibility of assisting us in a tiny area of the great garden and where we were permitted to practice our horticultural skills.

James has now worked as forester for 40 years and on July 27th we had a Barbecue lunch in the garden at House of Crathes for James, his family and other members of the estate staff. Relevant to the Banner is that many readers will have given us the pleasure of offering them hospitality at House of Crathes and they will have noticed the near perfect condition in which our lawns are kept. In case it was every thought that this was a result of any effort on my part, I should clarify that appreciation should be directed to James.

As a contribution towards combating global warming, we have just renewed our heating system with a woodchip boiler. It is logical because of the woodlands around us. However, somebody has to fell, extract, stack, chip and transport the fuel to the boiler. Guess who we will have to thank for keeping the house warm?

James C. A. Burnett of Leys



James front centre next to his wife Helen

