

# THE BURNETT BANNER

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

**Edition No 18  
June 2012**

## BURNETT GATHERING 31<sup>ST</sup> JULY - 3<sup>RD</sup> AUGUST 2013

In addition to the programme announced in the previous Banner, there are many other activities events which may have particular appeal to those who have been to Crathes before and to the younger visitor. Details of the full programme will be available next week on [www.burnett.uk.com](http://www.burnett.uk.com)

Details of charges will be available on the website after 15<sup>th</sup> July



### OLYMPIC FLAME COMES TO CRATHES

The Milton of Crathes was privileged in providing a respite for the hard pressed Olympic Torch convoy as it toured Britain in advance of the forthcoming Games. Alexander, Thomas and Hester Burnett (right) with one of the torches. See Page 12



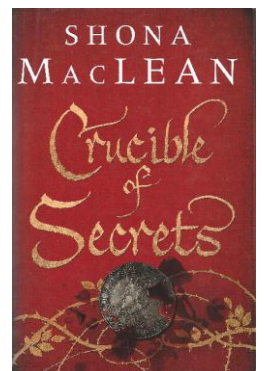
### A BURNETT COAT OF ARMS FROM CANADA

Charles Burnett, The Ross Herald, tells of an interesting grant of arms in Canada. See page 14



### CRUCIBLE OF SECRETS

The latest book by Scotland's most admired young historical novelist, Shona Maclean. This is the third of the life of Alexander Seaton and provides the reader with a brilliantly written and thrilling mystery in 17<sup>th</sup> Century Aberdeen and at Crathes.



See pages 10, 11 & 12

### CRATHES DOWN UNDER

We are proud to have the name of Crathes associated with a successful Australian farming enterprise. See Page 10



## GREETINGS FROM THE HOUSE OF BURNETT SECRETARY!

Greeting to All,

A few of my activities since the spring edition of the Banner.

John Novotny and I were at the Rural Hill/Loch Norman NC. Games on 20-22 Apr. We had a great crowd, especially Saturday with the temperature in the mid 70's. Sunday was a different story, with rain and a cold wind. I left on Monday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April and it was snowing as I drove through the Blue Ridge Mountains.

I was also at the Kentucky Scottish Weekend on 12 May. Again there was a great crowd and I was able to tell the Burnett story to over 20 people. The sad thing I learned was there 30<sup>th</sup> year is their last. They have trouble finding volunteers as we all do.

I want to say welcome to the House of Burnett to David McBurnett and Susan Cooper who joined at the Loch Norman Games and Robin Dupps who joined at the Kentucky Scottish Weekend.

My next trip will be to the Glasgow Kentucky Games on Jun. 01 – 03.

We continue to look for articles and pictures for the Banner. If you have something you wish to share let me know.

Come September we will be looking for members to run for office, either as Board Members or Executive Officers. Throw you hat in the ring.

As I put pen to paper the value of the dollar is doing well verses the Pound. With this in mind and our 2013 trip looming, this is an excellent time to make the trip to visit our ancestral home. Details are on the Burnett web site.

Yours Aye,

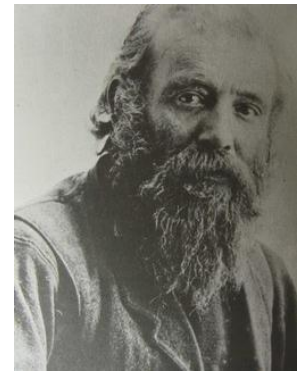
*Leland L Burnett*  
*Secretary, House of Burnett*

## BURNETTS OF THE OLD WEST

**James C. "Justice Jim" Burnett**

Born: 1832, Died: Jul. 1, 1897

Jim Burnett was shot and killed at the O.K. Corral in Tombstone, Arizona. Burnett was the Justice of the Peace in Pearce, Arizona at the time of his death.



James C. Burnett a New Yorker, born about 1832

was associated with the Charleston-San Pedro River-Fort Huachuca area for twenty-five years. Burnett had spunk, raw arrogance and a daring-do that stood him in good stead in this raw frontier region. Burnett was in the area from the beginning. One of the earliest mentions of him is standing by a shallow grave near Charleston in July of 1879, holding a coroner's inquest over the body of Dennis Consadine, a liquor-ridden body with knife wounds and bullet holes in the heart. Such scenes would figure prominently in Burnett's career.

It's hard to pin an occupation on Burnett. He was a rancher, farmer, justice of the peace, sometime-coroner, butcher, livery operator, in fact doing anything he could to assure a reasonable income in this mining and milling community. He was most closely associated with Charleston and with his role as justice of the peace.

As the years passed, Burnett spent more and more time with ranching and cattle sales. He was closely attached to things at Fort Huachuca. He had a butcher operation there, and in the summer of 1895 erected an impressive cold storage center there to handle beef for the U.S. Army.

The Burnett spread was on the San Pedro River near Hereford, and as a neighbor, he had William Cornell Greene, a circumstance that would add one of the more vicious chapters to Cochise County history. Burnett and Greene

disliked each other, probably fated to do so. Burnett was a known scoundrel, a tough guy who had little respect for anyone, who was used to getting his way. Greene was a veteran of the frontier, who did everything from cutting wood to farming, ranching and mining. He had a host of friends, was admired for his dedication, drive, honesty, and intelligence. These neighbors really had little in common.

One thing they had in common was the water on the San Pedro River. In 1897, Greene had placed a small dam on the San Pedro River just above his ranch. James C. Burnett, a neighbor of Greene had a ranch down river a bit, and he had enough water for normal pasture needs. However, Burnett decided to expand his operation, and hired a Chinese crew to build a different dam, and some suggested that Burnett let it be known to the Chinese workers he would not be upset if Greene's dam disappeared.

Sometime during the night of June 24, 1897, the dam was blown up, and the water released. In the afternoon of June 27, Greene's daughters Eva and Ella, along with their friend Katie Corcoran, received permission to go to their regular swimming hole to cool off. Katie jumped in the supposedly shallow pool, and went to the bottom. Ella jumped in, realized the horrible change in depth, and yelled to her sister Eva to "go back, go back!" Eva went for help but it was too late. Ella Greene and Katie Corcoran were dead, because the depth of the swimming hole was enlarged from the blasting of Greene's dam.

On July 1, Greene saw Burnett on Allen Street, near the O.K. Corral. He drilled Burnett with three revolver shots, saying later that, "I have no statement to make other than that man was the cause of my child being drowned." Greene surrendered to Chief of Police Charley Wiser, who then turned Greene over to Sheriff Scott White. Greene, Wiser and White were close friends, and they had a shared dislike of Burnett in many ways. In the subsequent circus like trial in Tombstone, Greene was acquitted.

Another version of the Burnett killing comes from Joseph "Mack" Axford's book "Around

Western Campfires". Axford says that after Greene learned of the death of his daughter he immediately left Cananea, Mexico for Tombstone. Driving up to the O.K. stables, he found Burnett seated in a chair talking to John Montgomery. Greene got out of the buggy and as he approached Burnett, Burnett threw his hands back in order to get up from the chair and Greene shot him just as he raised up, killing him instantly. Greene raising his hand over Burnett's body said, "God's will be done," and turning, walked down to the courthouse and surrendered to Scott White, the sheriff. By the next morning a half million dollars was available to pay Greene's bail. He was tried but found not guilty--stating that when Burnett threw his hands back in order to raise himself from the chair he thought Burnett was going for his gun.

Note\* According to Axford, the swimming hole was approximately a 1/2 mile south of the Greene ranch and the dam approximately 1/4 mile further.

Burnett's ranch was approximately a mile and a half north of Greene's ranch. The San Pedro River flows north into Arizona from Mexico.

James C. Burnett now lies in an unmarked grave at the Tombstone City Cemetery. Note: Burnett's grave is the 3rd grave East of the Conyers headstone.



*Photo by Nina Grey*



*Photo by C Farhey*

Sources:

Cochise County Stalwarts: A Who's Who of the Territorial Years by Lynn R. Bailey and Don Chaput, Westernlore Press, 1st Edition 2000, Tucson, AZ (Photo of James C. Burnett)

Around Western Campfires by Joseph Axford, Pageant Press; 1st Edition (1964), New York

Burial:

Tombstone Cemetery (Old)

Tombstone

Cochise County

Arizona, USA

GPS (lat/lon): 31.7176, -110.0788

Created by: C. Fahey on "Find A Grave.com"  
Memorial# 19436730



## REFLECTIONS FROM THE KINGS SPEECH

As I watched the movie, "The King's Speech", it reminded me of what my mother had told me about going to Buckingham Palace with my Uncle John Burnett when he received his medals from King George VI for the Burma Campaign during WWII. The movie made me think about what it would have been like getting to see my uncle presented his medals. My mother had been there and told me the story.

The weather was mild on this day in 1943. Bridget was fifteen and extremely proud of her brother. The rest of their family was faraway in Scotland and couldn't travel to London because of the war. Bridget had been called at Stafford Hall in Lutterworth, Leicestershire with an invitation to come to London for the ceremony. She felt scared as they approached Buckingham palace. Although Bridget was

very pleased to be with her brother, she was mortified about the clothes she had to wear (Forbes tartan kilt). She had wanted to wear something more casual and ladylike. I told her it was a classic shot. She asked why. I told her it was the Forbes tartan and tradition has it.



The ceremony was brief—only a half an hour, but the grandness of the room made Bridget forget her nervousness. John received his two medals—the military cross and D.S.O from King George VI on that day and backed away from the king after the presentation. Bridget and John had their picture taken outside the gates of the palace and afterward went out to eat at the Overseas League.

*London Gazette December 16 1943.*

### 100 Miles Into Jap Lines

## M.C. TO GALLANT NORTH OFFICER

A TEN-DAYS patrol through 100 miles of Japanese-occupied Burma is described in the story behind the award of the M.C. to Lieut. J. S. F. A. F. Burnett, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, whose mother lives at Old Aberdeen.

Thrusting time after time with his patrols deep into Japanese-controlled territory in the Chindwin River area, Lieut. Burnett brought back military and civil information of the highest importance to his senior officer planning British operations there.

Lieut. Burnett is a nephew of Vice-Admiral R. L. Burnett, of Murmansk convoy fame, Air Marshal Sir Charles Burnett, and Mr A. M. Burnett of Kemnay, Aberdeenshire.

His father, who died several years ago, was Major T. L. F. Burnett, of Ardbrecknish, Argyllshire.

Lieut. Burnett, who entered the army after leaving school, is twenty-four years of age. He is now attached to the Gurkha Rifles. He joined the London Scottish as a private, afterwards being commissioned in the Argylls.

Lieut. Burnett and his patrol, consisting of another officer, a British other rank, a Gurkha naik (corporal), and an interpreter reached the Chindwin on their return journey to find a deserted village and no boats available.

While they were hiding in the jungle sentries detected a Japanese patrol creeping towards them. It was vital they should cross the river at once, but they had no boats and the only strong swimmer was the Scots leader. Two could not swim at all.

Abandoning their clothing, but retaining their weapons, the five men hurried along the river bank and eventually found an overturned boat just big enough for two.

### Twice Capsized

Two men embarked and two held on outside while Lieut. Burnett pushed and swam as best he could. At any moment the pursuing Japs might have opened fire. A strong wind and high waves twice capsized the boat in the deepest part of the river.

Each time it was righted and the crossing was eventually completed with the almost exhausted officer and the Gurkha pushing the boat ashore, and the interpreter lying across it. "Had it not been for Lieut. Burnett in particular the crossing could not have been accomplished without the loss of three lives. This alone was deserving of an award," says the citation.

The official record also mentions four other patrols of between sixty and 130 miles into enemy-occupied territory and lasting six to eight days in each case. They were led so ably by Lieut. Burnett that he was able to bring back information and documents of the highest value to military and civil authorities.

### Exact Dispositions

The reconnaissance which ended with the Chindwin adventure took his party as far as Tommakeng, where a Japanese force was believed to have headquarters. Apart from much valuable general information he was able to obtain the exact dispositions of the enemy in the Tommakeng-Sitawak area. "His reports were most clear and concise," the citation adds.

*Mark Burnett Palumbo*

## HIGHLAND GAMES - PHOENIX, ARIZONA

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The Phoenix Highland Games moved their date back a month from the end of February to the end of March. As a result, the rain that plagued the Games for the last three years was not a problem; there was sunshine both days. The new arrangement of the grounds also was a major improvement. Pictured are John Burnett and his wife, Katie Reese Burnett, (Katie's Great Great-Grandmother is a MacDonald and her Great Grandmother is a Steward)



## HIGHLAND GAMES - LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

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Once again, the Las Vegas Games was the perfect blend of excitement and tranquility. The Highland Games are held in a lush park on the Northern side of the city of Las Vegas, (Floyd Lamb Park, pictured here), while the after-the-Games festivities are at the Fremont Experience in Old Las Vegas. The high-points were the World Record Caber toss sponsored by the Scottish American Athletic Association, 32 Cabers tossed simultaneously indoors at the Fremont Experience, and the 3rd Marine Wing Band performing with the LA Scotts Pipe Band. The Las Vegas Games are held in mid-April each year. The host hotel is the Golden Nugget. The Fremont Experience is a covered mall-like area just outside the Golden Nugget and several other casinos (see pictures below)



To see the video of the world record caber toss and the Marine Band performance send me an email at [azlassie@gmail.com](mailto:azlassie@gmail.com) and I will add you to my email newsletter list. – Jacky Daugherty, President



## BURNETTS OF KALAMAZOO, MI, USA



Jamison Winslow Burnett, born March 4, 2012 with his sister Janelle



Kyle Stuart Burnett with his son Jamison

Hello from Michigan, USA. This part of the Burnett Family came here from the Virginia area about 1950. Burnetts have been in the Virginia area for a couple of hundred years after coming from Europe. Quinter Milton Burnett MD, my father, married Ann Marie Zidzik and settled in Saginaw, Michigan after WW II. They had four children: myself, Quinter the II, 1952, Annabelle Lee, 1956, Jefferey Emerson, 1958, and Bonnie Ann, 1961. Only Annabelle and James Wujkowski had children, Morgan Burnett and Philip Spencer. I married Janis Ruth (it will be 35 years this July) and our children are Kyle Stuart, 1980, Jennifer Nell, 1983, and Cameron Douglas, 1984(see photos). Only Kyle has married. He and his wife Amanda have two children, Janelle Louise, 2009, and Jamison Winslow, 2012. So the Burnett name will continue another generation. I am an Orthopedic Surgeon and have lived in Kalamazoo, Michigan since finishing my training in 1984. My mother, brother, sister Annabelle and son Kyle and grandchildren all live in the area and see each other often. We have found western Michigan to be a wonderful place to live and raise a family. My passion is golf, skiing and playing the Great Highland Pipes. I occasionally even play golf in a kilt. All who know us know we are of Scottish decent and proud of it. My wife and I wish the best to all the Burnetts world wide.



1985



2002

## BUCHAN'S FOUR STAR GENERAL

1875 - 1958



*By Geordie Burnett Stuart*

JTBS was born in the old house (built 1715) at Crichton in 1875 the eldest of 4 boys. He took the Queen's Commission aged 22 and 2 years later he found himself in Northwest India on the Malakand expedition along with Winston Churchill.

Waziristan 1899:-

"We have had a dreadful go of sickness lately. We do not know what will come of it all. They are awful people here who rob their neighbours of cattle and women in a brutal way. I hope we leave this ghastly neighbourhood soon." (sounds like C15 Scotland in the anarchic years after Flodden).

The above was written to his father Eustace Robertson BS back at Crichton.

As many soldiers from ISAF (NATO Afghan forces) have found over the last ten years not much has changed in 115 years in the badlands bordering Afghanistan and Pakistan. By 1903 he was working Heliograph signalling equipment in the Boer War where he met my grandmother Nina. He then spent three happy years in New Zealand turning the colonial era militia into what became the renowned New Zealand army.

When the Great War began he was a highly trained professional soldier able to manage parts of the huge system that came into being to manage the British Empire's greatest test. As he said himself 1914 to 1916 was spent on horseback inspecting the sections of the front he was responsible for. 1917 often doing the same in an armoured car. The final year he spent time in the air. He was surprised at his own survival. He witnessed the signing of the Armistice in November 1918 at Compiègne in the railway carriage that was subsequently burnt by Hitler following the capitulation of the French in 1940.

From 1919-22 he was GOC Southern India and was responsible for managing a significant breakdown of civil order in the Malabar Uprising of 1920-22. This complex Muslim - Hindu confrontation was largely the result of poverty and oppression of the Muslims by the Hindu hierarchy. The British authorities (always very thin on the ground in India - especially in the South) were caught unawares but JTBS had the situation under control within a few months. He used troops with jungle warfare experience such as Gurkhas from Nepal and Chins and Karens from Burma. His methods were in marked contrast to those used by General Dyer in the Punjab at the same time that resulted in the disastrous Amritsar massacre.

Today the officially sanctioned history of the new state of Kerala (created 1959) lays the blame on Colonial Britain. Incorrect - but why not if that keeps Hindus and Muslims from attacking each other?

By the late 1920s General Jock (as he was known) was supervising the first joint armoured warfare exercises in the world on Salisbury Plain. The tactics devised by JFC Fuller and others were later adopted by the German High Command as the Blitzkrieg in 1940 in France

and in 1941 in Russia. While Commander in Chief Middle East (Egypt, Palestine and Arabia) he devised the systems of movement of troops by air and parachute drops that was again copied by the Germans in Crete and the Eastern Front in 1941. JTBS had used this as early as 1932 to put down a revolt in Cyprus.

What interest did the ever hopeless Ministry of Defence take in these tactical masterstrokes? They continued to invoice JTBS personally for many years for the disruption caused to airline passengers by interrupting their flights.

At this time he also saved the career of a young colonel from Ireland called Bernard Law Montgomery. When Monty was recommended for early retirement JTBS wrote on his report "he may be a tiresome officer but the British Army and Empire will have need of him". When Monty got to read his confidential report on becoming a Field Marshal on Jan 1 1945 he immediately sent his new plane (provided by Eisenhower) up to Dyce to bring JTBS out to visit Monty on the North German plains. As a small boy in the 1950s I listened to these two old soldiers discussing life – it was fascinating.

My grandfather liked a dram. "red currant jelly is good for the belly but the dew of Glendronach sweetens the stomach" he used to say. A long and fulfilled life serving King and Country ended with a funeral in the great C12 Winchester Cathedral (home of his beloved Rifle Brigade) attended by 1200 people. Wherever he was in the world he always said he looked forward to the arrival of the Buchanie which he read before anything else.

## WILLIAM BURNETT CLOCKMAKER - KINNIMONTH

Readers may recall articles on Burnett clockmakers in earlier editions of the Banner. These included clock and watchmakers William Burnett, Aberchirder c. 1830, possibly sometimes at New Byth and a William Burnett, Fraserburgh, 1846. I did suggest that these two entries may refer to the same man.

I recently had an enquiry from David Gray who had in the course of enquiries about a long-case clock which he inherited from his parents and was made by William Burnett, clockmaker in Kinnimonth and about whom he would be interested to know more. We do not have a date for the clock but it may be that William was somewhat peripatetic and this indeed was again the same person. It is also possible that he was not the actual maker of the clock itself but assembled it into its eventual form. Regardless, if any reader has any information which might be of interest, I would be pleased to receive it and pass it on to Mr Gray

For interest and as a possible clue to the origin of the clock, David Gray's grandmother, Ellen Mackie of Peterhead, married John Gray, subsequently a director of Liptons, in response to a newspaper advertisement "Would the young lady with whom I had such a pleasant conversation between Maud junction and Peterhead meet me for dinner at 7pm at the Palace Hotel, Peterhead". David Gray always associated the clock with the story and his own journeys on the Great North of Scotland Railway in the Forties. One of the lovely highly polished green and brass locomotives is in the Glasgow Transport Museum. He had the clock overhauled some time ago and it gains 30 seconds a week, striking the hours strongly and clearly.

*James C A Burnett of Leys*



## THE PUZZLE OF THE PURSE

Visitors to Crathes may have noticed a magnificent Charter Purse hanging on a wall in the Muses Room . The only item that I can see on the inventory states that it is the “Charter Purse carried by Richard Bethell, 1st Lord Westbury 1800 – 73, The Lord Chancellor, on special occasions”. It would be carried at State Openings of Parliament, at Coronations, or any other ceremonial occasion when the Lord Chancellor was in his robes. Originally the Purse contained the Great Seal of England.



I don't know why it is in the Castle as we cannot find any direct family link between Richard Bethell, 1st Lord Westbury and the Burnett genealogy. Lord Westbury was only Lord Chancellor for the period between June 1861 and July 1865 at which point he felt obliged to resign because of Parliament's reaction to some reports and appointments.

The only possible link of which we can think is through the Cecil family. Might the Lord Chancellor's Purse have come into the possession of the Cecils and have come to Crathes when my mother returned there?

The Holly & The Horn (pages 98-99) describes how Lord William Cecil was very involved with Queen Victoria's household. His wife, Mary Rothes, was a daughter of William, 1st Baron Amherst who was an Egyptologist who financed Howard Carter's archaeological work prior to Lord Carnarvon. A descendant of Lord Westbury, Captain Richard Bethell\*, son of Richard L.P. Bethell, 3rd Lord Westbury, was personal secretary to Lord Carnarvon and died suddenly of "Heart Failure" four months after

the death of Lord Carnarvon himself. This was reputed to be one in the long list of the "Curse of the Mummy" deaths that followed Carter's discovery & opening of the tomb.

However, we think that this link is so tenuous that we can discount it – but it may be of interest.

Any suggestions will be very much appreciated

*James CA Burnett of Leys*



## WIND TURBINES KINCARDINESHIRE INVENTOR

This is little to do with Burnetts, but very topical at a time when energy derived from wind turbines is universally controversial. Readers may not know that the world's first known wind turbine was probably within view of Crathes Castle.

Professor **James Blyth** MA, LL.D., FRSE (4 April 1839 – 15 May 1906), was a Scottish electrical engineer and academic at Anderson's College, now the University of Strathclyde, in Glasgow. He was a pioneer in the field of electricity generation through wind power and his wind turbine, which was used to light his holiday home in Marykirk, was the world's first-known structure by which electricity was generated from wind power. Blyth patented his design and later developed an improved model which served as an emergency power source at Montrose Lunatic Asylum, Infirmary & Dispensary for the next 30 years. Although Blyth received recognition for his contributions to science, electricity generation by wind power was considered uneconomical and no more wind turbines were built in the United Kingdom until 1951, some 64 years after Blyth built his first prototype. (Thanks to Wikipedia)

Had there been an application to construct a turbine within sight of Crathes today, would there have been an objection?

## CRATHES CHAROLAIS

My google alert frequently brings to my attention the success of the Crathes Charolais cattle herd in Queensland Australia which was started by Keith and Roslyn Glasson (pictured right) in 2002. Keith and Roslyn, being experienced farmers, did not take long to place the herd firmly on the map and Keith is now president of the Charolais Society in Australia, the website below will tell you more about their activities:

[www.crathescharolais.com.au/](http://www.crathescharolais.com.au/)

I wrote and asked whether there is any connection with Crathes and I am delighted to discover that Roslyn, (née Ramsay) and I are fifth cousins.

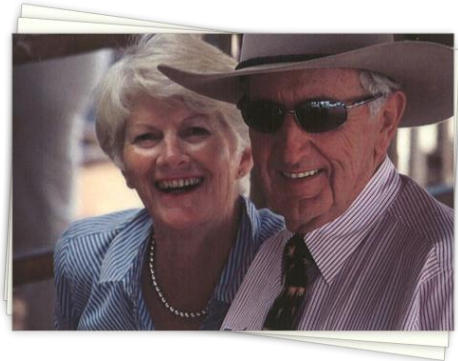
Roslyn's grandfather, Sir Herbert Ramsay, 5th Baronet born in 1868, was a direct descendant of Sir Alexander Burnett Ramsay who was born on 31st July 1757, second son of Sir Thomas Burnett of Leys & Katherine Ramsay. Alexander Burnet became Sheriff of Kincardineshire in 1779 and, in 1782, married Elizabeth Bannerman, daughter of Sir Alexander Bannerman 4th Baronet of Elsick. The Ramsays of Balmain are, therefore, a branch of the Burnetts of Leys.

Alexander Burnett assumed the surname Ramsay by royal licence in connection with the inheritance of the lands of Balmain in Kincardineshire through his mother, Katherine Ramsay. He was created a Baronet in 1806 with the title Sir Alexander Ramsay of Balmain. He was also granted his own Coat of Arms. At great expense, for the time, he built the palatial mansion of Fasque House at Fettercairn. His children used the surname Burnett-Ramsay but later descendants gradually dropped Burnett in favour of Ramsay. Chapter 10 of "Crannog to Castle" details the genealogy of the family up to Sir Alexander Ramsay, 6th Baronet.

Both the 5th & 6th Baronets married & lived in Australia and, as a result, the Burnett Archive has limited information about their

lives, children & dates of death etc. Any further details which could be supplied would be much appreciated.

Keith and Ros visited Crathes in 2002 and hope to be back in 2014, on the way home from the World Charolais congress that is being held in France. We look forward very much to that event



*James C A Burnett of Leys*



## CRATHES AND CRUCIBLE OF SECRETS

*By Shona Maclean*

As a writer of historical fiction, I am often asked



how my background in historical research influences what I write. I think I have always tried to give considered, if not too over-ly-detailed answers, but on reflection, I realise that I have never given the answer that is most true: it has fuelled my sense

of wonder, and it is that sense of wonder that makes my fingers fly over the computer keys when the writing is going well, rather than trudge over them when it isn't. Having grown up in the highlands, where the signature of history is written mainly in geology rather than art or

architecture, my most affecting introduction to Scottish history came through the written word. It was only after I had been introduced to Scottish medieval history at Aberdeen University that I began to look around my country with a kind of astonishment. The deeper in to the history I got, the more my astonishment grew. It continued to grow as I moved in to post-graduate research and the dizzyingly early modern C16th and C17th. My husband had to remind me, more than once, that the individuals with whom I was becoming increasingly obsessed were long-dead, and mattered only to me. Well it transpired that he was wrong, on both counts.

As life took us beyond academia and further in to Aberdeen-shire, I found to my genuine wonder that those C17th century characters had left their mark, culturally and physically, all over the north-east. The town of Banff was a major inspiration for my first novel, *The Redemption of Alexander Seaton*, and I was delighted to be able to include in it characters and places I had come across in my post-graduate research: Robert Gordon of Straloch, George Jamesone, Delgattie Castle. I learned, in the response to that book, that the characters and places, the ideas I was writing about, were far from 'dead' to everyone but me. One letter I got was from a gentleman in Edinburgh, a lawyer by the surname of Burnett. His one disappointment in the book, he told me, was that having searched the characters for one by the name of Burnett, he had found one, only to discover he was one of the most unpleasant figures in the whole story. I promised to make amends to the family in some future novel. Not long afterwards, I was contacted by another branch of the Burnett family, and offered the opportunity to work on a life of Lord Monboddo. It was the kind of opportunity I would have jumped at a couple of years beforehand, but family logistics and publishing commitments meant I was unable to take it up. My sense that I owed the Burnetts some sort of redress was growing.

After a foray into C17th Ulster for my second book, I returned to Aberdeen for my third. Murder mysteries featuring a failed minister turned academic, Alexander Seaton, my stories usually take Alexander on at least one out of town journey in the process of trying to track down the culprit of the piece. The destination needs to be somewhere that interests me, but it also needs to be somewhere that will work well with the themes explored in the plot. In *Crucible of Secrets*, where the librarian of Marischal College has been murdered in a story featuring early experiments in freemasonry in Scotland with its investigations into symbolism and the art of memory, as well as the affects of educational patronage, Crathes Castle, with its magnificent painted ceilings and its laird, the educational benefactor Sir Thomas Burnett of Leys, seemed the ideal choice. That it offered me the chance to redeem myself with the Burnetts made up my mind for me.

I had visited Crathes once, many years ago, when my two older children were toddlers. Of the interior of the castle I remembered very little, other than a terror that one of the said toddlers would break something invaluable. And so I returned alone, in September of 2009, and made a slow and careful tour of the castle, note-book in hand, risking the kind of nervous or curious glances I have become used to from the guides in such places as I note and sketch and stand staring at things long after everyone else has moved on. At Crathes, more than anywhere else, despite its NTS status, I had the feeling that I was intruding in a family home. The High Hall took my breath away 'a fabulous room' I have written in my notebook. In the Long gallery, I could almost see Sir Thomas wearily dealing with the petty criminals who rear their heads in the Spalding Club's *Court Book of Leys*. 8 pages of my notebook for *Crucible of Secrets* are filled with sketches and scribbles of my own impressions to back up what was in the guide book. At home, I read in the *Court Book of Leys*, and spent long hours studying Michael Bath's *Renaissance Decorative Painting in Scotland*, to better understand what the Muses'

Room and the Room of the Nine Nobles intended to communicate.

I spent a long time over the writing and re-writing of the Crathes chapters before my editor ever saw them. My editor, greatly experienced, sees too much detail as the enemy of pace, and much of what I had originally written –both dialogue and descriptive detail – cannot be found in the final version of the book. What I hope remains is a fair, if fleeting, account of a character who struck me as the best kind of Scottish laird of the time: active, benevolent, unflinching and just, as he looks out from George Jamesone’s portrait of him in the High Hall, and an image, however incomplete, of the kind of aesthetic wonder of which this country has long been capable and for which it should be better known. I hope, in some way, my book will encourage others to come and experience that wonder for themselves.



*The flame being passed from a torch to the lamp at Balmoral Castle*



## SCOTTISH PROVERB

Whisky may not cure the common cold, but it fails more agreeably than most other things.



## OLYMPIC FLAME COMES TO CRATHES

We were privileged to play host to the Olympic flame as it passed through Scotland on its tour of Great Britain when the convoy of vehicles and police outriders had a break at Milton of Crathes.

The flame was passed from torch to torch when passing through towns and villages and then to a lamp to be carried in a coach between. Although not qualifying to be one of the torch bearers, I was honoured to be allowed to hold the flame and it felt almost as good as carrying a torch. Others in the family were also able to hold one of the torches before it received the flame. Photos right show the secret of events

*James CA Burnett of Leys*



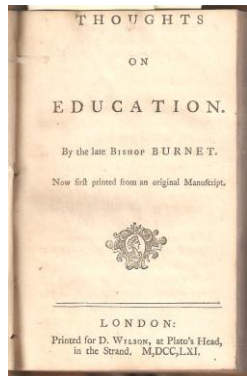
*The editor with the lamp*



## BISHOP BURNETT ON EDUCATION

But next I shall consider how our boy should be trained up. In the first place, the main care should be to infuse in him early, a great sense of Deity, together with a holy reverence to Scripture, joined with a high esteeme of vertuous persons and actions, and as great a contempt of vicious ones. These should be ever and anon repeated and inculcated in children; and as their spirits maturate and ripen, so sould the truths of Christianity be further explained

to them. And that they be the more capable to receive these, a governour sould study to illustrate them, by obviuos and plain metaphors, whereby as they shall be the more distinctly transmitted into the youth's understanding, so they shall be received with affection, and retained tenaciously: and this way is the more to be practiced because youth is not capable of strong reason; and this method did our Saviour practise to his young disciples; and Pythagoras, and all the ancients, taught their profoundest theories and maximes thus. As for vertuous practices, he must be made stil to read Scripture, and study to retain much of it, if his memory be good; he must be taught to pray devoutly, and used to it thrice a-day, good and short forms being given to him for that purpose. A reverence for the Sabbath sould also be begotten in him, as also gravity in all the acts of Christian worship, and hearing sermons. All these his govenour should oblige him by serious and reiterated remonstrances; but chiefly by his own unaffected example.



He must study to wean him insensibly from the love of his palate, and from softnes; but this must be done slowly. Only boldness, arrogance, vainglory, opiniastriety, and talking, must not be much repressed, unlesse they swell to an extravagant height before one be twelve or fourteen yeares of age; for these humours are the chieffe incitements that drive boyes to study; neither are they capable of the contrary impressions; yet it will be necesssary often to discourse to the boy of the excellence of the vertues opposite to these; and to teach the boy reason in all his actions, and to doe nothing wilfully, a master sould injoyn him nothing but that for which he shews himself good reason.

*The Editor*

## THE PUDDOCK

*There is a strong tradition in Scotland which believes in the equality of man and a dislike of "airs and graces". Here is a little poem by J. M. Caie about pride coming before a fall...*

A Puddock sat by the lochan's brim,  
 An' he thocht there was never a puddock like him.  
 He sat on his hurdies, he waggled his legs,  
 An' cockit his heid as he glowered throu' the seggs  
 The bigsy wee cratur' was feelin' that prood,  
 He gapit his mou' an' he croakit oot lood  
 "Gin ye'd a' like tae see a richt puddock," quo' he,  
 "Ye'll never, I'll sweer, get a better nor me.  
 I've fem'lies an' wives an' a weel-plenished hame,  
 Wi' drink for my thrapple an' meat for my wame.  
 The lasses aye thocht me a fine strappin' chiel,  
 An' I ken I'm a rale bonny singer as weel.  
 I'm nae gaun tae blaw, but the truth I maun tell-  
 I believe I'm the verra MacPuddock himsel'."

A heron was hungry an' needin' tae sup,  
 Sae he nabbit th' puddock and gollup't him up;  
 Syne 'runkled his feathers: "A peer thing," quo' he,  
 "But-puddocks is nae as fat as they eesed tae be."

*Meaning of unusual words:*

puddock=frog  
 hurdies=buttocks  
 seggs=yellow iris  
 gapit=gaped open  
 gin=if  
 thrapple=throat  
 wame=stomach  
 chiel=child  
 blaw=boast  
 nabbit=grabbed  
 syne=afterwards  
 peer=poor





## A BURNETT COAT OF ARMS FROM CANADA

Since 4<sup>th</sup> June 1988 Canada has had its own Heraldic Authority which comes under the Office of the Governor General of Canada in Ottawa as part of the Canadian honours system. Any individual Canadian or Canadian corporate body can petition for Arms and several grants are very interesting as they have been given to native Canadian and Inuit organisations which reflect their unique cultures.

The heraldic system differs from that of the United Kingdom insofar that Arms no longer reflect the name. For example a female Burnett with Arms who marries, takes her husband's name, and gives that name to her children can also give them her Arms, although the surname is quite different.

Recently I was told of a Canadian coat of arms which was granted in March 1998 to Mrs Miriam Louise Burnett of Toronto. The announcement of the Letters Patent was made on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2001 in Volume 135 of the Canadian Gazette.



The armiger was a Burnett by marriage, her own surname was Weston. She was the daughter of Garfield Weston, a Canadian bakery and grocery magnate. The Weston family are probably the second wealthiest family in Canada after the Thomson newspaper family. One of the Weston family properties in London is Selfridge's department store.

Mrs Burnett was for many years Chairman of the W Garfield Weston Foundation which disburses sums of money for charitable and cultural purposes for the benefit of Canadians. There is also a United Kingdom Weston Foundation. Mrs Burnett died in Richmond, Virginia on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2008.

As can be seen there are two elements in her coat of arms taken from the Scottish version of the Burnett Arms – the hunting horn held in the beak of the crest eagle, and one holly leaf. The eagle and chevron division of the shield are taken from the Arms of her brother, Galen Weston, who was the first to record Weston Arms, and the inescutcheons bearing ancient crowns are a reference to the Arms of the Commonwealth of Virginia in the United States which was the birthplace of her husband who was a Virginian Burnett. Thus her Arms symbolise several connections in a way entirely personal in the best traditions of the heraldic system.

*Charles Burnett. Ross Herald*



## SCOTTISH SAYINGS

I'll gie ye a skelpit lug!  
*I'll give you a slap on the ear*

Gie it laldy  
*Do something with gusto*

Haud yer wheesht!  
*Be quiet*

Whit's fur ye'll no go by ye!  
*What's meant to happen will happen*

## DURRIS/CRATHES BRIDGE

Malcolm Dewar, from Manitoba and whose mother was a Burnett, sat next to our President, Jackelyn Daugherty, at a Burns Dinner in Phoenix last year. Both Malcolm's grandfather Frank Smith and his wife Mary Coutts were from Banchory. The original Crathes to Durriss Bridge over the Dee was a few yards downstream from the current one. The piers and the approaches were made of hand hewn stone and the bridge of steel. Only the centre pillar now remains standing in the River Dee close to the newer Crathes Bridge. The stone mason was his great-great-grandfather, John Smith. Malcolm's Burnett forebears could be related to the Burnetts of Leys with the only answer being that the relationship is indeterminate in that there was very probably an unrecorded connection. The Durriss Bridge was on the Leys Estate until 1953

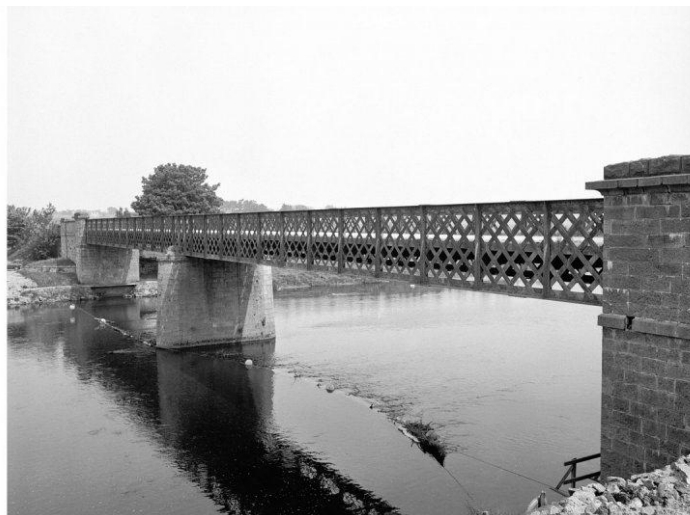
In our initial search we found that Frank Smith's grandfather was on the Leys rentals as tenant of Lochhead at one time. Married to Mary Jane Coutts in 1907 in the Burnett Hotel in Banchory, he appeared to emigrate to Canada soon afterwards. Frank was born at Craigside, Banchory, son of John Smith, Master Mason, and his wife Annie Birss, whose mother was born Elizabeth Coutts. Mary Jane Coutts was the daughter of William Coutts, Farmer at Westerton, Durriss, and his wife Margaret. John Smith of Lochhead, Banchory and Annie Birss were married in 1870.

The tenant at the neighbouring farm, (Lochton), is Alan Coutts and I passed on the correspondence to him. Lochton and Lochhead Farms border on the Loch of Leys in which lies the Crannog on which the Burnetts lived before moving 'ashore'. Alan and his wife Aileen had no difficulty picking out the Coutts interest in the information. Mary Jane Coutts who married Frank Smith and emigrated to Canada is the daughter of William Coutts who was Alan's great-grandfather. These cousins have since enjoyed fruitful correspondence.

For the interest of historical engineers, it is believed that the Durriss Bridge was originally commissioned and owned by Alexander Mactier who, in 1862, hired James Tod & Son, Engineers of Edinburgh to design it and Smith & Dey, builders of Durriss to construct it. Family wisdom has always been that it was Frank's family who built it and his age and dates suggest that he may not have been sufficiently old to be a principal in such a major project. It is quite likely that the family business included farming and stone masonry and Frank, his father and grandfather all worked on the bridge

PS. For those who have access to the January issue of SCOTS magazine will find an article on Malcolm's DEWAR family and a picture of a bronze plaque which he had installed in a rural cemetery in eastern Ontario in 2010.

The Editor



## TRADITIONAL SCOTTISH RECIPES

### ABERNETHY BISCUITS

*Surprisingly, Abernethy biscuits do not get their name from the town in Perthshire but from a Dr Abernethy who suggested the addition of caraway seeds and sugar to plain biscuits. And of course a "biscuit" in America is a "cookie"!*

#### Ingredients:

8 oz plain flour  
3 oz caster sugar (granulated will do)  
3 oz butter  
Half a level teaspoon baking powder  
Half a level teaspoon of caraway seeds  
One tablespoon milk  
One standard egg

#### Method:

Sift the flour and baking powder and rub in the butter until it is thoroughly mixed. Mix in the sugar and caraway seeds and then add the egg and milk to make a stiff dough.

Roll the mixture on a floured surface until it is the thickness required for a biscuit/cookie. Cut out with a three-inch plain cutter, rolling the trimmings to make more, as required. Prick the top of the biscuits with a fork and place on greased baking trays (cookie sheets) and bake in a pre-heated oven at 375F/190C/Gas Mark 5 for ten minutes until golden brown. After they have cooled, store in an airtight tin (unless you can't resist eating them all immediately!)



### BUTTERSCOTCH

*That sweet tooth for which Scots have a reputation means that there are many traditional confectionary recipes. But quite why a brittle sweet (candy) made from butter and sugar should be named "Scotch" is lost in the mists of time. The ingredients below will make about one pound (450g) of butterscotch.*

#### Ingredients:

One pound (500g or 2½ cups) granulated sugar  
Quarter pint (150ml or two-thirds of a cup) water  
3 ounces (90g or ¾ stick) unsalted (sweet) butter  
One teaspoon (5ml) lemon juice  
Quarter teaspoon (1.5ml) cream of tartar  
Quarter teaspoon (1.5ml) vanilla essence (extract)  
Oil for greasing a baking tin (pan)

#### Method:

Well oil an 11" x 7" (28cm x 18cm) shallow baking tin (pan). Put the water and lemon juice in a heavy-based saucepan and heat until slightly warm. Stir in the sugar and continue to heat gently, stirring with a wooden spoon, until all the sugar has been thoroughly dissolved. Don't allow it to boil.

Stir in the cream of tartar and bring to the boil to 115C/242F on a sugar thermometer (or until a teaspoonful of the mixture forms a soft ball when it is dropped into a cup of cold water.

Remove from the heat and beat in the butter. Return to the heat and boil to 138C/280F or when a teaspoon of the mixture forms a thin thread when dropped into a cup of cold water. (The thread will bend and break when pressed between the fingers)

Remove from the heat and beat in the vanilla essence (extract). Pour into the oiled tin and leave until it is almost set. Then mark into small rectangles with a knife. When it is completely set, break into pieces and store in an airtight container.