

# The Journal of Lewis Compton Burnett

This “journal” was compiled and copied into a big ledger by Lewis Burnett from collected notes and diaries; he did this from about 1902 until his death in December of 1906. It passed first to his widow, Emma Berry Burnett, and then to his daughter, Octavia Burnett Overton. Octavia, my “Aunt Tavie,” gave it to me in 1969, I think. Over the years I transcribed it and added letters and clippings that he had placed in scrapbooks; there were also lots of photographs and so on.

I hope that I make it reasonably clear when I leave the text of the originals; there were some letters, obituaries, and other family recollections (I am thinking of Jerome Clark Burnett's discussion of his father Virgil). I also have added clarifications, emendations and corrections where appropriate. When Lewis was writing he left odd things out – as I learned more and more about the family I discovered a reluctance to say anything unpleasant or sad. But I must say that Lewis was accurate in most respects.

A link to a fairly exhaustive genealogy of the descendants of Virgil Justus and Harriet Compton Burnett is found at [Virgil Burnett's Descendancy](#). However, much more is available on most lines. As ever I try to avoid naming living people.

By habit I write the surname with 2 “t's” but many of the family used one 't,' others spell it Burnap and many other spellings. Incidentally historically the name was pronounced, I understand, “**Burn-it**,” and it is still pronounced that way in the eastern United States, rather than my family's pronunciation “**Burn-et**.”

The [Burnetts of Leys](#) – these are the Scots Burnetts, apparently our ancestors.

ALEXANDER BURNET married KATHERINE ARBUTHNOT, and was described as 11th [Laird] of Leys. The had THOMAS BURNET who married JANE FOYS. This Thomas was born in 1612 and was a physician of Braintree, Essex, England. Their son THOMAS BURNET left Braintree and emigrated to North Aamerica – and died about Dec 1684 in Southampton, Suffolk Co., New York. He married MARY COOPER.

Thomas and Mary Burnett had a number of children, including **Aaron Burnett**, who was

born in 1655 in Southampton, Suffolk Co., New York.

## The American Burnet(t)s

**Aaron Burnet**, who was born in 1655 in Southampton, Suffolk Co., New York. He died in Sep 1755 in Madison, Morris Co., New Jersey. He married Elizabeth in Southampton, Suffolk Co., New York. She was born in 1655. She died in 1755 in Madison, Morris Co., New Jersey.

This Aaron had as a son a second Aaron Burnet who was born in 1695 in Suffolk, Livingston Co., New York. He died in 1791 in Madison, Morris Co., New Jersey. He married Sarah Herrick who was born in 1695 in Long Island, Suffolk Co., New York. She died in Madison, Morris Co., New Jersey. Among their children was William Burnet, b 1734.

William Burnet was born in 1734 in Madison, Morris Co., New Jersey. He died in 1805 in Caldwell, Essex Co., New Jersey. He married Mary Miller, daughter of William Miller between 1755-1758. She was born in 1726. She died on 08 Jan 1787. Bottle Hill was later known as Madison. Private, Continental line and NJ Militia

His children include William Burnet who was born on 05 Apr 1758. He died on 05 Feb 1807 in New Jersey. He married Annah Dodd, daughter of Caleb Dodd in Morris Co., New Jersey. She was born on 22 Aug 1765. She died on 18 Jun 1818 in Caldwell, Essex Co., New Jersey. Among their sons was Justus Burnett who was born about 22 Jun 1760 in New Jersey.

Justus Burnet died on 05 Dec 1826 in Morris Co., New Jersey. He married Lois Crane, daughter of Stephen Bradford Crane and Rhoda Holloway in 1783 in New Jersey. She was born on 11 May 1760 in Montclair, Essex Co., New Jersey. She died on 07 Nov 1831 in Hanover, Morris Co., New Jersey. Justus was said to have been a music master (singing) as well as some sort of engineer. He also had a tan yard.

Justus Burnett and Lois Crane had the following children:

- 1) Mary M. Polly Burnett was born on 02 Feb 1784 in Caldwell, Essex Co., New Jersey. She married Ebenezer Moore on 06 Dec 1803.
- 2) Linus B. Burnett was born on 14 Dec 1785 in Caldwell, Essex Co., New Jersey. He died on 18 Oct 1854. He married Polly Mulford. She was born in Dec 1788. She died on 24 Apr 1837. He was a blacksmith in Chatham NJ, and is mentioned in the journal of Lewis C. Burnett.
- 3) William Burnett was born on 05 Apr 1788 in New Jersey. He died after 1860 in IN?. He married Sarah H. She was born about 1808 in New York. He married Charity Vleit. He was a blacksmith - living in Terre Haute and Clinton, IN in 1840's and into 1860.
- 4) Rhoda Horton Burnett was born on 19 Dec 1790 in Caldwell, Essex Co., New Jersey. She died in 1868 in Irvington, Essex Co., New Jersey. She married Aaron B. Harrison. She married (2) Jabez Tuttle on 02 Feb 1808. He was born on 19 Sep 1783 in Morristown, Morris Co., New Jersey. She married (3) Demas Harrison, son of Joseph Harrison and Rhoda Freeman on 03 Feb 1828. He was born on 10 Sep 1793. He died on 27 Apr 1849 in Irvington, Essex Co., New Jersey.
- 5) Sarah M. Burnett was born on 22 Dec 1792 in New Jersey. She married Stephen



- Douglas on 20 Mar 1814 in New Jersey. He was born about 1790 in New Jersey.
- 6) Stephen Grover Burnett was born on 18 Sep 1794 in Caldwell, Essex Co., New Jersey (Hanover). He died on 21 May 1862 in Terre Haute, Vigo Co., Indiana. He married (1) Hannah Seymour Creal, daughter of Anthony Creal and Hannah Seymour in 1818 in Saratoga, New York. She was born on 02 Mar 1799 in Jamestown, New York and died on

07 Dec 1829 in Terre Haute, Vigo Co., Indiana. He married (2) Ann Scully on 20 Mar 1830 in Vigo Co., Indiana. He married (3) Catherine Adams on 10 Dec 1835 in Vigo Co., Indiana. She was born about 1796 in Scotland. "SOLDIER OF 1812."

- 7) Hanna Burnett was born on 26 Dec 1796 in New Jersey. She died about 1868. She married Benjamin Austin Denehie. He was born in 1795 in New Jersey. He died in 1843 in Vigo Co., Indiana. She married (2) Peter Mallory on 14 Jan 1847 in Vigo Co., Indiana. He was born about 1795 in Vermont.
- 8) Eleazer Burnett was born on 17 Jul 1799. He died on 22 Jul 1868 in Terre Haute, Vigo Co., Indiana. He married Harriet Olcott. She was born about 1806 in New York.
- 9) Roselinda Melinda Burnett was born on 16 Jul 1801 in New Jersey. She died on 15 Oct 1879 in Essex Co., New Jersey. She married Andrew G. Mukford. He was born on 23 Dec 1801 in New York. He died on 29 Apr 1861 in Newark, Essex Co., New Jersey.
- 10) John M Burnett was born on 02 May 1804. He died about 1830.
- 11) Eliza S Burnett was born on 16 Jan 1807 in Caldwell, Essex Co., New Jersey. She died on 31 Jul 1840. She married John Ogden Tuttle, son of Caleb Tuttle and Jemima on 14 Jan 1824. He was born on 15 May 1803 in Morris Co., New Jersey. He died on 04 Mar 1881 in Hanover, Morris Co., New Jersey.
- 12) Virgil Justus Burnett was born on 06 Mar 1809 in New Jersey. He died on 02 Dec 1858 in Terre Haute, Vigo Co., Indiana. He married Harriet Stackhouse Compton, daughter of Joseph Compton and Ruth Terrell on 01 Jul 1832 in New Jersey. She was born on 10 Aug 1807 in Perth Amboy, Middlesex Co., New Jersey. She died on 29 Apr 1901 in Lincoln, Lancaster Co., Nebraska.

A short list of the children of Virgil and Harriet lies below.

1. Jerome Clark Burnett was born May 15, 1833 in Newark, NJ; he married Elizabeth (Lizzie) Lange and he died May 3, 1891 in Washington, DC.
2. Geo Mulford Burnett was born August 5, 1835 in Newark, NJ; he married a cousin, Mary Josephine "Josie" Eaton and saw service in the Civil War; he died in a railroad accident on 12 Jul 1872 in Morrisonville, Christian Co., Illinois
3. John Justus Burnett was born July 21, 1837 in Newark, NJ; he married Mary Beard, and died 07 Mar 1916 in Hamilton, MT
4. Henrietta Cornelia Burnett was born Sept 25, 1838 in Newark, NJ; she married George Austin Beardsley; and died 24 Sep 1917 in Newark, NJ
5. Eleazer Virgil Burnett was born January 16, 1841 in Rahway, NJ; he married Eliza Nevada "Vadie" Woods and died 09 Mar 1881 in Indianapolis, IN.
6. William James Burnett was born Oct 25, 1842 in Manchester or Pittsburgh, PA; he married first Sarah Tremble and second Alleda Arneson. He died Nov 14, 1930 in Minneapolis, MN
7. Mary Adelaide Burnett was born Mar 24, 1846 in Terre Haute, IN. She married Thomas McCulloch and died 21 Jan 1930 in Denver, CO
8. Lewis Compton Burnett was born Oct 30, 1848 in Terre Haute, IN; he married Emma Caroline Berry and died December 26, 1906 in Nebraska City, NE.