Burnett Newsletter (including House of

Edition No 5

CHRISTENING THOMAS BURNETT

Thomas Henry Amherst Burnett of Leys, son of Alexander and Vinny Burnett and potential future chief of the name of Burnett, was christened on St Andrew's Day, November 30th at St Ternan's Episcopal Church in Banchory. The Reverend Lisa Eunson officiated.



Thomas, Alexander and Vinny Burnett with godparents

LETTER FROM CRATHES

We have over the past years received Christmas and Season Greeting cards from many Burnetts around the world. These have always been a great pleasure to receive and we hope that the recipients of our cards have been pleased to receive them. Because of the increasing number of Burnett friendships, the difficulty in deciding to whom we might send them and to facilitate similar decisions of reciprocation, we have decided that we will communicate our wishes to all Burnetts through the Banner. I trust that all those with whom we have been corresponding at this time of the year, will understand.

We look forward to seeing many of you here in 2009 and particularly during our Gathering at the end of July. We also appreciate that, for many, the economic climate may affect the decision to come to Scotland next year. If that is so, we very much hope that these troubled times will pass quickly and any postponement of a visit will be short-lived. For those who will be coming, we will keep to our objective to make every Gathering at least as enjoyable as the last. There is one casualty of the current financial situation and it is that we have had to postpone the theatrical production of Monboddo which we are rescheduling to stage in 2010. This has been a great disappointment since we had completed the script, the songs and the music. However, the event will be replaced to ensure that the Gathering programme lives up to expectation.

Meanwhile, we send you all greetings of the season, a very Happy Christmas and the wish that 2009 may bring prosperity and good fortune which may have been denied during the current year

THE HOUSE OF BURNETT FROM THE SECRETARY

Greetings; I was able to attend 5 family functions this year and that seems to be about all I can do in one year. I'm hoping that more of you can pick a Highland Game in your area and try to get involved in the games. That is the way we meet new members of the family. We really need some members in the eastern USA to get involved. We had Burnett's who set up in Virginia and North Carolina a few years ago but recently we have had no one. My estimate is that we have over 30,000 Burnett's in the USA alone and I for one would like to meet them all. There is a large number of the 30,000 on the east coast.

On another very important note we must get the open positions in the House of Burnett filled. Our By-Laws don't give me much latitude in the operation of the HOB. I do not have the right to schedule a meeting and that is the only way we can get anything done. We are going to try and have a meeting while we are in Scotland next year. I'm hoping that more of you can find a way to go. We had over 150 members say they plan on going but as of now the numbers are way down.

The cold weather has hit Wisconsin so I'm going to try to stay close to home for a while. I'm hoping to be able to spend more time researching the family connections and try to answer some of the questions I have gotten.

We are still looking for input for the Banner so send me your pictures/articles/questions.

I wish all a Joyous Holiday Season.

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

ST TERNAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, BANCHORY

If you would care to worship at St Ternan's Scottish Episcopal Church while you are in Banchory, you may hear a California accent from the pulpit. The Rector, Reverend Lisa Eunson, came to Banchory two years ago from the San Francisco Bay Area, following a lifelong dream to live and work near her grandfather's homeland. One of her great joys is being in a place that when people learn her surname (last name), they immediately respond: 'You're 'nae from Shetland, then?'

Editor

BURNETT COTTAGE SOUTH ISLAND, NEW ZEALAND

A few years ago some friends of ours stayed in a most comfortable holiday cottage on the north of South Island New Zealand and about 30 km south of Murchison. It was called Burnett Cottage and displayed a plaque James Burnett 1826 - 1872 (See picture below). I have discovered a little more about it from the current owner, Lauren Hutton, who tells me that there was a Cabin there named after an "explorer" James Burnett. The original owners named all seven cabins here after significant historical figures who visited the region and must have had plaques within each cabin that gave a brief overview of their namesake. These, unfortunately, have long since departed with the modernisation of the Lodge of which the details are below. However she has directed me to the few online references that she has found with any details of James Burnett, a colliery engineer that had enormous success in delineating the coal resources of the upper west coast of the South Island of New Zealand (~1850s-Many of his discoveries are being 70s?). reinvestigated for mining potential and currently being mined again today.

Regardless, the Lodge is highly recommended and if anybody visits it or can provide any further information on James Burnett, I would be very pleased to receive it.

Mauria River Lodge, PO Box 12, Murchison, New Zealand. Email: enquiries@maruiariverlodge.co.nz Website: www.maruiariverlodge.co.nz



NEW YORK CITY TARTAN DAY PARADE

On Saturday, April 4, 2009, New York City will celebrate the Eleventh Annual New York City Tartan Day Parade. Thousands of pipers, drummers, clans and organizations will march up Sixth Avenue in recognition of the Declaration of Arbroath and National Tartan Day.

For online registration or additional information: $\underline{www.tartanweek.com}$

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

The following persons are still looking for family information.

ELIZABETH WOOD of Zimbabwe is still looking for information about her Grand father Thomas Burnett who came from Scotland to Rhodesia with Cecil John Rhodes in the 1880's.

ROBIN BURNETT WARD from New Zealand is looking for information on John Hare Burnett who was in Texas in 1855.

RICK BURNETTE is still looking for information on his GG Grand father Mathew Hill Burnett. Ginny Hale was able to trace it back to David Burnett and Sally Hill in 1820 from the Hanover Co. Census. Before 1802 we have had no luck. David Burnett's father may be named Alexander.

JOSEPH BURNETT is looking for information in the line of his Great Grandfather William George Burnett born in Liverpool, Mereseyside, England March 2^{nd} in 1870's or 1880's. His son was Arthur Burnett born July 28, 1908.

JOY BURNETT is looking for information about her line. William Burnett in New Gray Friars Kirk Parish, married to Mary Cummings in 1771. His father was John Burnett b. 1733 in Edinburgh and married a Margaret Comery in 1752 and his father was James Burnett born in Lasswade, he married Margaret Mowet in 1711.

If you have any info which may be helpful please send it to the Secretary. If you have questions about your line send that also. We may get lucky.

Leland L. Burnett Secretary

PAINTINGS BY CAROLINE BURNETT

David Barlow writes to ask if anybody can throw some light on Caroline Burnett, some of whose paintings he acquired in Paris about 20 years ago. He has looked on the web and been informed that they may have been painted in China. Can any reader tell him please the age of the artist Caroline Burnett so that he can establish whether or not the paintings are copies?

Reading messages on line, it seems as though the paintings have originated in China and were painted on a conveyor system by several different people.

Any suggestions would be of interest, please submit it and I will forward it to Stuart.

Editor

BURNETTS FROM THE UK TO CALIFORNIA

My grandfather, who spent much of his life abroad as a soldier, might be pleased to hear that several of his great-grandchildren have chosen to establish themselves outside the United Kingdom. Our son, spent many years in Azerbaijan; I have a niece married and living in South Africa and a nephew in Abu Dhabi.

Maybe influenced by Sir Robert Burnett in the 19th century, I also have two nephews in California. Benjamin Cecil, the younger son of my late brother David, has made a name for himself as a racehorse trainer with stables at the beautiful Santa Anita track. He moved to California in 1991 working for Gary Jones and the late Rodney Rash. In 1996 he started training on his own account and sent out Celtic Arms to win the Grade 2 Pan American Handicap. With less than 20 horses in training, the stable amassed earnings in excess of 11 million dollars in the first 6 years with 47 stakes winners. Ben and his wife, Kristy, are expecting their first child in April (See picture below).

Noel Cecil, son of my brother Henry, many times the champion racehorse trainer in the United Kingdom, moved to California about 10 years ago but resisted the temptation to join the racing industry. He has been in the restaurant business since he arrived there and works as front-of-house in two restaurants in Beverly Hills. One is the 208 Rodeo, Via Rodeo, Beverly Hills, and the other Mastro's Steak House, Canon Drive, Beverly Hills. If any reader lives in the area, I am sure that the Noel would make them most welcome. Coincidentally, my brother David's first career was that of a racehorse trainer and the second as a restaurateur.

James C.A. Burnett



CLANS OF THE NORTH EAST

Readers may be interested in an article in this month's edition of the Leopard magazine:

<u>www.leopardmag.co.uk/feats/214/clans-of-the-northeast-house-of-burnett</u>

THE SCOTS ... BRILLIANT PEOPLE

"I was very pleased to have forwarded to me by Sharon Volk, a short article praising the Scots for their contribution over the years to our current lifestyle. Whilst pleased to be reminded of our national able to correct Sharon on one issue – the invention of the pneumatic tyre. Herewith is the article which she sent me with my suggested amendment. I am only too pleased to be able to include it because Robert Thomson was born in our local county town of Stonehaven"

WHA'S LIKE US?

The typical Englishman finishes his breakfast of toast and MARMALADE, invented by Mrs Keiller of Dundee, Scotland.

He walks to his office along an English lane which is surfaced by TARMAC, invented by John Louden Macadam of Ayr, Scotland. Or he drives his English car which is fitted with PNEUMATIC Tyres, patented by John Boyd Dunlop, of Dreghorn Scotland.

Before he acquired a car he used to travel to his office by train which was powered by a STEAM ENGINE invented by James Watt, of Greenock, Scotland.

In his office he deals with mail bearing ADHESIVE STAMPS invented by John Chalmers, of Dundee, Scotland. And makes frequent use of the TELEPHONE invented by Alexander Graham Bell born in Edinburgh, Scotland.

At home in the evenings he dines on his favourite traditional ROAST BEEF from Aberdeen Angus, raised in Aberdeenshire Scotland and then watches an item on TELEVISION-an invention by John Logie Baird of Helensburgh, Scotland. – about JOHN PAUL JONES, father of the United States Navy, born at Kirkbean, Scotland.

His son prefers to read TREASURE ISLAND written by Robert Louis Stevenson, born in Edinburgh, Scotland, while his daughter plays in the garden on her BICYCLE, an invention of Kirkpatrick Mac Millan, of Thornhill, Scotland.

It is impossible for an Englishman to escape the ingenuity of the Scots!

In desperation he turns to the Bible only to find that the first person mentioned in the good book is a Scot – King James V1, who authorised its translation.

He could, of course, take to drink, but Scotland makes the finest Whisky in the World. Nearing the end of his tether he could uplift a rifle to end it all, but the BREACH-LOADING RIFLE was invented by Captain Patrick Ferguson, of Pitfours, Scotland.

Anyway, if he escaped death he could find himself being injected with PENICILLIN, discovered by Sir Alexander Fleming, Bacteriologist, of Darvel, Scotland, or given CHOLOFORM, an anaesthetic first used by Sir James Young Simpson, of Bathgate, Scotland.

Out of anaesthetic his mood would not be improved if his surgeon told him that he was as safe as THE BANK of ENGLAND, which was founded by William Patterson of Dumfries, Scotland.

Perhaps, in order to get some peace, he should request a transfusion of GUID SCOTTISH BLOOD so that he too would be entitled to ask WHA'S LIKE US? "Damn Few" "And they're A' Deid!!"

"However, I must contest the suggestion that Dunlop invented the pneumatic tyre when the reality is much closer to (my) home".

Robert William Thomson was born in Stonehaven. He invented the pneumatic tyre in 1845 some 40 years before John Boyd Dunlop re-invented it in a more practical form. Thomson's tyre consisted of an elasticated tubular ring of India rubber, encased in leather and inflated. Each tyre had to be hand made and took more than 70 bolts to fasten to a wheel. Soon after 1870 Thomson Steam Omnibuses were operating a regular bus service between Edinburgh and Leith.

James C.A. Burnett of Leys

EILEEN JOY TARRANT (APR 18TH 1924 - JAN 16TH 2008)

I was very sorry to hear from Evelyn Ross of the death in January of her sister Eileen Tarrant. Eileen and Evelyn visited Crathes for our first Gathering in 1992. She had kept in touch with the American group and wrote an article in the Banner. Her death came as a great shock as it was only eight days after her husband.

Eileen was born in Selkirk, Manitoba on April 18th 1924 and was the eldest of four daughters of Myrtle and Gordon Burnett. She attended school in Selkirk and Winnipeg, met her future husband John whilst serving in the RCAF and they married in 1949. After John became a chartered accountant, they moved to Victoria.

Her family, including her daughter Joan, and her sisters Mildred Hodgson and Evelyn together with her many nephews and nieces will miss her as a favourite aunt. An outgoing and giving person who loved people and social events, she was a member of the Cordova Bay United Church and the UCW. She was also a member of the Monarchist Society and kept in close touch with her Scottish background visiting Scotland several times

As Evelyn also tells me, she was proud to be a Burnett and all those who knew her, we send much sympathy.

THE SNOWBALL

(BY SHEL SILVERSTEIN)

I made myself a snowball,
As perfect as could be,
I thought I'd keep it as a pet,
And let it sleep with me.

I made it some pyjamas, And a pillow for its head, Then last night it ran away, But first - it wet the bed!

A PUPPY'S CHRISTMAS

(AUTHOR UNKNOWN)

It's the day before Christmas
And all through the house
The puppies are squeaking
An old rubber mouse.

The wreath which had merrily
Hung on the door
Is scattered in pieces
All over the floor.

The stockings that hung
In a neat little row
Now boast a hole in
Each one of the toes.

The tree was subjected
To bright-eyed whims,
And now, although splendid,
It's missing some limbs.

I catch them and hold them.
"Be good", I insist.
They lick me, then run off
To see what they've missed.

And now as I watch them
The thought comes to me,
That their's is the spirit
That Christmas should be.

Should children and puppies
Yet show us the way,
And teach us the joy
That should come with this day?

Could they bring the message
That's written above,
And tell us that, most of all
Christmas is love.



CHRISTMAS TREES

The Christmas tree is a strong symbol of Christmas. It serves as the family's centre of attention. In fact, it is the centre of most Christmas ceremonies all over the world.

Christmas is about traditions and memories, and symmetric and beautifully decorated Christmas trees are something that the entire family will always value and remember. Every year, between 25 and 30 million Americans celebrate Christmas with Christmas trees, thus, the scent of a freshly cut Christmas tree enlivens the Christmas spirit among most Americans.

Christmas trees have a long and exciting history. During the pre-Christian era, people and tribes often had holy groves and trees where they sacrificed to the gods. The trees were most often oak or ash, and they symbolized a connection between heaven and earth. Similar ideas are found in the Old Testament – trees symbolized wisdom and life.

AMERICAN CHRISTMAS TREES



Fraser Fir

The tree lives in acidic, sandy, moist soil at high elevations of 1,200-2,000 meters. The crown is pyramidal and it has horizontal branches. The tree is widely used as a Xmas tree in the USA.



Red Fir

The tree grows in the northern parts of California and Oregon. It typically grows between the range of 40-60 meters. It has a narrow conic crown. It is often used as an outdoor holiday tree.

EUROPEAN CHRISTMAS TREES



Silver Fir

Silver Fir grows in mineral-rich soil in the Central European mountain forests. The crown is conic-shaped and slim. It is highly suitable as a Christmas tree.



Nordmann Fir

Nordmann Fir is native to the mountains on the eastside of the Black Sea. It is a large, evergreen tree with a wide and conic-shaped growth.

BURNETT AND JAFFRAY

Following the Burnett/Jaffray article in the last issue of the Burnett Banner Jean Birch writes. Although as yet I haven't been able to discover any proof of an earlier Burnett/Jaffray marriage than that of Christian Burnett and Alexander Jaffray, I have managed to obtain a copy of a diary that Christian and Alexander's grandson, commenced writing in the mid seventeenth century. It appears that Alexander's main purpose for the diary was to express his religious thoughts. However there are two chapters in which he tells us something of his life, and where he briefly mentions two members of the Burnett family, which illustrates the continuing early bond between the Burnett and the Jaffray families.

The first member of the Burnett family Alexander mentions is Robert Burnett, advocate. It seems that in 1632, at the age of eighteen, and about twenty days after Alexander married a girl of his father's choice, his father thought fit to send him to Edinburgh to study Law. He stayed there for the space of five or six weeks. Alexander wrote in diary, 'I am obliged to remember, the kind respect I met from my worthy friend Mr Robert Burneit, (Burnet) advocate, who kept me much of that time in his house, where I had good occasion to hear and see some things; not only to learn some things of the law and practice of the Tolbooth, but some things as to the practice of holiness and charity, especially of observing the Sabbath-day, for the neglect of which he of times challenged and reproved me.' Alexander Jaffray went on in life to become Provost of Aberdeen on more than one occasion, and to fill some important political and civic stations, before eventually, in 1662, becoming one of the earliest in his native city of Aberdeen, to join himself in communion with the people called Quakers: For this he was harshly persecuted.

The second member of the Burnett family that Alexander Jaffray mentions in his diary is an Alexander Burnett (I am not sure which Alexander Burnett he is referring to, and would be interested to know.) At this time both Alexander Jaffray and his father were widowers and Alexander was living in his father's house. The entry in Alexander's diary goes as follows: 'In the end of the year, 1644, the Irish having, after the fight at Aberdeen, so spoiled his house that he had no plenishing (furniture) left him; and then he did board himself and me, with one servant to attend him, in the house of our cousin Alexander Burnet the elder, where he and I entered in November, and staid November, December, and the beginning of January, 1645. He took sickness, and died the 10th day thereof, in his own house.

It seems that Alexander Jaffray's diary lay lost from sight for nearly two hundred years, until it was discovered in 1827 by John Barclay, in the home of his ancestor, Robert Barclay, the Quaker apologist. So it is with much gratefulness to John Barclay, who decided to edit the diary, and to add memoirs, that I have had the privilege of gaining an intimate insight

into the thoughts and times of one of my early ancestors.

P.S. Robert Burnett and an Alexander Burnett, baillie in 1677, are mentioned in John Barclay's added memoirs to the diary.

BURNETT TO BE MARINE OFFICER

Cameron Burnett has completed Marine Corps Officer Candidates School in Quantico, Virginia. Burnett is a senior at the University of Arkansas where he will obtain a degree in Mechanical Engineering.

Upon graduation he will be commissioned a 2nd Lt. in the United States Marines Corps and report to Quantico, Virginia for further training to be followed by Flight School in Pensacola, Florida.



Cameron Burnett, Back row, third left

John Burnett

CALLING AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

Are you a Burnet(t) living in Australia or New Zealand or if you have any Burnet(t)s in your family tree? If so, Eileen Bailey, our Burnett Genealogist & Archivist, would greatly appreciate hearing from you. A great deal of work has been done in recent years on researching and preparing two Burnett books and on gathering material for the Burnett Archive. Some Burnetts, from Australia and New Zealand, who have attended one or more of the Gatherings at Crathes have very kindly brought family information with them to donate to the Archive.

It would appear that a number of Burnetts from Scotland settled "down-under". Not only would it be a valuable addition to the Archive to be able to include information about them but we would also like to consider a chapter or two in one of our future Burnett books.

Please reply to info@leysestate.co.uk

THE HOUSE OF BURNETT



Cumberland Falls, KY where Burnett's gather annually.

Home of the Moonbow



Chief Irvine Salutes The HOB in Tartan
Parade



Marker at the Upper Turkey Creek Cemetary, could be marker for Jeremiah Burnett II gravesite. This is where his family lived when they came to KY.

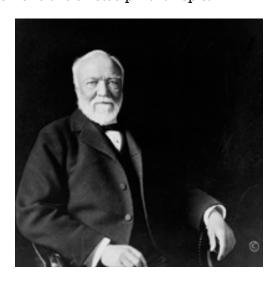




Isham and Isaac were sons of Jeremiah

ANDREW CARNEGIE

I have recently been given an account of the ancestry of Andrew Carnegie of whom few readers will be unaware. Andrew Carnegie (below) was born in Dunfermline in Scotland and in 1848 the family emigrated from Scotland to America, where Andrew prospered to become one of the world's richest men in the world and a noted philanthropist.



Little was known of Andrew Carnegie's earlier ancestry until recent research was carried out by Keith Morgan, who has sent me a copy of his publication for which I am most grateful and from which he has permitted me to pass on the information below. Of greatest interest to me is that there are significant Burnett connections.

Andrew was the great grandson of James Carnegie who was almost certainly the son of Janet Lauder and David Carnegie. Janet was the daughter of Helen Ogilvie and Sir Robert Lauder, both being descended from the many generations of the famous clans. David was the son of Sir John Carnegie and Mary Burnett, daughter of Sir Thomas Burnett of Leys. Additionally, Janet had more than one close relationship with the Burnetts through marriage. Janet and her son James' survival during the decades of persecution after Culloden was made possible by the Burnetts especially the Dowager Countess of Kincardine, grand-daughter of Sir Thomas Burnett of Crimond.

Sir John Carnegie died in 1729. David was then eleven and he was subsequently brought up by three Tutors and Curators under his father's will. These were Mary Burnett of Leys (his mother), George Lauder of Pitscandlie, (Janet's brother and whose wife was Mary's sister, Jean), and another James Carnegie, (his father's brother). David Carnegie fought in an exceptional "solo" capacity for the Jacobites at Culloden. He was injured but managed to escape to a trading post in Gothenburg, associated with his family. He died there in 1746 or 47 aged 28.

Keith Morgan states that, having searched the literature for Janet and her partner for one and a quarter decades, he is of the view that Janet Lauder and David Carnegie were the biological parents of James. George Lauder, Janet's brother, would have been involved in tutoring David from 1729 and it is inevitable that Janet watched him grow up until he came of age when the family would have celebrated Christmas, Hogmany and his majority over the Christmas break. Normally this went on until Epiphany. It could well be that up to this time David had lived in Montrose with his dowager mother and had started to work for or with his Uncle George. It is further considered likely that Janet initiated David into the facts of life and, at 40, became pregnant with his child. Possibly this was her dearest wish. The timing of this fits in with the birth of James in about September 1739. In the literature, both David and Janet died unmarried.

Absolute proof maybe not, but sufficiently robust circumstantial evidence to support the Burnett relationship with this great man although we should accept that it is a small world when it comes to establishing blood relationships

Copies of Keith Morgan's publication, The Andrew Carnegie Ancestry, are available from:

David Fleming, GRAMPIAN BOOKS, South Ardo, Methlick, Ellon, Aberdeenshire, AB41 7HP Scotland. Tel 01651 806165

James C. A. Burnett of Leys

BURNETT QUERIES & RESEARCH

Eileen Bailey has been the official Burnett family genealogist & historical researcher for more than ten years. She is currently engaged in archiving, both in hard copy and digitally, the considerable material that has accumulated during the preparation of the two Burnett books and from ongoing research.

We have agreed that Eileen will assist with queries about the family history of Burnetts in the UK. Similarly she is available to carry out more specific detailed personal Burnett research for individuals.

Requests for help should be directed by e-mail to info@leysestate.co.uk or by post to James Burnett, St Nicholas House, Station Road, Banchory, AB31 5YJ. Scotland, UK.

Estimates of cost for more detailed work can be provided and payment can be made by credit card.





Caller to BT Directory Enquiries: "I want a knitwear company in Woven"

Operator: "Woven? Are you sure?

Caller: "Yes, That's what it says on the label. Woven

in Scotland

PLANS FOR A "BURNETT" HERALDRY PRINT ARE ANNOUNCED.

John Burnett, Tosheadoer for the House of Burnett, has announced plans to have a heraldic print made available in time for the Burnett Gathering next summer at Crathes.

"This is going to be a magnificent work of art by one of Scotland's best heraldic artists", said Burnett. "We intend to depict the approximately 30 coats of arms of the Burnetts as registered in Scotland and England. The Chief's Pinsel and Standard will also be depicted. This really is an important composition of family history, never accumulated in one place before."

The artist, Anthony Maxwell, is a well known Scottish artist noted for his heraldic artwork. Although a few details are pending, the print will be of excellent quality, printed on acid free paper, and suitable for framing and display in a den, living room, or any place one keeps valuable family memorabilia.

Only a limited number of the prints will be available. The plans are for no more than 100 numbered and signed prints. They will be signed by James Burnett of Leys, Charles Burnett, Ross Herald, and John Burnett, Tosheadoer.

Final dimensions, pricing and a viewable sample will be available on the Burnett website shortly after the first of the year, and in the next Burnett Banner.

"I am very excited by this project", said Charles Burnett, "It combines excellent artistry and pageantry with family history. John Burnett should be commended for funding this project."

All profits from selling the print will be used for the House of Burnett.

Anyone interested in knowing more about the Burnett Heraldry Print should contact John Burnett at his email address: john.burnett@john.burnettlaw.com

CHAUNCEY VANDERMARK BURNETT

(A LITTLE BIT OF BURNETT HISTORY FROM PHYLLIS ESLER)

Born in Jackson County, Michigan in 1840, he moved with his parents, John Burnett (1814-1864) and Judith Otto Burnett (1814-1877) to Jefferson Township, Hillsdale County.

Known as "Tip" Burnett and sometimes called "Chancy," he enlisted in the Army in 1861, Adrian, Michigan, at the beginning of the Civil war. Joining Company of the 4th Michigan infantry, he was first in action in the battle of Bull Run and took part in nearly all of the campaign conducted by the Army of the

Potomac. At the battles of Malvern Hill, Gettysburg, and the Wilderness, he was in the thickest of the fight. Wounded at Gettysburg, he recovered in time to take part in the Battle of the Wilderness, where he was wounded a second time.

He was discharged with his regiment at Petersburg, VA in 1864. At one time, he was president of the 4th Michigan Infantry Reunion. An intensely patriotic gentleman, he saw to it that all the old soldiers' graves were decorated every Memorial Day. He also gave his commission as representative of the granite company toward getting the soldier's monument, which stands in the Jonesville Park. At one time, he owned the Cottage Hotel in Jonesville, MI..He married Jane McHughes (daughter of the lady in the dining room shadow box) on July 4, 1861 in Osseo, Michigan. Although he has a marker in the Sunset View Cemetery, he is reported to be buried in Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

The children of Chauncey and Jane Burnett were Jessie Burnett McKercher, Wesley A. Burnett, Hugh Burnett, Bennett Jackson Burnett, Ralph Burnett, Ruth Ann Burnett DuPont and Lorraine Burnett Howard. Chauncey was Great-great grandfather to Phyllis Storm Esler, through his son Bennett J and grandson Bennett W who was her grandfather

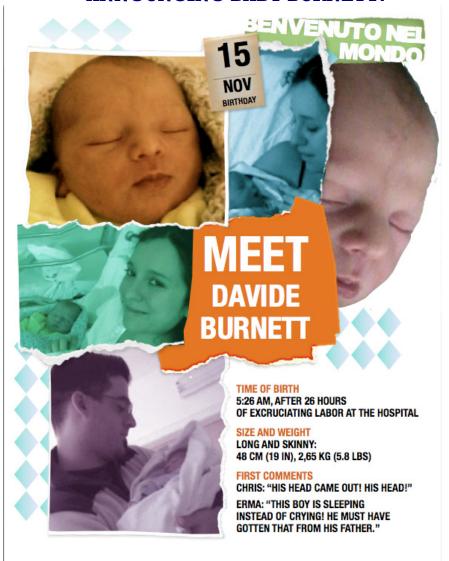


Chauncey was 76 in this picture which was taken in about 1916. He died a year later in 1917. This is the only known photograph.

P.S. Incidentally, the reference to "the lady in the shadow box" refers to a photograph and some vintage wedding trousseau garments—that—belonged—to Chauncey Burnett's mother-in-law who left Ireland under persecution because she (a Catholic maid) fell in love with her employers (Protestant) son.

I am grateful to Phyllis Esler for the above article and hope that there will be some further history to add to it and which we can include in a later Banner.

ANNOUNCING BABY BURNETT!



Congratulations to us all!! Everyone who loves Chris & Erma Burnett (or any of the Burnetts, for that matter) have just welcomed Davide Burnett. Named after one of God's favorite people, King Davide who was born a shepherd boy and loved the Lord with all his heart.

Checking in at 5:26 am Italy time on November 15 (they're 9 hours earlier than LA), he was 19 inches and weighed in at 5 lbs 12 oz.

We're thrilled Erma is fine and she and Chris were really tired but incredibly elated & blessed. She had a 29 hour labor and a natural delivery. Whew!

Share our joy and tell everybody you know that loves them, too. The newest Italian Missionary Artist is born. And he entered dramatically, like his folks and grandparents...

The new Father, Chris Burnett, is a singer/songwriter and playwrite with his wife, the new Mother, Erma, who is an actress and licensed psychological counsellor in Italy. Chris' twin sister, Auntie Allison, pregnant and due to deliver a girl in January, 2009, runs Barry Burnett Realty (see article below), www.barryburnett.net, and Uncle (Dr.) Raffi Salibian

is a Radiologist at USC-University Hospital in Los Angeles, CA.

The new Grandfather, Barry Burnett, is a Real Estate Broker/owner of an estate agency in Burbank, California, by Los Angeles. He is currently researching the land held by Sir Robert Burnett, Laird of Burnett of Leys, during the 1850's which now includes LAX, Los Angeles International Airport. Angela, the new Grandmother, is an Instructor of English as a Second Language at Glendale Community College. (The new Grandparents were at Crathes Castle, Burnett ancestral home, in January, '08 as the first from this line of the family to return home in 300 years.)

The Great-Grandfather, Bill Burnett of Burbank, CA, was a WWII fighter pilot in Europe who flew P-51 Mustangs over France and Germany, and was one of the first 500 in the world to fly tactical jet fighter planes.

For more information on the new family, see www.chrisburnettmusic.com

Barry A Burnett

BRUNETTE

Martin Brunette writes asking if there is any known connection between Burnett and Brunette and whether any of the Burnetts moved to France in the 17th century or earlier. His genealogical tree goes back to around 1640. The first settler in North America (CAN) was Antoine Brunet, he was born in 1645. His father was Mathurin Brunet from St-Nicolas, La Rochelle, Aunis, France.

Eileen Bailey has some further research and concludes that the surname Brunet/Brunette does not appear to have any direct link with Burnet/Burnett.

"A Dictionary of English Surnames" by Reaney & Wilson quotes S. Smiles whose publication "The Huguenots" published in London in 1880 referred to a

French Protestant family of Brunet who were from La Rochelle and who fled to England at the time of the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes by King Louis XIV of France in October 1685. At this time many Huguenots, as they were called, left France and settled in other countries such as England and Scotland.

Whilst we are not able to shed much more light on this subject, readers may recall that it was raised in an earlier Banner when Betty Burnette McGinley asked if there was any connection between Bishop Brunet of the Archdiocese of Seattle, WA. Any suggestions on this would be welcome. However, Burnetts are renowned for their hospitality and, in the absence of evidence, are prepared to give Brunets the benefit of doubt

DAVID LUMSDEN OF CUSHNIE 1933 - 2008

Staunch Jacobite, castle restorer, businessman and herald

Whilst many of the Highland Clans and Families have for many years been at war with each other, and in some cases still are so, any families of the North East who ever did have altercations have long since buried the hatchet and it is unlikely that there are any whose central families are not related through marriage. There have been a number of genealogical connections between the Burnetts and the Lumsdens since the 16th century. It is not inappropriate to mention prominent members of associated clans whom sadly we lose. David Lumsden of Cushnie was one such person. Many of the Burnetts who have visited Scotland and attended the Aboyne Games may recall meeting David and I am grateful to Gordon Casely for the following tribute to him

David Lumsden of Cushnie, who has died suddenly aged 75, might have epitomised the Hollywood vision of Scotland. Tall, personable and possessed of impeccable manners, he wore the kilt, promoted tartan, restored castles, and as one of only four private heralds in the nation, he appeared on days of great ceremonial in a magnificent tabard decked with

the arms of his patron Margaret, $30^{\rm th}$ Countess of Mar. He was also a monarchist and staunch Jacobite.

The man behind the image proved a shrewd and welleducated businessman, a historian and scholar of some repute, and a devout Christian whose charitable work he ensured was little known and certainly unsung.

The six-foot Lumsden of Cushnie was born in Quetta, Baluchistan, son of a Regular army officer serving in what is now Pakistan. With an eye for accurate history and a twinkle, Cushnie referred to his birthplace as "in the empire of India". The sub-continent gave him a love of sport, particularly rowing and polo, that helped credit him with a lifelong lean upright figure. His Cushnie lineage extended to Robert Lumsden, 1st of Cushnie following a grant of lands in Aberdeenshire by King James IV in 1509. Coincidentally, he and Churchill shared the same ancestor: Robert of Cushnie was Sir Winston's 11-greats-grandfather.

Through his father Major Harry Lumsden, the young David inherited a knowledgeable love of castellated architecture, becoming a youthful expert on the L-plan and Z-plan towers that make up so many of Scotland's fortified houses. From 1970, he personally restored two Aberdeenshire properties relating to the family – Cushnie House (built 1688 by Alexander Lumsden) and Tillycairn Castle (built 1540 by Mathew Lumsden). His interested was such that he went on to restore Leithen Lodge at Innerleithen, an Arts-and-Crafts shooting lodge of 1887, and Liberton Tower, in Edinburgh.

He directed his educated enthusiasm for tower-house restoration through his foundation of the Castles of Scotland preservation Trust aided by Hugh Ross, Nigel Tranter and Harry, 23rd Lord Borthwick. It was a move helped by the spirited Jessie Pettigrew, whose pioneering work turned the A-listed but condemned Dalzell House in Motherwell from a ruin into attractive series of homes. An active member from almost its establishment of the Scottish Castles Association, Cushnie would contrast the constant financial struggle to rescue outstanding castles in Scotland as "chronic", compared to national funds for historic building projects in other European countries.

David Gordon Allen d'Aldecamb Lumsden of Cushnie was educated at Allhallows, Devon, Bedford School and Jesus College, Cambridge. He held a commission in the London Scottish TA before developing an executive career with British American Tobacco for 23 years from 1959, and was a member of Lloyd's from 1985 until retirement in 2001. He worked in Africa, India and the Far East, as well as Eastern Europe in the heyday of the Iron Curtain. His first mission on leaving BAT was to move into castle restoration.

A profound monarchist and expert in all aspects of the Jacobite, he served as convenor of the Monarchist League of Scotland, was president for the last 23 years

of the 1745 Association, was a contributor to the publication The Muster Rolls of the 45 (listing all those who served with Prince Charles Edward), and served as a council member of the Royal Stuart Society. Last year, he played a prominent role in commemorating the bicentenary of the death of Prince Henry, Cardinal Stuart, last member of the Royal House of Stuart, at the Royal Hospital Chelsea along with Viscount Maitland (Hereditary Banner Bearer of Scotland) and General Lord Walker (governor of the Royal Hospital).

Keenly interested in music, he was co-founder of the Scottish Historic Organs Trust in 1991.

Cushnie waged minor war on the wearing of white hose with the kilt, rarely leaving home without a supply of printed cards bearing the message to hand out to offenders. His based his apparent idiosyncrasy on his view that the dignity of the kilt was being demeaned by a combination of music hall attire and kilt-hire wear. "Any colour but white" he would lecture. A patron of the Aboyne Gathering and faithful attender in his green Lumsden of Cushnie kilt for nearly half-a-century, his enthusiastic article in the Games programme last month (August 2008) on tartan included a broadside against white hose.

Cushnie, last of the family to hold the title of Baron of Cushnie, proved a learned and oustanding heraldist, and was one of only four private heralds in Scotland – his fellows being Endure Pursuivant of the earl of Crawford and Balcarres; Slains Pursuivant for the earl of Erroll; and Finlaggan Pursuivant, serving the High Chief of Donald. As Garioch Pursuivant, his patron was Margaret, 30th Countess of Mar, and in this office, he presided over family ceremonial as well as the satisfying of heraldic and genealogical requirements of her following.



David Lumsden as Garioch Pursuivant

Greatly involved in chivalry, he was also a Knight of Malta; Knight of Justice of the Sacred Military Constantinian Order of St. George; Knight of the Order of Saint Maurice and St Lazarus; and Bailie of the Bailiwick of Scotland of the Order of St Lazarus; as well as being a Freeman of the City of London. His motto Dei Dono Sum Quod Sum (By the grace of God, I am what I am) reflected his strong Christian commitment.

Cushnie was active in the Convention of the Baronage of Scotland, and wearing his scarlet robes, represented the convention at services in St Giles on St Andrews Day and at the opening of the General Assembly. A clan chief attending a convention meeting held at his home near Prestonpans observed afterwards: "David has a distinctive aquiline nose, and on the walls were portraits of all his ancestors, mainly eminent soldiers dating back to the Napoleonic war. That nasal feature had endured for over 150 years in the male line!".

Cushnie, Jacobite to the end, died while on business for the 1745 Association in Fort William. He is buried at Cluny, Aberdeenshire.

BRONZE STAR AWARDED

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Capt Wes Burnett has been awarded the Bronze Star for service during his latest deployment in Iraq.



Capt Burnett serves with the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment which spent the last year in Mosul, Irag.

This is Capt Burnett's second citation for the Bronze Star. He was also awarded the medal during his previous tour in Iraq with the 3rd Armored Cavalry in Tal Afar.

Capt Burnett is the son of John Burnett, Tosheadoer for the House of Burnett, and is stationed at Ft. Hood, Texas.

John Burnett

ANOTHER REMINDER!!

For those who haven't already signed up and may still be interested in attending the Burnett Gathering next year, details can be obtained from our website www.burnett.uk.com or by emailing us at info@leysestate.co.uk.

CHRISTMAS RECIPES

(By Delia Smith)

TRADITIONAL MINCE PIES

I will always cherish fond memories of my mother's and my grandmother's cooling trays piled high with freshly baked mince pies on Christmas Eve, ready to be packed into tins and brought out whenever friends popped in for Christmas drinks. The following is the traditional family recipe

Ingredients:

1½ lb (560 g) mincemeat 12 oz (350 g) plain flour 3 oz (75 g) lard 3 oz (75 g) butter pinch of salt

For the top:

A little milk Icing sugar

Pre-heat the oven to gas mark 6, 400°F (200°C).

You will also need one (or two) trays of $2\frac{1}{2}$ inch (6 cm) patty tins, one fluted 3 inch (7.5 cm) pastry cutter and one $2\frac{1}{2}$ inch (6 cm) cutter.

Make up the pastry by sifting the flour and salt into a mixing bowl and rubbing the fats into it until the mixture resembles fine crumbs. Then add just enough cold water to mix to a dough that leaves the bowl clean. Leave the pastry to rest in a polythene bag in the refrigerator for 20-30 minutes, then roll half of it out as thinly as possible and cut it into two dozen 3 inch (7.5 cm) rounds, gathering up the scraps and rerolling. Then do the same with the other half of the pastry, this time using the $2\frac{1}{2}$ inch (6 cm) cutter.

Now grease the patty tins lightly and line them with the larger rounds. Fill these with mincemeat to the level of the edges of the pastry. Dampen the edges of the smaller rounds of pastry with water and press them lightly into position to form lids, sealing the edges. Brush each one with milk and make three snips in the tops with a pair of scissors. Bake near the top of the oven for 25-30 minutes until light golden brown. Cool on a wire tray and sprinkle with icing sugar. When cool, store in an airtight container.



LIGHT CHRISTMAS PUDDING

If there are still people who claim not to like even our splendid Traditional Christmas Pudding, then this could be for them. It's a light sponge pudding containing mincemeat, chopped apple and mace so that the Christmassy flavour is there, and a very attractive arrangement of whole candied peel will look very pretty when it's turned out.

Ingredients:

4 oz (110 g) butter, softened, plus extra for greasing

l piece candied citron peel

2 pieces whole candied orange peel

2 pieces whole candied lemon peel

4 oz (110 g) soft light brown sugar

2 large eggs

6 oz (175 g) self-raising flour, sifted

1/3 level teaspoon ground mace

pinch salt

l teaspoon lemon juice

grated zest 1 small lemon

grated zest 1 small orange

l medium cooking apple, peeled, cored & chopped small

3 rounded tablespoons mincemeat

You will also need a 2 pint (1.2 litre) pudding basin, the rounded-based sort is best.

Prepare the basin by buttering it lightly and arranging the candied peel in the base. First snip the citron peel into $\frac{1}{2}$ inch (1 cm) strips and arrange these in an overlapping circle in the centre of the base of the basin; you need something that resembles a flower. Then, using a sharp pair of scissors, snip the whole candied peels lengthways into strips, but leaving the end intact. Imagine five fingers attached to a hand and you've got it. Now arrange these around the 'flower', spreading out the strips as much as possible.

Now, for the pudding, simply beat the sugar and butter with an electric hand whisk until the mixture is pale and creamy and drops off a spoon easily with a sharp tap. Then beat the eggs in a jug and add these a minute amount at a time, whisking well after each addition. When all the liquid egg is incorporated carefully fold in the sifted flour, mace and salt, followed by the lemon juice, grated lemon and orange zest, chopped apple and finally the mincemeat.

Now spoon the mixture into the basin, being careful to leave your artistic arrangement intact. Tie a double piece of pleated foil on to the basin, place it in a steamer over boiling water and steam for $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours. When the pudding is completely cold you can turn it out, wrap it well and freeze it till needed.

Take it out of the freezer late on Christmas Eve and re-steam on Christmas Day for $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours. Serve cut in slices with Hot Punch Sauce.



SCOTTISH GAMES & CELTIC FESTIVALS FOR 2009

January

10	Southeast Florida Scottish Festival & Games c/o Scottish-American Society of South Florida Inc. PO Box 945926, Pembroke Pines, FL. 33024-5926
17-18	Central Florida Scottish Games P.O. Box 2948, Orlando, FL 32802

February

21-22	Arizona Highland Games P.O. Box 5853, Scottsdale, AZ 85261-5853
28	Northeast Florida Scottish Highland Games & Festival PO Box 16253, Jacksonville, FL 32245

March

тва	Celtic Heritage Society of the Permian Basin P.O. Box 7144, Midland, TX 79708-7144
7-8	Zephyrhills Celtic Festival & Highland Games 8551 Handcart Rd, Zephyrhills, FL 33544
тва	Celtic Concert c/o Prince Charles Pipe Band 6 Isabella Court, Novato, CA. 99945
21	Sarasota Highland Games P.O.Box 282, Cape Haze, FL 33946

April

4	Dunedin Highland Games P.O. Box 507, Dunedin, FL 34698
4-5	San Antonio Highland Games P.O. Box 5451, San Antonio, TX 78201-5451
17-19	Loch Norman Highland Games P.O. Box 1009, Huntersville, NC 28070-1009
18-19	Las Vegas Celtic Gathering & Highland Games 2250 E. Tropicana Ave. Suite 19-514 Las Vegas, NV 89119
25	Southern Maryland Celtic Festival & Highland Gathering P.O. Box 209, Prince Frederick, MD 20678
25	Colonial Capital Scottish Festival P.O. Box 313, New Bern, NC 28563

May

1-2	Triad Highland Games 307 Gregg Street Archdale NC 27263

1-3	Scottish Festival & Celtic Gathering P.O. Box 2511, Clarksburg, WV 26302
2	Savannah Scottish Games & Highland Gathering P.O. Box 13435, Savannah, GA 31416
2-3	Celebration of Celts 5564 Rts 9H & 23, Hudson, NY 12534
2-3	Th' Gatherin' Fire Festival O' Beltane 221 Main, WaKeeney, KS 67672
8-10	Kentucky Scottish Weekend P.O. Box 11441, Cincinnati, OH 45211-0441
9	Frederick Celtic Festival 101 Foxfield Pass, Middletown, MD 21769
9	Minnesota Scottish Fair & Highland Games 1366 Camelback Dr, Eagan, MN 55123
10-11	Celtic Festival & Highland Games at Historic Bethabara Park 2147 Bethabara Road, Winston Salem, NC 27106
15-17	Gatlinburg Scottish Festival & Games 1104 Sanders Road, Knoxville, TN 37923
16	Colonial Highland Gathering 20 Wakefield Drive Newark, DE 19711 (Mailing Address Only) Games Held at Natural Resources Area Fair Hill, Maryland
16-17	Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival & Highland Games 3002 Wilson Place NE Albuquerque, NM 87106-1815
16-17	Tallahassee Scottish Highland Games and Celtic Festival P.O. Box 86, Tallahassee, FL 32302
16-17	Houston Scottish Highland Games & Celtic Festival P.O. Box 66, Bellaire, TX 77402-0066
23-24	Alma Highland Festival and Games P.O. Box 516, Alma, MI 48801
28-31	Glasgow Highland Games 119 E. Main St. Glasgow, KY 42141-2835

June

5-7	McHenry Highland Festival P.O. Box 926, McHenry, MD 21550
5-7	Texas Scottish Festival & Highland Games P.O. Box 511, Clifton, TX 76634
6	Greater Greenville Scottish Games & Highland Festival 225 S. Pleasantburg Dr. # B12-1 Greenville, SC 29607

6	Milwaukee Highland Games & Scottish Festival W 167 S6827 Oakhill Drive, Muskego, WI 53150
12-14	Kansas City Scottish Highland Games c/o Kansas City Highland Games, Inc. PO Box 712, Lawrence, KS 66044-0712
13-14	Blairsville Scottish Festival & Highland Games P.O. Box 789, Blairsville, GA 30514
тва	Alasdair Fraser Sierra Fiddle Camp & Valley of the Moon Scottish Fiddling School 1502 Kona Place, Santa Rosa, CA 5403
13	Indiana Highland Games 619 East DuPont Rd. #158, Ft. Wayne, IN 46825-2055
13	Potomac Celtic Festival 525-K E. Market St., #295, Leesburg, VA 20176
19-20	Illinois St. Andrew Society Chicago Highland Games 2800 Des Plaines Avenue N. Riverside, IL 60546-1899
20	United States Piping Foundation Championship 20 Wakefield Drive, Newark, DE 19711-7012
20	Prosser Scottish Fest 1230 Bennett Ave, Prosser, WA 99350
20-21	Scottish Festival c/o First Presbyterian Church 4 Clinton Street, Delhi, NY 13753
27	Ohio Scottish Games P.O. Box 3, Lorain, OH 44052-0003
27	Western Massachusetts Highland Games & Celtic Festival 69 Maple Street, Easthampton, MA 01027
27-28	San Diego Scottish Highland Games & Gathering of the Clans P.O. Box 3682, Vista. Ca. 92085
27-28	Wyoming Celtic Festival & Highland Games P. O. Box 7121, Gillette, WY 82717-7121

July

4	Round Hill Scottish Games P.O. Box 2216, Darien, CT 06820
4-5	Monterey Scottish Highland Games & Celtic Festival 956 Via Verde, Del Ray Oaks, CA 93940
9-12	Grandfather Mountain Highland Games P.O. Box 1095, Linville, NC 28646
18-19	Elizabeth Celtic Festival P.O.Box 2149, Elizabeth, CO 80107
25-26	Pacific Northwest Scottish Highland Games & Clan Gathering Seattle Scottish Highland Games Association P.O. Box 75685, Seattle, WA 98175-0685

August

====9===	
1	St. Andrew's Society of Detroit Highland Games 30161 Southfield Road, Cranebrook Center, Suite 112, Southfield, MI 48076
14-16	Colorado Scottish Festival & Rocky Mountain Highland Games 9 River View Rd. Denver, CO 80215
15	Amherst Museum Scottish Festival 3755 Tonawanda Creek Road Amherst, NY 14228-1599
15	Maine Highland Games P.O. Box 2810, Augusta, ME 04338-2810
тва	Alasdair Fraser Sierra Fiddle Camp & Valley of the Moon Scottish Fiddling School 1502 Kona Place, Santa Rosa, CA 5403
22	Celtic Highland Games of the Quad Cities-IOWA P.O. Box 3201. Rock Island, IL 61204- 3201 (Mailing Address only) Games held at Mississippi Valley Fairgrounds, Davenport, Iowa
22	Kalamazoo Scottish Festival P.O. Box 511, Oshtemo, MI 49077-0511
22	Long Island Scottish Games 58 Bayberry Drive, Huntington, NY 11743

September

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тва	Wisconsin Highland Games & Celtic Fling P.O. Box 270292, West Allis, WI 53227
5-6	Capital District Scottish Games 40 Terrace Ave. Albany, NY 12203
10-13	Longs Peak Scottish/Irish Highland Festival P.O. Box 1820, Estse Park, CO 80517-1820
11-13	Western Kentucky Highland Festival 2028 Jefferson Street, Paducah, KY 42001
11-13	Ligonier Highland Games P.O. Box 884, Bethel Park, PA 15102-0884
11-13	Sycamore Shoals Celtic Festival P.O. Box 5384, Johnson City, TN 37602
12-13	Columbus Scottish Festival P.O. Box 2573, Columbus, IN 47202-2573
12-13	Virginia Scottish Games P.O. Box 1338, Alexandria, VA 22313
19-20	Charleston Scottish Games & Highland Gathering P.O. Box 31951, Charleston, SC 29417
19-20	Oklahoma Scottish Festival PO Box 471664, Tulsa, OK 74147
25-27	New Hampshire Highland Games P.O. Box 4197, Concord, NH 03302-4197
26	Dandridge Highland Games and Festival P.O. Box 507., Danridge, TN 34697-0507
26-27	Celtic Classic 532 Main St. Bethlehem, PA 18018

	Alabama Highland Games
26-27	P.O. Box 241204
	Montgomery, AL 36124-1204
26-27	McPherson Scottish Festival
	P.O. Box 616, McPherson, KS 67460

October

Games Suspended	St. Louis Scottish Games & Cultural Festival c/o St. Louis Scottish Games P.O. Box 6811, Chesterfield, MO 63006-6811
2-4	Flora MacDonald Highland Games P.O. Box 547, Red Springs, NC 28377
3	St. Andrew's Society of Connecticut Scottish Festival P.O. Box 1195, Litchfield, CT 06459
3	Williamsburg Scottish Festival P.O. Box 866 Williamsburg, VA 23187-0866
10	Anne Arundel Scottish Highland Games P.O. Box 539, Crownsville, MD 21032
17-18	Stone Mountain Highland Games & Scottish Festival P.O. Box 14023, Atlanta, GA 30324-1023
24	Waxhaw Gathering of the Clans & Scottish Games P.O. Box 527, Waxhaw, NC 28173
24-25	Richmond Highland Games & Celtic Festival P.O. Box 26805, Richmond, VA 23261-6805

These dates have been taken from The Association of Scottish Games and Festivals website.

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

MISTLETOE



Mistletoe was used by Druid priests 200 years before the birth of Christ in their winter celebrations. They revered the plant since it had no roots yet remained green during the cold months of winter.

The ancient Celtics believed mistletoe to have magical healing powers and used it as an antidote for poison, infertility, and to ward of evil spirits. The plant was also seen as a symbol of peace, and it is said that among Romans, enemies who met under mistletoe would lay down their weapons and embrace.

Scandanavians associated the plant with Frigga, their goddess of love, and it may be from this that we derive the custom of kissing under the mistletoe. Those who kissed under the mistletoe had the promise of happiness and good luck in the following year.

HOLLY, IVY AND GREENERY



In Northern Europe Christmas occurred during the middle of winter, when ghosts and demons could be heard howling in the winter winds. Boughs of holly, believed to have magical powers since they remained green through the harsh winter, were often placed over the doors of homes to drive evil away.

Greenery was also brought indoors to freshen the air and brighten the mood during the long, dreary winter.

Legend also has it that holly sprang from the footsteps of Christ as he walked the earth. The pointed leaves were said to represent the crown of thorns Christ wore while on the cross and the red berries symbolized the blood he shed.

POINSETTIAS



A native Mexican plant, poinsettias were named after Joel R. Poinsett, U.S. ambassador to Mexico who brought the plant to America in 1828. Poinsettias were likely used by Mexican Franciscans in their 17th century Christmas celebrations.

One legend has it that a young Mexican boy, on his way to visit the village Nativity scene, realized he had no gift for the Christ child.

He gathered pretty green branches from along the road and brought them to the church. Though the other children mocked him, when the leaves were laid at the manger, a beautiful star-shaped flower appeared on each branch. The bright red petals, often mistaken for flowers, are actually the upper leaves of the plant.



