

Burns Historical Society Newsletter

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www.burnshistory.org

A Message From the President

-- Melody Daniel

As we approach the 30th reunion and annual meeting of the Burns Historical Society, it is a time to look back at our history as an organization and to look toward our future growth. In the past, we've stayed connected through meetings, phone calls, and mailings. These methods have worked well to keep our extended family in touch. In an age of pervasive technology and a shrinking world, though, it's time to expand our cache of communication tools. I'm proud to announce the creation of two new Burns family web sites: **burnshistory.org** is dedicated to the Burns Historical Society, and **burnsreunion.info** is a central source of information on the annual reunion.

The two new web sites are linked to one another and – although there is a lot of room for improvement – they already offer functionality to our members and guests. Features include a map and up-to-the-minute weather information for our meeting location, a forum for discussion of topics of interest to the group, a guest book for visitors to the reunion site, and a photo album from the 2006 reunion. Soon, archives of past newsletters will be available along with a simple tool for submission of newsletter articles. This will make staying connected easier than ever before. We will also feature family history and photos of previous Burns generations. If you have photos and/or stories to add to this collection, please email them to me at melody@teamdaniel.com.

When Dr. Jerome Volney (J.V.) Burns had the inspiration to start this annual family gathering 30 years ago, he could not have imagined the ease of sharing information and photos that the internet provides to us today. J.V. was devoted to the preservation of our family history and the continuation of relation-



The Burns Family Coat of Arms

ships as our family continued to grow and spread. These new web sites support that original mission, but nothing can replace person-to-person connection. This is why I deeply hope that each and every person who reads this will join us for the 30th annual Burns reunion next month – and that each of you will bring someone who has not come before.

For those who attend the reunions regularly, this is a great time to visit with immediate and extended family members you don't see that often; for those who have not attended before, the 30th anniversary is the perfect time to see what it's all about. Please join us on August 4th for what we hope will be the biggest and best Burns reunion yet, and the start of the next 30 years of family history!

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30th Annual Reunion Saturday, August 4, 2007

The 30th annual reunion of the Burns Historical Society is set for **Saturday, August 4, 2007** at the Family Life Center of the New Prospect Baptist Church in New Prospect, SC. This event is a reunion of descendants of James and Lavina Ford Burns and their related families, friends, and anyone else interested in the Burns connections. **The hall will open at 11:00 a.m. to provide gathering time for visiting, fellowship, and exhibits.**

Everyone is invited to enjoy a picnic lunch at 12:30 p.m. Those who live in the area typically extend the hospitality of the region by adding to the meal, pot-luck style. The Society will sponsor the basic meal as well as plates, silverware, drinks, ice and cups.

Family records, photos and genealogy charts (Family Tree info) will be on display. The Civil War era cemetery on the grounds has many Burns ancestors. Good food, fellowship, family ties, door prizes and local peaches are some of the special attractions.

For more information, visit our website at www.burnshistory.com, call Cecil Burns at 864-877-8647, or contact any Trustee (listed on page 2).

Membership

The Burns Historical Society Inc. is a non-profit historical organization to which contributions (including dues) may be tax deductible. Membership is open to anyone with a Burns family connection or interested in Burns and related family lines. Annual dues include member and household for \$10, or \$25 for Sustaining Members. Dues may be mailed to the Secretary/Treasurer (checks payable to the Burns Historical Society):

Patricia B. Wilkie
600 East Frontage Rd.
Campobello, SC 29322

Editor's Corner

Burns Website Launched!

Be sure to check out our new website designed especially for us by Melody Daniel at www.burnshistory.org. Follow links to the separate **Burns Reunion** website, RSVP for the Reunion, sign the Guestbook and check out the photos from last year's reunion.. The value of the website depends on whatever you make of it. Let Melody know what you think – your feedback from the website goes directly to her.

Genealogy Research & DNA

Advances in technology are making waves in genealogy research. The internet has opened up access to all kinds of records which used to require a lot of travel, time and expense. It has vastly affected our ability to communicate our findings or ask others for help in this regard. As with any research source, care must be taken to assure the accuracy of information.

Family DNA projects provide new clues in researching our ancestors. Such projects are conducted by a certified private lab with the help of a group administrator from the family group taking part in the project.

DNA donors come from the male line, which for our group means a male with the last name of Burns. The donor is identified only by kit number, so his true identity is known only by the group administrator and the donor himself. The DNA sample is used only for the specific purpose of the family genealogy project.

Such a project already exists for a Burns Family DNA study. We invite you to join us at www.burnshistory.org at the **Forum** tab on our website for further discussion and information.

E-mail: cphallman@yahoo.com

Milestones

❖ Births

Devin Thomas Holt, son of Christopher and Andrea Whitler Holt, was born January 17, 2007 in Columbia, MO. Devin traces his Burns line through his maternal grandfather, the late James Mark Whitler, to great-grandmother **Elizabeth Burns Whitler**, to James Ibra Burns, to Ibra Cannon Burns.

Mollie Kathryn Miller, daughter of **Jason L. and Megan Miller**, was born March 14, 2007 in Easley, SC. Her Burns lineage is through her paternal

grandfather **Peter B. Miller**, great-grandmother **Lois Giles Miller Prince**, great-great-grandmother **Mollie Burns Giles** for whom she is named, to Oliver Roland Burns, to Alexander Burns.

❖ Marriages

Amanda Lane Pace, daughter of **Charles and Cindy Pace** of Hartwell, GA, married Eric Shoemaker on October 22, 2006. They reside in Atlanta, GA.

❖ Anniversaries

Clyde and Anne Metcalf celebrated their 50th anniversary in July, 2006.

Joe and Lee Ann Hallman celebrated their 25th anniversary Aug. 7, 2006.

❖ Graduations

Caitlin Caroline Herring graduated from Dorman High School in May, 2007 and received the following recognition on Honors Day: AP Scholar with Honor; Palmetto Girls' State; Senior with 4.0 GPA; Frances Winship Walters Scholarship; National French Honor Society; Anchor Club; Beta Club; Medical Society; French Club; National Honor Society and Science Olympiad.

Caitlin will study ballet with American Ballet Theatre in New York City for the first part of the summer, and after a nine day break, will study with Atlanta Ballet. She will attend Agnes Scott College this fall. Her parents are Tracy M. and David B. Herring of Spartanburg, and she is the granddaughter of **Clyde and Anne Metcalf** of Moore, SC.

Wendy Wilkie, daughter of **Bernard and Patricia Wilkie**, graduated from Grace Christian School in May, 2006. She entered USC-Upstate last fall to study nursing. Last year was Wendy's 19th Burns reunion. She hasn't missed a single reunion since she was born.

Other News of Note

Tracy Metcalf Herring was named "Teacher of the Year" for the school year 2006-2007 at Cannons Elementary School in Spartanburg County School District 3. Tracy is the daughter of **Clyde and Anne Metcalf**.

Adam D. Herring, son of Tracy M. and David B. Herring, has completed his first year at Emory University Law School in Atlanta, after graduating from UNC-Chapel Hill last year in just 3 years with no summer school. He is working as an associate for a Spartanburg law firm this summer and will return to Emory in the fall. His grandparents are **Clyde and Anne Metcalf**.

Justin Mathis attended Governor's School and Band Camp last summer. Justin, son of **Ronnie and Sherri Mathis**, is now a rising sophomore at Chapman High School in Inman, SC. Another interesting news item from this family is that **Ronnie Mathis** painted all the cars for the NASCAR racing movie, *Talladega Nights*. Ronnie also has a small bit (cameo?) part in the movie.

Larry and Dorothy Settle reported last year that their grandson, Kyle, was a rising senior at the Citadel. Their other grandson, Ryan, was a sophomore at Clemson.

If we did not receive your news for this issue we will be glad to include it next time.

Trustees

Officers

President: Melody Daniel
melody@teamdaniel.com

Vice-President: Larry Burns
LarryDBurns@aol.com

Secretary/Treasurer: Patricia Wilkie
pwilkie@windstream.net

Past President: Cecil Burns
cburns4466@aol.com

Historian: Billy Giles
billy.giles@insightbb.com

Terms Ending 2007

Cecil Burns
Billy Giles
Melody Hallman Daniel
Connie Lambert

Terms Ending 2008

Larry Burns
Peter Miller
Jean Giles Smith
Patricia Burns Wilkie

Terms Ending 2009

Carol Hallman
Peggy Leonard
Charles Pace
Edith Burns Stanley

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Reporters – Anne Metcalf, Patricia Wilkie, Edith Stanley, Connie Lambert

Minutes, 2006 Reunion

-- by *Patricia B. Wilkie*

The 29th annual reunion of the Burns Historical Society was held Saturday, August 4, 2006, in the Family Life Center of the New Prospect Baptist Church, located at the intersection of Hwy. 9 and Hwy. 11 in New Prospect.

Attendance was up from the last two years. There were 37 present this year [see photo p. 4 – Editor], as compared to 29 in 2005 and 25 in 2004.

Lunch began at 12:45pm with Lance Wilson returning thanks. As always, there was a lot of wonderful food. The tables were loaded with chicken, ham, turkey, roast beef, croissant sandwiches, all kinds of vegetables, slaw, salads, and many tasty cakes, pies, and other delicious desserts. Peter Miller deserves special recognition for preparing his mother's wonderful coconut cake... under her supervision. He did a great job. The cake was as delicious as ever. It just wouldn't be a Burns reunion without Lois Prince's coconut cake.

Another tasty dish that was new this year was a wonderful grape salad that I understand was prepared by Edith Stanley. I enjoyed this tremendously. To say the food this year was as good as ever may be an understatement. Personally, I think the food just gets better every year.

After lunch, Melody Daniel, President, opened the business meeting.

Cecil Burns, Peter Miller, Larry Burns, and Carol Hallman served as the nominating committee this year. Their recommendations for officers and trustees were as follows:

The following people were elected to a three year term on the Board of Trustees:

Carol Hallman	Charles Pace
Peggy Leonard	Edith Stanley

Their term will expire in 2009.

Larry Burns, Patricia Wilkie, Peter Miller, and Jean Smith are serving a 3 year term that ends in 2008.

Also serving on the Board of Trustees are Cecil Burns, Billy Giles, Melody H. Daniel, and Connie Lambert. Their term will expire next year (2007).

The following were elected to serve as officers of the Burns Historical Society for the 2006-2007 year:

President	- Melody H. Daniel
Vice President	- Larry Burns
Secretary Treasurer	- Patricia B. Wilkie
Historian	- Billy Giles

Other various items discussed in the business meeting portion of the reunion were:

The last officer/trustee meeting was held via conference call on Saturday, July 8, 2006 at 4:30pm. This was the first time such a meeting had been held by conference call. This allows for more participation from board members and officers who may live long distances and cannot easily attend. The

purpose of this meeting was to prepare and finalize plans for this year's reunion. The advantages I see personally to this type meeting are that there is no driving and you can "come as you are" (since we don't have television phones yet).

Everyone was reminded that next year, 2007, will be the 30th anniversary of the Burns Reunion. A big "mega" reunion is planned. For this to happen, everyone's help and cooperation is needed. Everyone is urged to invite all their family members and to submit any ideas they have for the reunion to any officer or trustee. Any and all ideas are welcome for consideration.

There will be 2 editions of the newsletter this year, instead of just one. Hopefully, this will help build interest in the society during the year, instead of just at reunion time.

A Burns Historical Society website is also being planned for the near future. Melody conducted an informal survey at the reunion and everyone expressed approval and interest in seeing a website become a reality. The cost would be about \$40-45 a year. Melody would be the webmaster; she said she could have it up and running in a couple of weeks. A website could open a whole new world for the Burns Historical Society. Family news could be posted year-round; reunion announcements and/or needs could be made known. Contact names, phone no's, and e-mail addresses could be posted on the website. The possibilities are endless. A website and the use of conference call meetings will take the Burns Historical Society into the 21st century, utilizing modern technology to make our organization better.

There is still hope that sometime in the future we can publish a Burns cookbook. So everyone needs to keep sending in their favorite recipe. The recipes don't have to be old family favorites; any recipes that are good are wanted.

Melody then opened the floor for each family to share any interesting family news they had. [Editor's Note: See articles on p. 2 for family news.]

We tried something new at the reunion this year. Melody thought of this idea as an "ice breaker", to encourage mingling among the guests. When guests came in to the reunion and were registered, everyone was given one card from a deck of regular playing cards. The game was to find the other guests with which your card would make the winning poker hand. This was a lot of fun, going around the room, talking to people, looking at cards, and trying to figure out how to make a winning hand. The winners were: Sherry Mathis, Cody Mathis, Linda Wilson, Justin Mathis, and Lois Prince.

Once again this year, the following people were given special recognition:

Farthest Traveler: Billy Giles had traveled from Indiana to attend this year's reunion. It is approximately 500 miles. He had traveled further than anyone else to be here. He chose an antique map of Spartanburg County for his prize.

Longest Married: The couple who had been married the longest was Charles and Lucy

Messenger. They had been married 51 years. They chose a bag of peaches from the prize table.

Oldest: The oldest person at the reunion this year is Mary Burns from Inman, SC. Mary is now a spry 96 years young. She doesn't look it and certainly doesn't act it. Mary chose a flower arrangement for her prize.

Youngest: The youngest person at the reunion this year was Hailey Leonard [age 10], who came with her grandmother, Peggy Leonard. Hailey chose a flower arrangement for her prize.

The program then moved on to door prizes - everyone's favorite part. Larry and Lisa Burns did another great job this year choosing and bringing the door prizes. Hailey Leonard drew the winning tickets and Larry Burns announced the winning numbers.

Ed. Note: A list of prize winners and the prizes they chose is included in the full minutes. The array of prizes included Burns T-shirts, picture frames, Antique Map of Spartanburg County, bags of peaches fresh from the orchard, and tomatoes.

Many, many thanks to Larry and Lisa for all their hard work and fine job they do with these door prizes.

A count of the members from each family member was then conducted. These results were

Lavina Burns	- 3
Samuel Burns	- 16
Jake Burns	- 4
Alexander Burns	- 14

Melody then took a group photo of everyone present at the reunion...with the members present from each family group standing together. Melody had brought her printer to the reunion and gave each family present a copy of the group photo. A copy of the photo will also be published in the newsletter.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia B. Wilkie
Secretary-Treasurer

In Memoriam

Hazel Burgin Smith

Hazel Burgin Smith of Greer, SC, died Nov. 12, 2005 at age 93. She was the widow of William Noland Smith who died Feb. 24, 2001; they had been married 62 years. A native of Pelzer, SC, daughter of the late John Marvin and Vertie Mae Burns Burgin, she was a retired employee of Peebles Kimbrell. She was a member of First Baptist Church of Greer.

Surviving are a son, William N. Smith Jr. of Indianapolis, IN; a daughter, Mary Lee Bolen of Salem, SC; a sister, **Lucy Messenger** of Greer, SC; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Book of Memory

Memorials are recorded in the **Book of Memory**. A contribution in any amount may be made in memory of any Burns connection. A page in the *Book of Memory* is dedicated to each person honored, inscribed with the names of those who contributed the memorial. Small photos or notes that share something about the person may be included to make the memorial more meaningful.

Membership List

-- Dues Paid 2006 - 2007

Annual Membership Dues
Regular Member \$10
Sustaining Member \$25

Dues include member & household. Dues help pay for the meeting space and supplies for the reunion, printing, postage, etc., as approved by the BHS Board of Trustees, and to maintain the Burns family genealogical records. **Sustaining Members** are indicated in bold with an asterisk (*) on the Membership List.

***Denotes Sustaining Member**

Aeschleman, Heather
Chicago, IL

Braatz, James H. & Karen J.
O'Fallon, IL

***Burns, Bill & Frances**
Boiling Springs, SC

***Burns, Cecil M. & Carolyn P.**
Greer, SC

Burns, Larry & Lisa
Roebuck, SC

Burns, Mary B.
Inman, SC

Burns, Steven E. & Joyce
Hot Springs, NC

***Daniel, Melody H.**
Rock Hill, SC

Foster, Chuck & Hazel M.
Roebuck, SC

***Giles, Billy E.**
Bloomington, IN

Giles, Martha L.
Davis, NC

***Godfrey, Vicky W.**
Boise, ID

***Hallman, Carol Pace**
Greenville, SC

***Hallman, Joe & Lee Ann**
Williamsburg, VA

***Lambert, Connie J.**
Flossmoor, IL

Lane, Evelyn J.
Sullivan, IL

Leonard, Peggy
 Duncan, SC

Mathis, Ronnie & Sheri
Inman, SC

***Messinger, Charles E. & Lucy B.**
Greer, SC

Metcalf, Clyde & Anne R.
Moore, SC

Miller, Jason & Megan
 Easley, SC

Miller, Peter
Inman, SC

***Pace, Charles B. & Priscilla D.**
Hartwell, GA

Prince, Lois G.
Inman, SC

Settle, Larry & Dorothy M.
Inman, SC

Smith, Dave & Jean Giles
Raleigh, NC

Stanley, Edith B.
Spartanburg, SC

Timmons, Dorothy M.
North Saint Paul, MN

VonBehren, Carol
Madison, SD

***Whitler, Victor & Elizabeth**
Girard, IL

***Wilkie, Bernard S. & Patricia B.**
Campobello SC

Willoby, Rachel
Chenoa, IL

***Wilson, Lance W. & Linda B.**
Campobello, SC

*Please notify Editor or Treasurer
 of any errors or omissions.*

Group Photo, August 5, 2006

{ Samuel Burns Family

{Alexander Burns Family} {Jake Burns} {Blackwood} {Lavina Burns}



Descendants from the various Burns branches are grouped in the order of their ancestors' birth. Those on the far left descended from the eldest child of James and Lavina Burns, and those to the far right descended from the youngest. From left to right, the groups include 16 members of the Samuel Burns line, 14 from Alexander Burns, 4 from Jake Burns and 3 from Lavina Burns Blackwood. Left to right (in order of heads, regardless of who is standing in front of whom): Larry Burns, Billy D. Burns, Patricia Wilkie, Frances Burns, Robbie Burns, Sallie Burns, Bernard Wilkie, Hazel Foster, Chuck Foster, Dorothy Settle, Larry Settle, Wendy Wilkie, Clyde Metcalf, Edith Stanley, Anne Metcalf, Mary Burns, Carolyn Burns, Justin Mathis (kneeling), Billy Giles, Cecil Burns, Cody Mathis, Lance Wilson, Sherry Mathis, Linda Wilson, Peter Miller, Megan Miller, Jason Miller, Lois Prince, Jean Giles Smith, David Smith, Hailey Leonard, Peggy Leonard, Lucy Messinger, Chuck Messinger, Carol Hallman, Charles Pace, and Melody Daniel.