

# BURNETT BANNER

The Official House of Burnett Newsletter

## POETRY CONTEST WINNER

Robert Morehead

"At the Wound"

I wandered, then, a forest thick with trees.  
The path ahead was dark, obscured, obtuse  
And thorny branches there my flesh did seize,  
Virescit vulnere virtus.

Where in this thicket rest the hallowed House  
Where all my mother's kindred dwell diffuse?  
Press on! Ignore the ripping at my blouse,  
Virescit vulnere virtus!

Behold! The path spills to a clearing bright,  
Behold a castle tall my horn lets loose!  
I cut my hand gripping the holly tight,  
Virescit vulnere virtus!

*Special thanks to Phil Kestner, Dennis Greene,  
and Edward Barnett for also submitting entries!  
All were excellent and will be published at  
[www.houseofburnett.org](http://www.houseofburnett.org) in the Writers and  
Storytellers Forum in the coming weeks.*



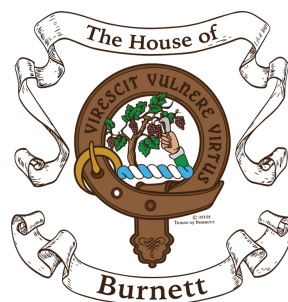
## LETTER FROM CRATHES

James C.A. Burnett of Leys



A major recent event has been the opening by the Princess Royal of the new Pavilion for the four Rugby Pitches at Woodend. Alexander was responsible for the creation of this new facility.

Alexander greets the Princess Royal on her arrival and, below, speaks to Fiona Burnett and Malcom Hutton, a Monboddo descendant whose late wife, Jacqueline, contributed generously towards the pavilion. **Continued on page 2**



### IN THIS ISSUE:

Letter From Crathes- 1

Sports- 4

Burnetts Who Made a Difference- 6

Origins- 12

Visitors to Crathes- 15

Connections to Crathes- 17

Heraldry- 21

News & Publications- 23



Piping at Delgatie Castle



## Letter From Crathes- continued from page 1

A young member of the Banchory and District Pipe Band, Archie Cowie, was privileged to accompany the legendary Stuart Liddell at a recital at Delgatie Castle. Stuart is the current Glenfiddich Champion and Pipe Major of the World Champion Inveraray and District Pipe Band.

The name of Burnett was honoured as Archie wears the Burnett of Leys tartan as a member of the Pipe Band. Delgatie was built around 1049 but rebuilt in the 16th century and has largely been in the Hay family for the last 650 years. The invention of the siege gun necessitated greater fortifications, and the 1570 rebuilding provided 8-16 feet thick walls. The main tower dates from about 1100.

Delgatie was taken from the Earl of Buchan after the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314, when Robert the Bruce routed the invading English army. Mary Queen of Scots stayed at Delgatie for three days after the Battle of Corrachie in 1562.

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

At the tender age of 10, Archie is also to play for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022, playing Diu Regnare, composed by Stuart Liddell.

## Hidden Scotland Opens at Milton of Crathes

The retail and planning space quietly re-opened its doors to visitors in August. The stunning space has been transformed with a wide range of specially selected products, which have all been created by Scottish makers. There's everything from greeting cards to jewelry, candles and dog treats! The space also has a planning station, which will help and inspire people's future travels across Scotland. The team also publishes the "Hidden Scotland" magazine, which has a popular following in Europe and beyond! You can follow the team on Facebook and Instagram. <https://hiddenscotland.co/>



Picture courtesy of Press and Journal

## Heraldry Restoration at Crathes

The National Trust for Scotland has begun the much-needed conservation work to the Heraldic Panels on the south elevation of the Castle.

## Aboyne Highland Gathering

The Aboyne Highland Games took place in August although on a much reduced scale. Members of the Aboyne Highland Games Committee gathered on Aboyne Green after the Chief's Banner was raised, which is the traditional way of opening the Games.



## Crathes Gardens Dooocot

The doocot (Pigeon House) is located in the south-east corner of the walled garden and was rebuilt in this location in 1937. Previously the doocot was on the south side of the Courtyard Steading, possibly near the south-west corner of the west side where small un-named buildings are shown on the 1864 and 1901 plans. Included in Section 2 of the archive is a 'Specification of Mason works of a Pigeon House at Crathes' dated June 11th, 1859.

The following is an extract from the Historic Landscape Survey 1997. Although from an 'Anonymous Lady', there is no reason to believe that she is other than my Great Aunt Ethel.



"The pigeon yard with its Dooocot - an invariable adjunct to a country house - was adjacent to the Castle on the South-west. The dovecot recently moved into the garden from North of the old courtyard was built about 1866". The precise location of this older 'pigeon yard' has not been discovered. Some have considered the pavilions on the east side of the croquet lawn to have been doocots, although Anonymous Lady does not mention this, and a pigeon house would have been more likely at the edge of the garden rather than centrally within the garden.

The building is rubble-built with a forestair and slated pyramidal roof. No pigeon-stalls were included in its reconstruction. A stone taken from the old House of Parliament in Westminster was included in its construction.

My challenge was to decipher the inscription. I conclude that this is Domine Salvum Fac Regem (God save the King), but I cannot decipher 'Regem'. Any assistance is welcome.

# THE SPORTS PAGE

## Upcoming Highland Games

### Stone Mountain Highland Games

Stone Mountain, Georgia

October 15-17, 2021

### Richland Highland Games

Richlands, Virginia

October 30, 2021

### Tucson Celtic Festival & Scottish Highland Games

Tucson, Arizona

November 5, 2021

### Charleston Highland Games & Highland Gathering

Charleston, SC

November 5, 2021

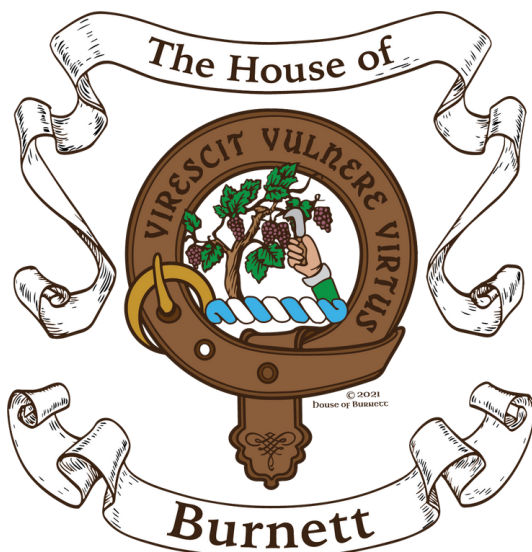


## TOSSING HEAVY OBJECTS WHILE WEARING A KILT: MY NEW ADVENTURES AS A HIGHLAND ATHLETE

Callie Snead

I have participated in multiple sports since I was a wee lass and growing up on my Grandpa Burnett's farm in Iowa. I was raised to get my hands dirty, be tough, and work hard at everything I did. I visited Scotland as part of my first international trip five years ago. It is still difficult to describe, but there was something about how I felt in Scotland. It was as if my soul belonged there. I was relaxed and felt at peace. I loved the people, loved the landscape, loved the raw history at every turn. Since that trip, I have taken an Ancestry DNA test and started a genealogical research journey on my family. Because of my complexion of sunburns and freckles, I had always assumed I was primarily of Irish descent. My test results showed, however, that I have more than twice as much Scottish DNA than Irish.

Fast forward to the year 2020 and we go into lockdown here in North Carolina where I now live and work. I intended to use the quiet quarantine time to do some soul searching and make more time for some of the things I truly enjoy. Being athletic and feeling strong has always made me feel like the best version of myself and learning about Scottish culture was something I started to really enjoy. When I learned there were women Highland Game athletes, my wheels started turning. I have never been afraid to try new adventures, especially those that would challenge me physically. **Continued on page 5**



## Callie Snead- continued from page 4

I knew little about highland athletics and no female competitors, so I set out with the best resource at my disposal – the Internet. I found the S.H.A.G (Southeast Highland Athletics Group) website and sent an e-mail to the Athletic Director asking about local contacts, practices, and clinics. The first line of his reply was, “As always it is great to have someone new join us here at SHAG.” He advised me to join their Facebook group and post that I was looking for a local practice and instruction. I had several very welcoming responses and found a group of women based in Rock Hill, South Carolina who invited me to practice with them late in June. They were terrific! They taught me the basics, gave me tips, recorded me, and let me practice with them - all with great patience and encouragement. Of course, most games were cancelled in 2020, but I was able to find one in Virginia and a charity event in eastern N.C. so that I could experience my first tastes of competition.



I am a competitive person, but I had low expectations at these events. I knew I was going to be at a disadvantage with my 5'2" frame and lack of experience. But the other women athletes, who ranged from newbies like myself to world record holders, welcomed me and offered great support. I was in absolute awe of their talent and finesse. No matter their elite status, they encouraged and cheered for any type of personal triumph. My fellow competitors, as well as the judges offered tips, instruction, and answered all my seemingly million questions. Although I don't get to practice with the implements as often as I would like, I began powerlifting to build my strength and I began practicing my footwork at home. I have been able to get a couple of more competitions under my kilt this year and am planning to compete in a few more Games before the end of the year.



I love the challenge that competing in the Highland Games presents. It's not all about an individual's strength and muscle, but much of the success lies in the technical form. Each athlete is required to participate in all events. This challenges even the most elite athletes because one cannot “opt out” of events. I may not ever win an overall Highland Game competition or hold any world records, but I strive to continue learning, improving in at least one event every competition, and try not to finish in last place (there's that competitive spirit lurking). The community is friendly, fun, and supportive. This is much of the reason I keep coming back. I may not become one of the best Highland Game athletes, as Brian and Brent Burnett can proudly represent for our House of Burnett, but I will work hard and won't give up without a fight. That, I believe, is also a true representation of having Burnett blood running through me. *Virescit Vulnere Virtus!*



# BURNETTS WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE

## RAYMOND ALFRED ARTHUR BURNETT

### Bob Burnett

Raymond Alfred Arthur Burnett was born in the small town of Matamata in New Zealand on the 29th of September 1921.

He had a great childhood growing up on the North Shore of Auckland, spending many hours at the beach. His mother, Netta, died from an aneurism when Ray was just 12 years old, and for the next few years his life was quite tumultuous as his father was devastated by the loss of his beloved wife, and Ray was sent to live with various other families.

In 1940, one year into World War II, he and three friends decided to volunteer to go fight the Hun. It would be an awesome adventure they thought. Ray was the youngest of the group and was in fact under the legal recruitment age. Ironically, of the four, he was the only one accepted.

His father's brother, Arthur, died in World War I (one of the over 500,000 whose body was never recovered) and Ray was sure his father would object and get him withdrawn. However, he eventually agreed to let him go.



In December 1940, Ray embarked on the Empress of Russia bound for Egypt and almost five years of hell.

The first action Ray saw was in Greece and after evacuation from there, in and around Egypt. He later was involved in action in Libya, which saw the Allied forces up against Rommel and his Afrika Corp.

**Continued on page 7**



## REMEMBERING THOMAS E. BURNETT, JR., HERO OF UNITED FLIGHT 93, SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

Jackelyn A. Daugherty,  
Secretary, Lieutenant

"The passengers of United Flight 93 were the first Americans to fight Al-Qaeda" - Rob O'Neil, the Navy Seal attributed with killing Osama Bin Laden.

Thomas Edward Burnett, Jr. (May 29, 1963 – September 11, 2001) was the vice-president and chief operating officer of Thoratec Corporation, a medical device company based in Pleasanton, California. He resided in San Ramon, California. On September 11, 2001, Burnett was a passenger on board United Airlines Flight 93 which was hijacked as part of the September 11 attacks. He died when the plane crashed into a field in Stonycreek Township near Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

**Continued on page 10**



## Raymond Alfred Arthur Burnett- continued from page 6

Through the ineptitude of his “superiors,” Ray and his platoon were forced to surrender to the German Army in November 1941. As part of the Axis pact, Germany handed all of its POWs to the Italians, so they became Italian POWs.

Several hundred POWs were herded on the merchant ship Jason (sailing under the name Sebastiano Veniero) which was unmarked as having prisoners on board.

Ray states in his memoirs, “The single file of prisoners was being directed towards the bow, but as I stepped on deck the officer put his arm across my chest to make me stop. He then pointed towards the stern and motioned for me to head in that direction. Such is fate, those of our group who were ahead of me went into the forward holds and a number of them were killed!”

Halfway across the Mediterranean, the Sebastiano Veniero was torpedoed by a Royal Navy submarine, the Porpoise. Many lives were lost, and the Italian crew, holding back the POWs at gunpoint, abandoned ship leaving hundreds of POWs to go down with the sinking ship. Fortunately, a lone German engineer remained behind and he and several prisoners managed to steer the stricken ship to land near Methoni.

As Ray recalls, “A warrant officer brought the German to the back of the superstructure and called on us to show our appreciation. In an instant he was given three rousing cheers for having saved our lives. A guy standing near me said to his mate, ‘Christ, I never expected to see the day when I would be glad to cheer a German.’ “

The next few years were hell on earth for Ray, first as a prisoner of the Italians - who he had a deep hatred for to the day he died - and then the Germans who held him prisoner in several different camps in Italy, Germany, and Poland.

Ray’s memoirs of his period as a POW span over 50 pages, and his experiences have brought both tears and laughter to those who have read them. His grandchildren and great-grandchildren are all in awe of him and what he went through.

In the dying stages of the war, Ray and several thousand POWs were forced to march in atrocious winter conditions with little to no food as the Germans tried to outrun the approaching Russians. Prisoners simply dropped dead and were left on the side of the road.

As Ray recalls, “After several more days of marching, we halted at the gates to Stalag 3A. It was another collection centre on the outskirts of Luckenwalde, a large town 70km southeast of Berlin. It was the 16th of April, and if you include the layover days, the march had lasted 66 days, but it is difficult to be exact in working out how far we eventually marched. It is ironic that we had marched 700 odd kilometres since we left Gorlitz to get away from the Russians and finished up 200km from Gorlitz in the direct path of the Red Army’s assault on Berlin.”

With the Russians rapidly approaching, the German guards disappeared and for a few days they were “free.” Then the Russians arrived and suddenly they became prisoners of the Russians (their allies!!!). The Russians used them as bargaining chips and refused to allow them to leave, even to the extent of beating up a US Lieutenant who arrived with US troops to liberate them. After many tense standoffs, they were eventually released.

“In mid-afternoon we arrived at the bank of the river Elbe near Leipzig, got off the trucks and were led down to a pontoon footbridge. One by one we walked onto the planks of the bridge and started to walk towards the other side of the river. I have no doubts that most of the others felt as I did, an almost uncontrollable desire to run in case the Russians changed their minds about releasing us. There were a large number of Americans waiting at the other end of the bridge, and it was wonderful to see their smiling faces as I stepped off the bridge. It was the 30th of May 1945, and I was free at last after three years six months and two days as a POW.” Ray eventually managed to return home relatively unscathed but suffered medical issues resulting from his time as a POW for the rest of his life.

Ray met up with a fellow POW back in his hometown and was introduced to his sister Nancy. Ray and Nancy were married in December 1946. After a stint as a builder with his father and brother, Ray decided to re-join the Army and was fortunate to be based in his hometown of Papakura. Ray and Nancy had two daughters and two sons.

Ray took an interest in speedboat racing and, together with his wife’s nephew as a mechanic, consistently won the Most Reliable Boat and Handicap trophies over the six years they raced together. For a few years, Ray also was the president of the Manukau Speedboat Club. However, after witnessing a fatal crash at a boat race, Ray decided to sell his boat and give up racing.

In September 1960, the North Island of New Zealand experienced severe flooding, and Ray was sent to one of the worst spots with a crew of engineers to help shore up levee banks and assist in evacuations. He was awarded a BEM (British Empire Medal) for his efforts. He loved saying “I got a BEM for sitting on my BUM,” but his colleagues and his family all knew he thoroughly deserved the medal. Ironically, in 1974 Ray and Nancy’s beautiful new riverfront home was totally inundated in the Australia Day floods in Brisbane.

Ray retired from the Army in 1971, and he, Nancy and youngest son Bob immigrated to Brisbane, Australia.

Ray first became interested in his family history in his 80s after the death of his wife Nancy. He initially visited a Latter-day Saints research centre where he pored over microfiche. He eventually taught himself

how to use a computer via the Internet. He was a great researcher and his work lay the foundation for many others. He soon found many new “cousins” with whom to exchange information. He taught himself Microsoft Word and wrote five memoirs spanning his life. All who have received a copy have been impressed with the details and stories contained within. It is amazing what a fantastic life this man had.

Although he lost most of his sight in his later years, Ray continued researching and writing using me as his eyes. His memory was fantastic, his cognitive skills amazing, and he loved nothing more than the chance to sit and talk about the many things he had seen and done in his life.

I sent a request to James Burnett (Chief of the name Burnett) asking if he would mind sending a message to Dad on his 90th birthday and was thrilled when he not only sent through birthday wishes but also a copy of the Holly and the Horn with a signed personal note. Dad was ecstatic, and for a few weeks I would sit with him and read it to him. His retention was amazing, as later when we were chatting, he would bring up something from the book.

Dad had a DNA test with Ancestry.com and this opened several new branches of family and also led to “meeting” relatives. One, Shaun Burnett, asked Dad if he would have a DNA test as part of the Burnett Y-DNA project which was trying to map the many different branches of Burnetts around the world. So, at 96 Dad contributed to this project, and whilst initially disappointed that it seemed to point us away from the Burnetts of Leys, was fascinated with the results which mirrored his research from 15 years earlier.

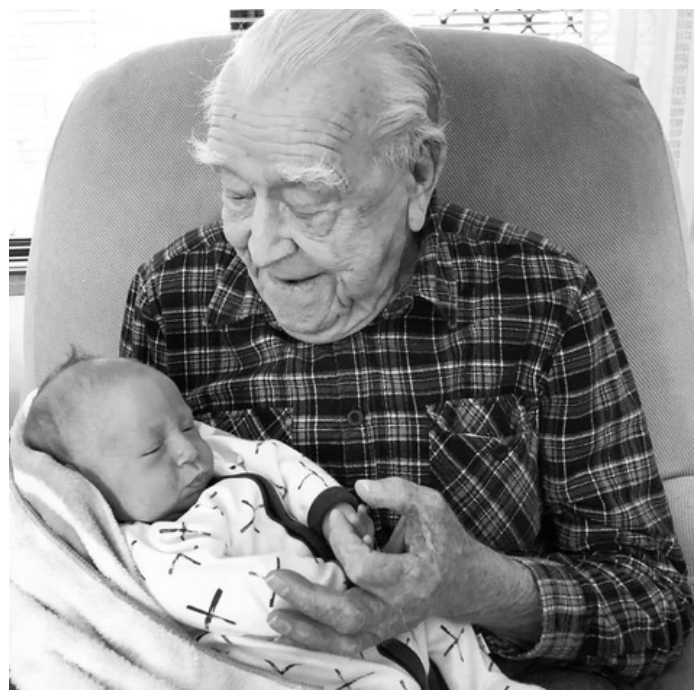
A couple of years ago my brother and his daughters visited the United Kingdom and Europe and were able to visit many of the places that Dad had found as part of his research: the birthplaces and homes of his grandparents and ancestors, as well as visiting Crathes and meeting James. Through today’s technology, Dad was able to be there with them, and I loved watching the smile on his face as I read out emails and would describe photos to him. Later my sister and brother did a trip

together and revisited some of the places and some new ones, and I would again read out the emails and describe the photos and Dad would be transported there.

A mark of how respected Dad was were the number of family (both on his side, and my mother’s side) from New Zealand who would visit Dad and spend time chatting with him.

Dad passed away in his sleep in March 2020 at 98 ½ years and is sorely missed by his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, relatives and many friends.

September 29th would be his 100th birthday.



## The Hero of Flight 93- continued from page 6

### The Warrior.

On September 11, 2001, while on board United Airlines Flight 93, Burnett sat next to passenger Mark Bingham. Burnett called his wife, Deena, after hijackers took control of the plane. He made several phone calls to her beginning at 09:30:32 from rows 24 and 25, though he was assigned a seat in row four. Burnett explained that the plane had been hijacked by men claiming to have a bomb. He also said that a passenger had been stabbed with a knife and that he believed the bomb threat was a ruse to control the passengers. During his second call to her, she relayed to him the attacks on the World Trade Center, and he replied that the hijackers were "talking about crashing this plane...Oh, my God, It's a suicide mission." He began pumping her for information about the attacks, interrupting her from time to time to tell the others nearby what she was saying. Then he hung up. Upon learning of the situation, Deena, a former flight attendant, recalled her training and urged Burnett to sit quietly and not draw attention to himself. However, Burnett instead informed her that he and three other passengers, Mark Bingham, Todd Beamer and Jeremy Glick, were forming a plan to take the plane back from the hijackers and leading other passengers in this effort. He ended his last call by saying, "Don't worry, we're going to do something." Burnett and several other passengers stormed the cockpit, foiling the hijackers' plan to crash the plane into the White House or Capitol Building. The cockpit voice recorder captured Burnett yelling, "Roll it!", possibly referring to using the food cart. To prevent the passengers from regaining control of the plane, the hijackers crashed it in a Pennsylvania field, killing all 44 people on board.

### The Man - By Deena Burnett

It has been said that those aboard Flight 93 were just ordinary people. There was nothing ordinary about Tom Burnett. He was, in short, exceptional.

He had skills and maturity that far exceeded his 38 years. He had the respect and admiration of all who knew him. He was bright, driven, and competitive. He loved a competition, in anything. He liked to win, and usually did. But he did this in a way that elevated those around him. He had a keen wit and always helped to lighten any situation with his humor. He had high ideals and principles, and he expected a great deal of himself, and of others. He had a very strong sense of right and wrong and was solidly rooted in the strength of his convictions. Tom had an innate ability to gather information, assess situations

and react quickly to resolve them. He attributed his success to the fact he always made sure the odds were in his favor...by bringing in other people when necessary.

He was a man's man. Not in a way that wears machismo like a tattoo, but in the strength of his character, in the courage of his convictions, in the depth of his love for his family, in his modesty and reticence to self-aggrandize, in the moment-to-moment expressions of his nimble mind and quick wit, in his easy and seamless fit into the form of a leader of people, and in the depth of his faith.

All of this is high praise. Tom would be embarrassed by what he would call hyperbole, for he believed in the judicious and measured use of language, saving exceptional words for exceptional people or things. This is exactly what I have done. I know I speak not just for myself, but for the entire family, his friends, colleagues and indeed the entire nation: Tom, we love you, we miss you, and we thank you.



*Tom Burnett with his wife Deena and three daughters; twins Madison and Halley and Anna Clare*

## **Educational and Professional Information**

Born and raised in Bloomington, Minnesota, Tom attended public schools Ridgeview Elementary, Olson Middle School, and graduated with honors from Thomas Jefferson High School. Wearing number 11 in high school, Tom played quarterback for the Jefferson Jaguars and was recruited to play football by several universities and chose Saint John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota. He enjoyed the conversations and discourse with the Benedictine monks who lived there, and often said his experience provided incredible depth to his faith in God. After two years, an injury shortened his football career and he transferred to the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota. He was named President of the Alpha Kappa Psi Fraternity, then later graduated with a B.S. degree in Finance. Working with Thoratec, a medical device company, he climbed the ladder to corporate success quickly. He received an M.B.A. degree from Pepperdine University and was making plans to work on his doctorate.

## **Interests**

Tom often joked that he was one of the last Renaissance men left. He enjoyed a variety of interests that ranged from hunting, fishing and golfing to fine wines, cigars and travel. He could engage you in a conversation about the ideas of ancient Greek philosophers and leave you sitting in the dust when debating political issues. At the same time, he cherished his time with his father on "the farm" used as a hunting lodge retreat near Siren, Wisconsin. Tom was an avid reader, often choosing a subject and reading as many books on the subject as possible. During the past five years, his subjects included American wars as well as Presidents of the United States. His most recent subject was Winston Churchill. He had busts of Teddy Roosevelt, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Winston Churchill in his office. When I asked why he wanted them, he replied, "The lives they led and the decisions they made were uncommon. I see them and am reminded of the importance of doing what is right in the face of adversity."

Tom had a goal to retire from business at the age of 40 and often spoke of plans that ranged from teaching to running for political office. If he had made a career change, he would have done so superbly, but he was much too good at running a company and would have always had increasingly tempting opportunities that would have competed with that dream.

## **Family**

Tom had a strong attachment to his family and felt a deep bond to his mother, father and sisters. He loved his wife dearly and he adored his three young daughters, believing them to be perfect...as it should be.

## **Memorials**

Thomas E. Burnett, Jr.'s remains were eventually recovered and interred in Fort Snelling National Cemetery, Minneapolis, Minnesota. His name can be found on Panel S-68 of the National September 11 Memorial in Manhattan, New York City, New York, and on the Flight 93 National Memorial in Shanksville, Somerset County, Pennsylvania.

# BURNETT OF LEYS PATERNAL LINE REVEALED

Terry Barwin & Lawrence Pearse, Volunteer  
House of Burnett Genealogists

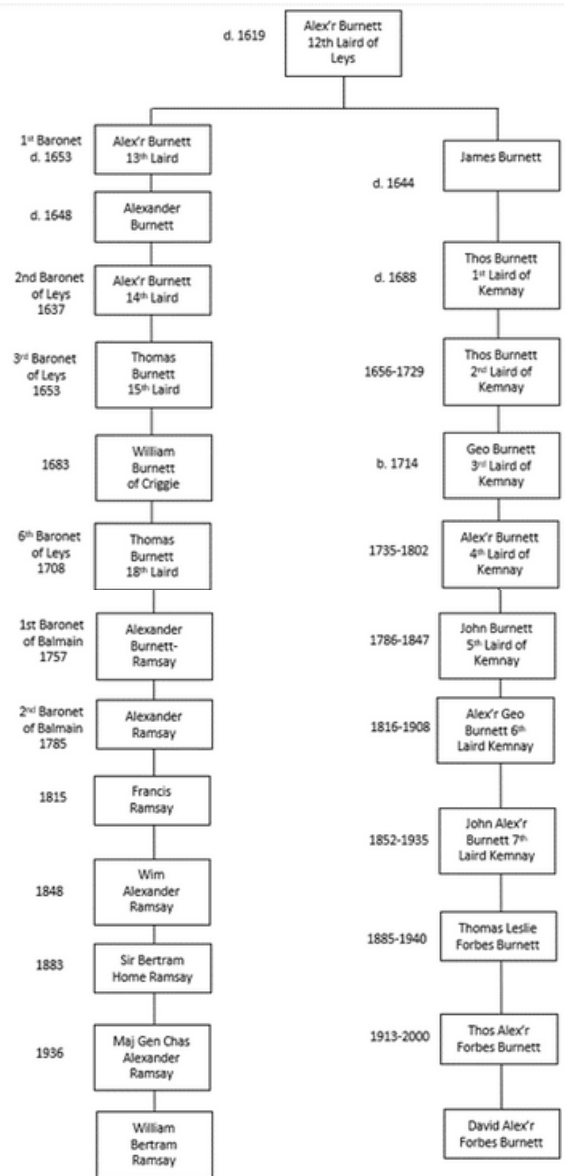


For the past two years, we have been in search of male descendants of Burnett of Leys who have a credible family tree to take the Y-DNA test. The Y-DNA test analyzes the Y-chromosome, passed only from father to son. You can think of the Y-chromosome as a Treasure Chest, holding an encoded history of a man's paternal ancestors. The Y-DNA test can decode the chromosome, revealing other men who share your paternal line and the ancient migration path of your line. The test can identify two men who share a common paternal ancestor within the past 1,000 years or more. The results of this test could be used much like Cinderella's Glass Slipper - any testers that match these results could be automatically identified as descendants of Burnett of Leys. Recently two men, William Bertram Ramsay and David Alexander Forbes Burnett who have such proof were identified and agreed to take the test. Both testers had a strong paper trail back to Alexander Burnett 12th Laird of Leys, but through very different paths, the first through Ramsays of Balmain and the 2nd through Kemnay. The chart below shows their respective descents. Their test results matched to each other thus providing the first scientific confirmation of the Burnett of Leys paternal line. Their results also identified a match to a third tester, Robert Beaven Burnett who could not prove his line back to Burnett of Leys but had always believed and been told that he descended from this line. We will introduce the three testers below.

It is important to note that while these results uniquely identify this main line of Burnett of Leys, there were multiple "collateral branches" of Leys including Monboddo, Craigmyle, Camphill, Elrick, Kirkhill and Crimond. From credible documentary evidence, Monboddo, Craigmyle, Kirkhill and Crimond all connect directly to the Leys paternal line. Recent research by Lawrence Pearse has identified a descendant of the Camphill and Elrick Burnett line who has also agreed to test. His results, just in, prove that the Campbell-Elrick line descends from this

same Leys paternal line. The documentary evidence to prove this connection has not yet been identified, but the Y-DNA results prove the shared paternal line.

Additional paternal lines of a family are created whenever a male takes a surname which is different from the surname of his biological father. This is called "NPE" or Non-Paternal Event. NPEs are common in all families. As in the example of the Ramsay line above, any male that married into Leys and changed his name to Burnett would have created a new paternal Burnett line if he changed his name to Burnett and fathered sons. Similarly, if a male descendant inherited the line through his mother and changed his name to Burnett, this could also create a new paternal line. Although we have a recent example of this in the Burnett of Leys line, no examples of this in the more ancient parts of the line have yet been identified. Any sons who were adopted into the family could have also created a new paternal Burnett line. **Continued on 13**



# Burnett of Leys- continued from page 12

## 1. William Bertram Ramsay

Will is a descendant of Ramsays of Balmain and was the first to test for us. Although Will's surname is Ramsay, his paternal line traces back to Burnett of Leys. His 5th great grandfather, Sir Thomas Burnett of Leys, the 18th Laird and 6th Baronet, married Katherine Ramsay, and their eldest son Robert inherited the Burnett baronetcy. Their second son was Alexander Burnett, Will's 4th great grandfather. When his mother's brother, Sir Alexander Ramsay Irvine, 6th Baronet Balmain, died without an heir in 1806, he bequeathed his estates to his nephew Alexander, and a few months later the Balmain baronetcy was revived in favour of Burnett. Alexander changed his surname to Ramsay by royal licence, and his descendants continued to take the Ramsay name. So, although Will's surname is Ramsay, his paternal line traces directly back to Burnett of Leys.

Will is Founder & CEO, Ramsay Fairs, incorporating The Affordable Art Fair, VOLTA, and Will's Art Warehouse (<https://affordableartfair.com/art/>) and Co-Owner: Art Central, Taipei Dangdai, Queen's Fine Art. Will is also Vice-Chairman, Scotland In Union, the main pro-UK Campaigning group opposing Scottish Nationalism and independence.

## 2. David Alexander Forbes Burnett

David was a Warrant Officer Class 1 in the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC), Serving for 33 years until medically discharged in 2010 due to upper spinal injury, now disabled. He lives in Leven, Fife on the east coast of Scotland.

David is a descendant of the Kemnay branch of Leys. He and Will share Alexander Burnett, 12th Laird of Leys as their most recent common ancestor. Alexander died in 1619. The first Baronet of Kemnay was Thomas Burnett, Alexander's grandson by his third son James. The Vertical Pedigree Chart above shows the two lines joining at their most recent common ancestor.

David's higher-level test results confirm the documentary evidence that he descends from the same paternal line as Will.

## 3. Robert Beaven Burnett

Rob, a Canadian, matches this line as well. We have not yet identified exactly how his ancestors link into the Leys line. His tree has been traced to Francis Burnett b. 1754 Clatt, Aberdeenshire d. 1841 Kennethmont, Aberdeenshire and Elizabeth Wilkie-Burnett. Rob's higher level test results reveal that he also descends from Alexander Burnett, 12th Laird, or perhaps from a brother or first-second cousin of the 12th Laird (meaning his shared ancestor may be one or two generations earlier than the 12th Laird). Rob has provided us with this background and comments:

"My working life was mostly in sales and sales management for large international consumer goods and electronics corporations across Canada. I retired to Pender Island, one of the Southern Gulf Islands, between Vancouver and Victoria British Columbia, where I have been involved in various community activities. There are a considerable number of Burnetts in central Ontario, where my father was raised, and he often attended Burnett reunions in that area with sometimes as many as 150 people. He had some information on the family history and had always believed that we were descendants of the Burnetts of Leys. I must confess that I had little interest until my later years and included a visit to Crathes in our June 2019 trip to England, Scotland and Wales. Our visit to Crathes is something I will remember forever, as we were treated like royalty by the staff on hand. We would love to return. In late 2020, I read about Terry Barwin's work and thought it would be a wonderful way to prove or disprove the family lore."



# VISITORS TO CRATHES



## James C.A. Burnett of Leys

We were delighted that a number of Burnetts decided to find a way of addressing the restrictions and to come to Scotland and Crathes.

A highlight was Michael and Nan Du Burnett's wedding which was held in the Golden Garden on Sunday, August 8th. I was pleased to meet them briefly before their tour of the Castle. Michael and Nan Du live in Toronto.

Michael James Cameron Burnett is the son of Iain and Anne Burnett whom I must thank for the following information. Michael was named after Captain Sir Michael Howard Livesay, KCB. Before moving to Canada, Iain worked for Westland Helicopters in Yeovil, supplying Lynx helicopters to the Royal Navy – including the very first of type. During that time in the mid to late 70's I became a civilian flying instructor supporting the gliding club at HMS Heron, RNAS Yeovilton.

Captain Livesay was an enthusiastic glider pilot and I reported to him when he was Chief Flying Instructor of the club. I admired and respected him, and I named my son after him. Interestingly, in February 1976, Prince Charles was given command of the coastal minehunter HMS Bronington. At that time Captain Livesay was Captain, Fishery Protection and Mine Counter Measures and as such was Prince Charles's Commanding Officer.



It would be interesting to know if Prince Charles also has fond memories and appreciation of Captain Livesay's influence in those formative years of his life. Livesay ended his illustrious career as Admiral Sir Michael Howard Livesay, KCB, Second Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Personnel. He died in 2003 leaving his wife Lady Sally Livesay, who I believe lives in Crieff or Auchterarder, and two daughters. **Continued on page 16**



## Visitors To Crathes - continued from page 16

### Mike and Hilda Burnett

Mike is a former Conservative councillor and candidate for the UK and European Parliament. It was unfortunate that he was not able to meet up with Alexander.



### James and Dalia Scheffler, Frida and Liam

James is on assignment from the U.S. They've lived in Suffolk for the last 3 1/2 years. His great grandmother was Lena Rivers Thompson born in 1905 - he believes in Kentucky - and died in Southfield, Michigan in 1984. Lena's father was Cay W. Thompson 1884- 1964 both Kentucky. Cay's mother was Nancy A. "Nannie" Burnett, born 30-APR-1860, died 10-MAR-1932, born and died in Kentucky.



### Jeff and Ashli Stokes, Kate and Charlie

Ashli's grandmother, Georgia Burnett (Purkey), was from Virginia.

Jeff works for Alight. Ashli Quesinberry Stokes, Ph.D. is Professor, Communication Studies, Director, Communication Studies Honors Program and American Studies Faculty Affiliate at the University of North Carolina in Charlotte.

Ashli is in the process of writing a book for the University of South Carolina Press about Scottish/Scots-Irish food traditions and identity. It is a visiting Professorship Award, University of Edinburgh, College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences - Communication, Journalism & Related Programs. A brief bio about Ashli and her project is found on (<https://www.fulbright.org.uk/about-us/meet-our-fulbrighters/2021-22-us-uk-fulbright-award-grantees/2021-22-american-scholar-award-grantees>):

### Lee and Anoushka Roberts, Jimmy, Hamish, and Agnes

Anoushka is my niece, but I thought that the first family visit and photo should be included in the Banner. Lee and Anoushka both work in television. I also like to show the photograph of the children beside the pool in the Crathes Garden alongside their grandfather (2nd right) 75 years earlier and his siblings.



# CONNECTING TO CRATHES

## STOKED FOR SCOTLAND

Dr. Ashli Quesinberry Stokes

I had never been to the Grandfather Mountain Games and had no idea what to expect. But this past July, my writing partner, Wendy, and I were there to explore how Scottish history is used to promote North Carolina tourism. We're writing a book about Scots-Irish food traditions in Appalachia and their links to Scottish food traditions, so we knew it was an important research stop. I had another interest in going though: my great-grandparents were Burnettes. Growing up in the small town of Hillsville, Virginia, in the Southwest Virginia Blue Ridge mountains, talking about family histories was a popular pastime, especially with my Granny Burnette. Until the last few years or so, though, I had not really explored my Scots-Irish roots. As I would come to find out, beginning that search would lead to many exciting adventures and meaningful discoveries.

On the first morning of the Games, Wendy and I split up to take an initial look around. The first family tent I went up to was the Burnette tent, simply because I didn't know how the Games "worked" and I thought that might be a good start. Indeed, it was! Members of the Burnette family, including Terry and Jim, immediately welcomed me and told me more about family history, inviting me to take a look at some of the family artifacts and books. I mentioned early on that my grandmother was a Burnette, and Terry exclaimed, "well, then you are one of us!" I'd realize later more about what that meant.

After a full day at the Games, marveling at the pageantry and evident pride in all things Scottish, my family and I returned to our campsite. As I was out walking with my 7-year-old son, I saw a man jogging in the distance. As we got nearer each other, I realized it was Terry, who immediately invited me to a Burnette dinner to be held the following night. The meaning of being "part of the family" had already begun. **Continued on page 18**



## MY BURNETT JOURNEY

Eric Burnette

Several years ago, I was given a gift-- seeing Crathes with my daughter, Gretchen Burnette, on her senior trip. I did not know as we drove up the Highlands in our little rental car that I was to meet a site that would cause such emotional and life-changing responses in me. There is something soul-moving about Crathes Castle in Aberdeenshire Scotland. For many, it is a weekend or holiday destination, perhaps a historical curiosity, but to Burnetts around the world- to me it is a point of origin.

I have always been a bit of a history buff; I love the stories of my family and our genealogy. I was always interested but did not devote much time to discovering it myself. My sister Leah Burnette Hoins was the family researcher, and I would just help as it suited us, but one trip to Crathes changed that.

As I stood in the great hall upstairs in Crathes I experienced a connection that is religious to some, deeply spiritual to others. It may be called supernatural. Gazing, studying the dark panels making a grid across the ceiling, each patch filled with the Coat of Arms of families the Burnetts married into, it was then I felt I belonged. I was no longer a single Burnett living in Iowa. **Continued on page 19**



## Stoked for Scotland- continued from page 17

The next evening, I sat with Burnette family members, talking about their connection to the family name, their interest in attending Scottish Games in the U.S., their plans to visit Scotland, all while enjoying delicious smoked chicken and Southern-style side dishes. I told Terry a little bit more about my book project at dinner, explaining that I'd soon be leaving for Scotland on a Fulbright Fellowship at the University of Edinburgh. I'd be there to research Scottish food traditions and interview Scots about how they feel about their culinary history and legacy linking them to the Scots-Irish in the United States. When Terry told me he'd connect me with the Chief of the Name, James

Burnett, once I got to Scotland, I thought he was joking. He wasn't! As I would continue to learn, Burnetts really are interested in meeting other Burnetts, no matter how many generations have passed.

In August, on our first full weekend in Scotland, my family and I decided to cram as many sites of interest as possible on a quick visit, exploring Pitlochry, Scone Palace, Loch Ness (no Nessie, at least that day), Culloden, Inverness, Aberdeen, and even important "re-fueling" stops at the Macallan and Glen Moray (we're definitely going back to the Macallan). On a whim on Saturday, I emailed Terry that we'd be stopping by Crathes Castle on Sunday to take our first look. Terry immediately sprang into action, and within an hour, I learned that James Burnett would be meeting me the next day. Jamie graciously took the time to tell me a little bit about the Castles history, kindly giving me a book to learn more about the family name, and led my two children around its beautiful gardens. I had to be back in Edinburgh later that evening for a University reception, but we are eagerly planning our next, more extended visit, where I want to slow down and let the region's history wash over me and reveal its intricacies.

We've now been in Edinburgh for about six weeks, trying to make the very most of our visit. We've added visits to North Berwick, Tantallon Castle, North Queensferry, Burntisland, Loch Lomond, and Glasgow to our collection. We've taken boat tours, viewing the world's largest flock of gannets near Bass Rock and seeing the distinct dividing line between Highland and Lowland Scotland on Loch Lomond. We've eaten fish and chips, meat pies and sausage rolls, Cullen skink, porridge, and my particular favorite, sticky toffee pudding. I'm busy writing and setting up appointments to talk with Scots who carry on its proud food and drink traditions, including Nairn's, maker of oatcakes, various whisky and gin distillers, representatives of regional food promotion associations, and many more. I want to talk with McSweeney's, famous maker of haggis, the Lees family about its famous teacakes, and the Baxter jam company. Along the way, I'm going to ask regular folks what they think about Scotland, as seen through its traditional and contemporary foods, over a pint in a pub.

When I say that I get to talk to people about their food traditions as part of my job, they often think at first that I am joking. It is indeed a privilege to share such stories. University professors often say that Fulbright Fellowships are a gift, a rare opportunity to explore, reflect, and connect. I am starting to learn what they mean, more each day.

If you know someone I should talk to about Scottish or Scots-Irish food or drink, please let me know at [AQStokes@uncc.edu](mailto:AQStokes@uncc.edu). In the meantime, you're invited to follow our adventures on Instagram at [@StokedforScotland!](https://www.instagram.com/StokedforScotland/)

## My Burnett Journey- continued from page 17

I was part of a group of Burnetts living through history. There was a home beyond my immediate family's home that I would forever have a connection to.

The tour guide was a delightful elderly lady whose grandmother was a Burnett, and as we talked about Crathes I began to feel as though I was part of something bigger than just my own life. I carried a family name of noble and wise women and men that transcend the time and situations of my 21st century life. I began to feel history and see my ancestry not as names on a chart but as women and men that fought for freedom, raised families, dealt with issues both foreign and domestic. They searched for meaning in everything, things we ignore today. They explored the Highlands, started businesses, raised families, suffered under tyranny and fought for freedom on many fronts.

I left that trip with just a smattering of information and a full heart that would turn into an obsession of gathering knowledge about the Burnett names, dates, etymology, and history. I began researching and spending time reading and developing maps of the origins of the name and royal charters. I pulled together information from everywhere I could find that would begin to tell a story of not just one Burnett but many. That was my launching point. Over the next three years I devoured as much information as I could. Through my research I was able to fill gaps, correct misinformation, and expand on what all of us felt, but nobody knew. I pored over wills, analyzed marriage and birth certificates, and the more I learned, the more I needed to know.

I returned to Crathes in 2019, and this time it was very different. I knew that I needed to spend more time than just an afternoon at the castle, so I planned a ten-day trip that covered all things Burnett. Little did I know that ten days did not begin to scratch the surface of all I wanted to Learn. Terry Burnett helped connect me with a private tour of the Castle with Jamie Burnett, the laird of the family. I cannot speak highly enough of the hospitality shown me by the Burnetts of Leys. Jamie spent a couple of hours with me answering questions and taking me back to his childhood and what Crathes meant to him. I was again gifted with an awakening. I was treated like a friend, given all the time I needed to explore and seek information in the castle. The lessons on heraldry and history are unmatched. The painted ceilings came alive with knowledge and understanding. There is no way to explain the feeling that moves through you as you stand where your ancestors did, inside the history of your family. It's as if all ancestral time aligned with my footsteps as I walked through the gardens and along the river Dee history and ancestry came alive to me.

As I toured the grounds over the next few days, I began to see Crathes differently. It's not just a castle; it's a home. It was a home to men who served in World War Two, and for at least a little while, it gave them rest as the greatest generation saved us from fascism. It's a home to history and knowledge sought from across the world. Those that look to know where they came from and where they belong find it within the walls of Crathes. It's more than a garden and more than a ground. It's the story-keeper for Burnetts around the world. It's not just our past, it's the holder of the history of our future as well.



I have begun work on a project that I hope to finish in the spring of 2022. It's a video log of my time at Crathes and Aberdeenshire. I hope this project will inspire other Burnetts not only to go to Crathes and feel history for themselves but to also reach out and learn each other's stories as well. Scottish, American, Canadian, Australian or British-- reach out to a Burnett and begin to listen to the history of that family and find how it relates to your own line of Burnett. You will see how important family has been and continues to be. When this pandemic is finished I will return to Crathes, if to do nothing else than sit in the grass and listen to what my Ancestors are whispering.



# HERALDRY

## THE HERALDIC CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Charles J Burnett –  
Queen’s Herald in Scotland

At the very end of this month All Hallows Eve, or Hallo’een, will be upon us. The old Scots way of neep lanterns lit to brighten the dark evening has been usurped by the American practices of pumpkins and ‘trick or treat’, but not all morbid Scottish traditions have fallen by the wayside.

When it comes to things morbid, heraldry is there to play its part because human nature is such that people want to be remembered after they have gone. Possessing a coat of arms that can descend through many generations is the nearest thing to immortality!

There is one example in Scotland of remembrance in the form of a portrait of a brutally murdered corpse, painted for exacting revenge. The Bonnie Earl o’ Moray was killed at Donnibristle in Fife on 7th February 1591 by George, 6th Earl of Huntly, who deliberately slashed his victim’s face, stabbed and shot him, then set fire to his residence. Feuds between noble families were common in Scotland at the time. Although the Morays complained to the king, James VI, they never did get redress, and George Gordon was later promoted to be 1st Marquess of Huntly!



Symbols of mortality can be found in many Scottish kirkyards; this example is at Peathill near Rosehearty. The initials are for Alexander Lord Pitsligo and show a skull, an hourglass to remind us how quickly time flies by, and below, crossed bones and crossed gravedigger’s tools. The date commemorates the year when Lord Forbes of Pitsligo created the Kirk and its kirkyard.



This sandstone monument is in Birnie Kirk, Moray, and commemorates a former minister of the Kirk and his two daughters. He was Mr William Sanders. In this instance, Mr stands for Magister, a title given to those who had a university degree. He died on 13 May 1670. The stone carries at the top the monogram of the deceased and his wife Jean Falconer above their impaled coat of arms. On the left the Arms of Sanders – a chevron between three crescents is displayed, and on the right a falcon’s head above a heart for Falconer. The shield is flanked by a coffin and an hourglass. His initials, WS, can be seen on either side of the monument above winged heads which symbolize the soul of the dead leaving the body and rising to heaven.



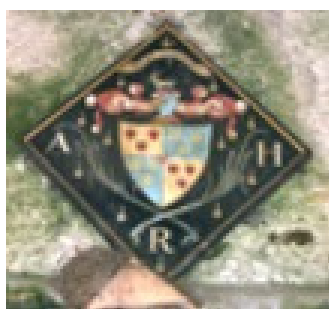
Continued on page 22

## The Heraldic Celebration of Life - continued from page 21



This splendid stone carving is above the entrance of the burial vault of Sir Robert Montgomery of Skelmorlie in Largs on the south-west coast of Scotland. Inside the vault is an imposing tomb under a tempera-painted ceiling. The vault was finished before his death in 1636, allowing him to attend rehearsals of his own funeral to ensure they were done to his satisfaction! The impaled shield carries his Arms and those of his wife Dame Margaret Douglas. The shield is flanked by two bunches of fruit which are being consumed by two wriggling worms, an indication of the corruptibility of the flesh after death. The stone carver obviously had an interesting sense of morbid humour!

A painted wood monument similar to this one that stands over a metre and half high and a metre wide, is a very Scottish way of showing pride of descent. In the centre of this oval panel are the Arms of John Carre of Cavers, and his wife Margaret Wauchop, who died on 30 January 1709. These are flanked on the left side by eight ancestral coats of arms of John Carre and on the right side by eight ancestral coats of arms of his wife Margaret Wauchop. In France the true mark of gentle birth was the possession of sixteen armigerous ancestors. It might have been hung originally over the entrance of the Carre residence to indicate the death of Margaret Wauchop. The panel can now be seen in the Museum of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh.



The more usual shape for a painting of a dead person's Arms is a lozenge. This is called a funeral hatchment and normally two were painted. One to hang above the entrance of the deceased's home and the other to be hung over the place of interment. This remarkable surviving example commemorates Andrew Hay of Rannes who died on 27th August 1789, and it can be seen hanging in the vault over his tomb in the kirkyard of Rannes just south of Buckie. Note the bird's nest below the hatchment which has given shelter to a new generation of winged creatures.

The owner of this funeral hatchment is fortunately still with us, but like Sir Robert Montgomery of Skelmorlie, he wanted to make sure his hatchment would be of an appropriate artistic standard. It shows his elaborate coat of arms on the left with those of his wife on the right. Beneath his shield is the Cross Badge of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, and at the bottom the Badge of Slains Pursuivant of Arms to the Earl of Errol, Lord High Constable of Scotland. The hatchment will be used to decorate the church where the owner's funeral service will eventually be held.



Heraldry on a funeral monument or hatchment continues to serve its purpose after death by identifying an individual and celebrating his or her life-time achievements.

**FOR EVERY CATHOLIC.  
FOR EVERY CHRISTIAN.  
LETTIE MURIEL BURNETT  
1880-1966**

Available to download now via Amazon  
for only £2.19 - <https://amzn.to/3hVMxrV>

This book is a compilation of letters from and writings about Lettie Muriel Burnett, her younger days, her life at Tsarskoe Selo and as Mistress General at the Convent of the Sacred Heart at Roehampton. They allow an understanding of the nature and character of a lady who gave her life wholly for the benefit of others.

A monstrous grandfather with a loathing for Roman Catholicism.

A father, forbidden to be a Catholic until on his deathbed, but never known to have said anything unkind about his own father, allows the estate of this lower noble Scottish family to fall to its knees

**Continued on page 24**

## EDITORIAL BOARD

**James C.A. Burnett of Leys**  
Editor-in-Chief

**Michelle Baker Lee**  
Managing Editor

**Chris Burnette**

**Anna Shumpert**

**Gretchen Burnette**

**Terry Burnett**

**Interested in submitting an article  
for publication? Contact  
[michellebakerlee@yahoo.com](mailto:michellebakerlee@yahoo.com)**



## BURNETT GATHERING 2023

We shall shortly be starting to give out details of the 2023 Gathering which will be July 31st to August 6th at Crathes.

The programme will be similar to that of 2017. Plans include tours on Monday and Tuesday with evening events with supper. We have learned that touring can be exhausting, particularly after a long journey to Scotland. On Wednesday there will be guided tours of the Castle and Gardens and Loch of Leys include a lunch and a number of options during the afternoon. There will be events on Thursday and on Friday there will be local tours including one to Aberdeen and another Dunnottar Castle and a Ceilidh in the evening. Saturday is Aboyne Highland Gathering day and a farewell Bar-B-Que in the evening.

There will be a package of events for visitors who wish to attend most on the programme, but that will not preclude others from attending only a few of their choice.

For previous Gatherings, during the second week, visitors have wanted to explore other parts of Scotland including Edinburgh and the Highlands. We shall be considering options for this. 2023 is a significant date inasmuch as we regard the year as the 700th anniversary of the Burnett arrival on Deeside.

Not surprisingly, our neighbours, the Irvines of Drum have a similar regard for that date as both families were simultaneously granted their lands from King Robert the Bruce. They also intend to mark the date with a Gathering.

David Irvine of Drum became known to many who have been to our Gatherings when he gave us guided tours of Drum on several occasions. David is sadly no longer with us, but his son, Sandy, is and is continuing with the relationship that his father had with their former home which is also owned by the National Trust for Scotland. Sandy and his family have come to live in Banchory although his work currently takes him to Edinburgh during the week. **Continued on 24**

## The Burnett Gathering 2023 - continued from page 23

Whilst the Burnetts and Irvines have existed peacefully as neighbours for 700 years, they may or may not do so during the week of the 2023 Gathering. Whilst we will consider if and how we can peacefully share events, we will also be seeking to enter into competition which may be as keenly fought as in the days of clan warfare of earlier centuries.

More energetic than his more aged neighbour of today, Sandy has just taken part in the unofficial Lonach Highland Gathering. This is normally preceded by the Lonach Highlanders marching down the glen to the games and 'calling in' at a number of stops on the way for a drop of whisky. Although not in uniform and despite the cancellation of the Gathering itself, the Men of Lonach saw no reason to cancel this part of the event.

Sandy was accompanied on the march by our good friend and herald, Gordon Casely, who has participated on several occasions at our Burnett Gatherings.



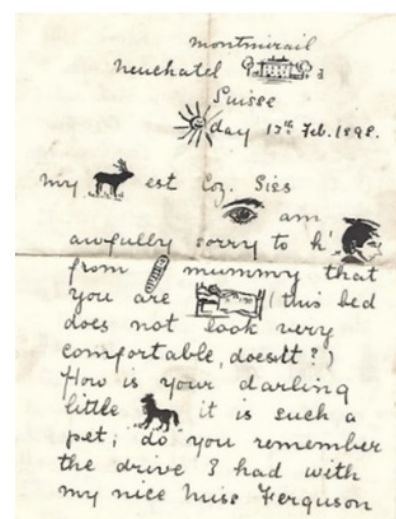
## Lettie Muriel Burnett - Continued from page 23

A teenage daughter chooses to commit to the service of God. As a teenager, she is determined to become a Catholic despite family opposition. With her brothers, she brings the family back to be amongst the most celebrated, and herself a legend in her own time.

That daughter is Lettie.

"In 1890 I was in Princes Street with my nurse. At the far end was a gypsy with budgerigars who offered to tell fortunes. On the tray were a number of tiny coloured envelopes and the bird, when taken from the cage, would pick out one with its beak. My nurse let me ask for one. I read what was inside but would not let my nurse see, but, as I dropped the envelope, she picked up and read 'You will enter a Convent'.

Lettie became a Roman Catholic in December 1903.



## Russia

"Dearest Mum

I shall write to you next week and tell you about this new place I've gone to. It is half hour by train from St Petersburg where the Tsar now lives."

In Scotland, where Lettie was born and brought up, history hangs about the shoulders like a cloak. In Russia Lettie seeks such solid antiquity in vain. "The spirit of serfdom still hangs about a bit. In the days of serfdom the serfs were referred to as 'souls' and you reckoned the value of an estate by the number of 'souls' on it.



### Convent of the Sacred Heart at Roehampton

"My dear Mrs Dunlop "

...Half term and all had been going splendidly as regards health when Mary complained on Monday (two days ago) morning of not feeling very well and as she had a slight throat, I sent her to the infirmary - a temperature of 100°. that evening, and Tuesday a rash all over, which the doctor says is Scarlet Fever. Yours as always in Christ. L M Burnett rscj"

We get an insight into her duties as Headmistress. She was responsible for the welfare of every single girl in the school and her concern for Mary and Ann Dunlop's safety is clear in every line.

As Mistress General she was always ready to take a class if a nun fell ill, and no matter what the class was meant to be, it was always Scottish History if given by Mother Burnett, and very racy history at that!



### Mother Burnett's Room

The world is wide, the hills are high, the rivers deep and clear,  
So many things to think about, so much to see and hear  
But write I not of dream-known lands, where flowers ever bloom  
The sacred place I dare to praise, is Mother Burnett's Room

And so, when I am older if the world is seldom kind,  
If I know not what to do, nor where advice to find,  
The memory of childhood, when the night is filled with gloom,  
Will take me up the marble stair, to Mother Burnett's room.

Lettie died in a home near Aberdeen in 1966. Her philosophy was not very obtuse. Life is to be lived on its own terms - we had to learn to live in the world as we found it. Our Mistress General knew the world and understood what each child needed to compete with it. She gave everything she had. Like it or not, once one had been under M.B., one would never again be quite free of her.

## Lettie Muriel Burnett- continued from page 25

All proceeds from the sale of Lettie Muriel Burnett will be divided equally between:

### **Mary's Meals**

Supplies food for school children in Africa to encourage parents to send their children to school.

[www.marysmeals.org.uk](http://www.marysmeals.org.uk)

### **Kemnay House Maintenance Trust**

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

### **Leys Charitable Trust**

Assisting with heritage and conservation projects at Crathes

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

[www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/crathes-castle](http://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/crathes-castle)

