

**THE BURNAND FAMILY IN SOUTH AFRICA**  
as it relates to the Charles Alfred Pelteret line

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1. Jacques Olivier Paul Burnand <sup>i</sup> d. 1816

From French/Swiss origins traced back to Savoy - the family crest : fleur de lys and the bloody hand, signifying a fighting set. He was a partner in the company of silk merchants, Minet & Co.

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1.1 Louis b. 1773 m. Antoinette SAPTE

Louis was small of stature - 5feet 4inches (1.63m) tall and unmistakably Mosaic. Although he was blind, each day, unassisted, he travelled by omnibus to his office at Lloyds in the city. His wife, Antoinette Sapte, a Swiss-German Jewess, spoke little English, conversed in French and German, and was fluent in Italian. Antoinette (nicknamed "Tackle") took snuff, played whist most nights and used her closed four-seater horse drawn brougham carriage with the driver seated outside for transport. She outlived Louis by some years. The family resided at Albion Road, Stoke Newington and produced 11 children.

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1.1.1 James bc. 1800

1.1.2 George b. 2 February, 1802 d. 31 December, 1891 m. Jane BERGER

A Lloyds man, also known as the handsome Jew; he married Jane Berger, their issue were seven children, which included :

Ellen Jane b. 3 September 3, 1838 d. 2 June 2, 1874 m. (first) Morton Bell  
Ellen Jane b. 3 September 3, 1838 d. 2 June 2, 1874 m. (second) Henry, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Marquis D'Anglesey  
Norman (Colonel , Coldstream Guards) b. 7 September 7, 1836 d. 21 March, 1920 m. (first) Cora Sivewright  
Norman (Colonel, Coldstream Guards) b. 7 September 7, 1836 d. 21 March, 1920 m. Harriet Jane Groome.  
Lewis Whitmore b. 5 May 5, 1839 d. 16 December 16, 1922 m. Mathilda Alicia Mortimer

1.1.3 Julia b. 28 March 28, 1803 d. 14 June, 1892 m. Hugh Fraser Sandeman.

1.1.4 Théophile (Theophilus) b. 6 November, 1804 d. 18 September, 1887

A director of a marine insurance company, lived in Bottom Street and was described by FCB as "an uncommonly well off gay and light-hearted bachelor".

1.1.5 Wilhelmina

1.1.6 Francis (FCB's father : a stock-broker in "The City") b. 18 April, 1807 d. 27 April, 1874 m. (first) Emma Cowley (do. Abraham and Hannah Cowley - 1743-1809 - the English poetess and dramatist) d. 7 December, 1836. The issue : Emma and Francis Cowley.

1.1.6 Francis (FCB's father) b. 18 April, 1807 d. 27 April, 1874 m. (second) Eliza Smith. The issue : Bransby, George, Sidney and Louis.

1.1.7 Lewis b. 13 July, 1808 d. 23 November, 1883 m. Sophia Pownall b. 1816 d. 4 April, 1908.

The issue : 12 children. Included was :  
Lewis Bransby b. 6 December, 1834 d. 29 July 29, 1884 m. Louisa Jane Davies.

1.1.8 Henry b. 18 February 18, 1810 d. 26 August, 1885 m. Eleanor Mary Woodley b. 1817 d. 12 February, 1886. The issue : 13 children.  
1.1.9 Frederick b. 8 March, 1813

A bachelor, FCB described his uncle Frederick as a well-read and -travelled but careless, rakish and dreadfully irritable person.

1.1.10 Maria Arabella Antoinette (Antoinette or "Toney") b. 4 April 4, 1818 d. 15 February 1877, a spinster.  
1.1.11 Arthur Charles b. 5 November, 1820 d. 7 April, 1891

A bachelor and also a Lloyds man to whom Antoinette bequeathed some £5 000 on her death.

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1.1.6.1 Emma bc. 1835 d. 20 April 1840

1.1.6.2 Sir Francis Cowley Burnand b. 11 November, 1836 d. 1919 m. (first) Cecilia Victoria Ranor. Offspring 5 children

- John Arthur ("Jack") ("Burnie") Burnand b. 1866 d. on 4 August, 1963 m. ... SMYTHE / SMITH
- Charles Hubert m. Mary Tirzah Nelson; this marriage produced: Cyril Francis and Monica (Parsons).
- Harry Cecil m. Nellie Parkin; and produced Guy and Donald.
- Frank
- Philippe Victor, a bachelor.

1.1.6.2 Sir Francis Cowley Burnand <sup>ii</sup> b. 11 November, 1836 d. 1919 m. (second) Rosina Ranor (the widow of P Jones). Offspring 13 children

- Cuthbert Cowley d. 20 January, 1921
- Wilfred Joseph
- Lucy Cowley d. 20 February 20 1917
- Margaret Mary Burnand d. Ramsgate 26 December 26, 1959

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John Arthur ("Jack") ("Burnie") Burnand b. 1866 d. on 4 August, 1963 m. ... SMYTHE / SMITH

JAB's godparents were Sir James Marshall and Sir Arthur Sullivan's wife. ; attended school at St Charles' College in Bayswater where he met Cardinal Manning, who called him "Burnie". In his twilight years, he was the last

- Eileen Christina Gertrude BURNAND-SMYTHE (b 18 August 1905 d 17 October 1967) m. Alfred Charles Pelteret b 16 September 1906 d 28 December 1987
- Anthony

Reference :

1. The History of the Pelteret Family in South Africa with special reference to the Charles Alfred Pelteret line. J G BRAND : November, 1998. This includes useful biographical notes on many family members. Edited extracts appear as end-notes.

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<sup>i</sup> A letter dated 30 December, 1878 from one, Te Win Water of Welwyn, the following is stated:

*"I fear it will not be in my power to give you much information .... A Duke of Savoy used to go to Moudon in the hunting season, and took with him his suite (retinue), a member of which was one named Bournand, as the name was originally spelt: he was a knight and a favourite with the Duke. He had the misfortune to fall in love, and married the girl, who may have been a milkmaid or a duchess " Je ñeu sais vien" but his children were lawfully begotten, and from this union came the present generation of Burnands. These Burnands were a fighting set, and were in the service of France, hence the fleur de lys and bloody hand in the crest."*

George goes on to mention that Colonel Burnand, "... the present proprietor of Château Burnand - whom he visited in 1851 - showed him his crest, which is the same as ours." Also that "... my grandfather, Paul Burnand (Jacques Oliver Paul) was the original importation from Savoy. He was an insurance and bill-broker."

<sup>ii</sup> Sir Francis Cowley Burnand was educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge [BA :1854-1857] and Cuddesdon College. There he prepared for the Anglican priesthood in order to take up a living - £600 pa - purchased by his uncle, George. He became a Freemason in 1856. Two years later, after an arranged meeting with Dr HE Manning - later Cardinal Manning - he renounced the Anglican faith and converted to Roman Catholicism. His father, furious, cut off his support, leaving him penniless. FCB, determined to become a barrister, attended at the Inner Temple, took dinners at Lincolns Inn and read conveyancing in Tom Bourdillon's chambers. Having been admitted to the bar, he practised as a barrister for but a short while.

At Cambridge University, he founded the Amateur Dramatic Club and was elected its first president. FCB composed and acted in many of his own plays. After his father disowned him, he sold the rights of his first four plays for £12. Later his fee was generally £1 per performance of his work.

He was a prolific writer with more than 150 plays - chiefly burlesque and light comedies - and had six operettas to his name. One of his first successful plays, *Dido*, was staged in January 1860. The play was slated by the critics but went on to run for 80 performances, in those days 100 performances being regarded as remarkable. *Ixion* followed at

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the Royalty Theatre in Soho. On November 29, 1866 - the year in which Jack, his son and FCB's fourth child was born - his Christmas burlesque, an adaptation of an already popular play - *Black Eyed Susan* - opened at the Royalty. It ran for 800 performances over nearly two years. *The Colonel* opened at the Prince of Wales on 2 February 1881 and, on 4 October 1881, was given a command performance at Abergeldie Castle before Queen Victoria. Other notable plays include *Family Ties*, *Our Club*, *Blue Beard* and *Ariel*.

FCB was by now established. He was an author, writing amongst other titles *New Light on Darkest Africa* and *Eccentric Guide to the Isle of Thanet*. He was a regular contributor to *Punch*, was well paid for his plays and was a respected advisor to the theatre world. He was a member of the Garrick Club. He counted William Thackeray, Robert Browning ("smug"), Henry Stanley ("a bore"), John Gilbert, William S Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan amongst his personal friends.

He was renowned for his practical jokes which probably explains why he found a niche at *Punch* where, at an early age, he became a staff contributor at a sovereign per page. *Mokeanna* illustrated by Gilbert was his first contribution, on 21 February, 1863. It created a sensation. Soon after, he successively became a *Punch* employee, a Board member and finally Editor (1880-1906) when he succeeded Mark Lemon, Shirley Brooks and Tom Taylor. During that time the style of *Punch* became less barbed but more appealing to a wider readership. In 1902 he was knighted some say for his contribution to British humour, the pun.

Sir William Gilbert once jokingly asked Burnand whether many jokes were sent to the *Punch* office. "Hundreds" Burnand replied. "Then why don't you print some?" asked Gilbert. FCB wrote two light operas with Sir Arthur Sullivan : *Cox and Box* - that produced royalties for charity - and *The Contrabandista* - a dismal failure - later to be rescored as *The Chieftain*, meeting with greater success. Burnand fell out with Sullivan when he referred to the latter's play, *Broken Hearts*, in the media as *Broken Parts*, a play that subsequently proved to be a huge flop.



Sir Francis Cowley Burnand

FCB wrote his memoirs - an autobiography with rather sketchy family detail - in a well written two-volume, 814 page, *Records and Reminiscences*, published in 1904 by Methuen & Co. The two volumes sold for 14 shillings. Unfortunately, he never wrote about his then living family, made little mentioned of his wives and nothing at all of any of his 18 children.

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FCB left a trust fund that matured in 1970, some 50 years after his death. The proceeds were to be distributed to his children and residuary heirs, as the case may be. Jack Burnham died in 1963 and bequeathed his estate to Eileen Pelteret (née Burnand-Smythe) and Nazareth House in equal portions. Eileen died in 1967 with a result that Charles Pelteret inherited Eileen's share of the trust. The ultimate inheritance was less than £100; it had obviously suffered from a myriad of heirs and the ravishes of inflation. The solicitors and executors, Hopwood Hilbery & Co., unfortunately ceased business before a list of the heirs and their addresses could be obtained.

Having become fond of Ramsgate during a period of convalescence, FCB bought a house there and for more than twenty years was a well known figure in the resort, whose bracing climate he never lost a chance to praise. He died at 18 Royal Crescent and is buried nearby in the Abbey churchyard adjoining St. Augustine's church.

In the final analysis, FCB's literary reputation as a humorist depends in part on his long association with *Punch* but equally on his well-known book *Happy Thoughts*, originally published in *Punch* (1863-1864) and since frequently reprinted.

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