

Burney Letter

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“An exceedingly sensible well bred woman. . .”

By Moira Bonnington



Mary (née Horneck) Gwyn (c. 1752–1840), attributed to Henry Edridge, c. 1790; ©National Portrait Gallery, NPG 3152.

After an evening with Sir Joshua Reynolds and his guests on Saturday 19 December 1778, Frances Burney wrote:

Mrs Horneck, as I found in the course of the Evening is an

exceedingly sensible, well bred Woman. Her Daughter is very beautiful, but was low spirited & silent during the whole visit. She was, indeed, very unhappy, as Miss Palmer informed me, on account of some ill news she had lately heard of the affairs of a Gentleman to whom she is shortly to be married.¹

Mrs Hannah Horneck was the widow of Kane William Horneck and the daughter of cloth merchant and former Mayor of Plymouth, Robert Triggs. Kane William left his widow well provided for. He had named Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Dusseaux of Lieutenant General Guise's Regiment of Foot and Joseph Hart of Gough's Square near Fleet Street¹ as his executors but I am not sure whether they were also his trustees. Other sources say Edmund Burke was a trustee. Joseph Hart was to be the children's tutor. Horneck wrote:

*I desire that my said worthy and intirely respected friend Mr Hart may in trust my children in the usefull art of literature whereon he is so great a master and require that they may have an handsome allowance for it over and above what is before by me given unto him.*²

After her husband died, Hannah Horneck had moved to London with her daughters, Mary and Katharine, and her son Charles. They soon became part of the so called Devonshire set which surrounded Joshua Reynolds. They were frequent guests at his dinner parties and though this connection met Samuel Johnson, Oliver Goldsmith, Hester Thrale, and Frances Burney. A black servant overheard the following complimentary remark about Frances Burney's novel *Evelina*.

Mrs Horneck, who thought novels in general so hard that they are not to be read, but had seen nothing like this since Fielding.³

There is also a letter (published) of Samuel Johnson's dated 25 June 1781, designating a set of books for Mrs Horneck (passing them to her through Frances Reynolds); possibly these were some of Johnson's own works.

See Mary Gwyn on p. 2

North American Burney Society AGM

By Elaine Bander

The Burney Society (NA) will hold its 2019 business meeting on Saturday, 29 September 2018, during the lunch break at the JASNA AGM in Kansas City: I have reserved a table (in my name) for us at the Kansas City Westin's Brasserie from 11:30 am to 12:45 pm, leaving us plenty of time to conduct a brief meeting and grab some lunch. The menu offers a range of choices.

If you wish to attend and have not yet told me that you will be there, please email me at elainebander@gmail.com

I will be sending agendas to all those who have confirmed their attendance. The main item of business will be to approve revisions to our Bylaws to include a provision that one of the officers (but not necessarily the Vice President) will be from

Canada; to eliminate the reference to a Vice-President from the U.K.; and to add the editors of *The Burney Letter* and *The Burney Journal* as ex officio members of the Board. The exact wording was given in the Spring 2018 issue of the *Burney Letter*, or is available on demand.

As well, we will confirm the Board's decision to donate \$1000 CAD to help fund the Burney Centre's Visiting Fellowships.

* * *

Meanwhile plans are afoot for both our 2019 joint meeting with the Aphra Behn Society in Auburn, Alabama (organized by Emily Friedman) and our 2020 conference in Montreal on 2–3 July 2020. As information becomes available, members will be notified. Please keep your membership up-to-date so you don't miss out!

Mary Gwyn

Continued from p. 1

Oliver Goldsmith read his first draft of *She Stoops to Conquer* to the Hornecks,⁴ and he composed a verse addressed to them in response to one such dinner invitation.⁵ Mary Horneck kept a lock of Oliver Goldsmith's hair as a token of her affection until her death. Her friendship with Goldsmith caused much speculation and provided the inspiration for a novel by Irish writer Frank Frankfort Moore.⁶ Hannah Horneck never remarried and did not get involved in any scandalous love affairs. Her reputation remained unsullied. She maintained her own household in the fashionable Portman Street and successfully raised her three children. The girls were celebrated for their beauty and amiable dispositions whereas Charles was unpopular and was pilloried by the satirical press

"I am sorry {--} is become so much a fop. This is what Sir Joshua quite hates for tho he dresses very grand commonly waring cut velvet yet there is not the least appearance but rather the reverse to foppery, he cannot bare [sic] Horneck who is a vast fop and is the jest of people of sence an become so remarkable that his prints of him are in the magazines and in the print shops."⁷

In 1779, when Frances Burney first met the Hornecks, Katherine was already married to Henry William Bunbury, and Mary and her mother were in the process of drawing up a marriage settlement with Francis Edward Gwyn. It may be that there were difficulties in reaching an agreement. The original indenture containing the signatures and seals of Mary and Hannah Horneck of Portman Street in the parish of Marylebone Middlesex refers to two agreements made on 14th and 29th May 1779 but was not completed until 28th December 1779 two days before the wedding took place in Barton Suffolk

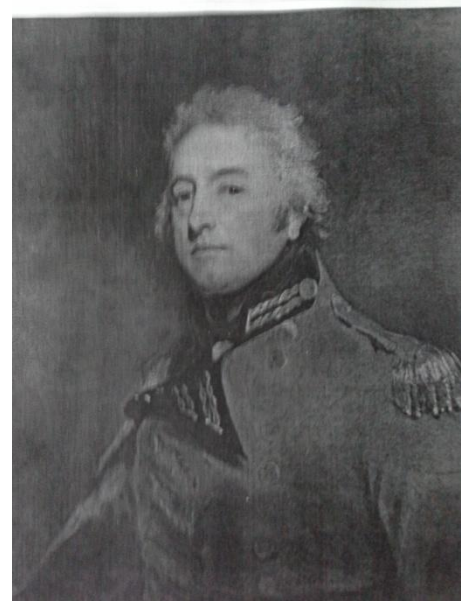


Marriage settlement of Mary Horneck and Francis Edward Gwyn; private collection.

The bride brought with her the not inconsiderable sum of £3000. Francis Edward Gwyn was the last of the squires of Middleton Hall in Carmarthenshire but he was a relatively impoverished half pay army officer. Before his appointment at court, the couple lived in a house in Mildenhall, close to Katherine and Henry Bunbury. The Bunburys moved away to London, leaving their younger son Henry Edward in the charge of the Gwyns. This seemed to set a pattern for Mary Gwyn who brought up her nephew and, later, the daughter of John Ramsbottom. It is entirely possible she also fulfilled the role of surrogate mother to the Royal children with whom she sustained a lasting friendship and lively correspondence.

Mary Horneck's marriage settlement and a substantial number of handwritten letters written to Mrs Gwyn were inherited by a private collector who has kindly shared them with the present author. The letters are in no particular order and were often undated or incomplete. A number are in French. They have not been catalogued, transcribed, or translated. However it is clear that those signed by Augusta, Elizabeth, Adolphus and Amelia are indeed from the Royal children and that the letters in French were from the Duchess of York. Two letters were written by H. E. Bunbury but the letter which attracted the most attention was signed by F. Burney. I am pleased to say that I am now able to

publish a transcription of this newly discovered letter and share my thoughts on its contents.



Francis Gwyn, Witt Library, Courtauld Institute of London.

See Mary Gwyn on p. 4

Burney Letter

The semi-annual newsletter of the North American Burney Society

Editor: Dr Lorna J. Clark

Contributions (articles, reviews, suggestions, illustrations) are welcome. Please contact lorna.clark@carleton.ca

Membership in the NAm Burney Society is available for US \$30 (Students \$15).

Membership in the UK Burney Society is £20 per year (£25 for two at the same address; £15 for students).

To request membership information, or to notify the society of a change of address, write (for the NAm Society) to: dr.cheryldclark@gmail.com or to Dr Cheryl Clark, Dept. of English, Louisiana College, PO Box 606, 1140 College Drive, Pineville, LA, USA 71359; for the UK society, to deborahjark@aol.com or to Ms. Deborah Jones, 15 Rosehip Way, Cheltenham, Gloucester, UK GL52 8WP.

250th Anniversary of the First Voyage of James Cook Around the World

2018 marks the 259th Anniversary of the first of James Cook's three voyages around the world. Many special events have been organised to mark this anniversary. As the year draws to a close, some of these events have still to take place, and others are ongoing. For more information, visit: <http://jamescook250.org/news-information/> or also see

<https://www.captaincooksociety.com/home/250th-anniversary/commemorations>

Burney Society (UK) Annual General Meeting 2018

The 2018 AGM will be held on **Saturday 6 October 2018** at Notre Dame University in central London.

The AGM Agenda will be posted on this website in advance. Please send any suggested agenda items to burneysocietyuk@gmail.com

Following the AGM a paper will be given by Joseph Morrissey, who has just published a book on *Women's Domestic Activity in the Romantic-period Novel: Dangerous Occupations* (Palgrave, 2018). Joseph will be speaking on Burney, taking his theme from the subject of his book.

Joseph Morrissey teaches English literature and academic writing at Coventry University. His main area of expertise is British Romanticism, with specific focuses on women's writing and domesticity. Joe completed his doctorate on the work and leisure activities of genteel, Romantic-period women at the University of Warwick in 2013. During his studies, he held a Chawton House Visiting Fellowship in addition to doctoral scholarships and transitioned to an Institute of Advanced Studies Early Career Fellowship at Warwick upon completion of his PhD.

Locating the Burneys: from the Margins to the Mainstream Conference of the Burney Society (UK) Bishop Grosseteste University, 30 July-1 August 2019

The narrative of the Burney family's social ascent is a familiar one to scholars of the late eighteenth century. Yet the well-rehearsed tale of Charles Burney's climb from provincial poverty to relative fame and fortune in London, raising his family into the ranks of the middle classes in the process, conveniently mythologises both the Burneys and the metropolis itself. This conference will consider how the Burneys and their circle engaged with or constructed narratives of marginality and/or centrality; their relationship to marginal and/or mainstream culture and society; and the imaginative use they made of such categories. Broad interpretations of these concepts are welcomed.

Proposals are invited for 20 minute (max) papers on the theme of "Locating the Burneys: from the Margins to the Mainstream."

Suggested topics may include (but are not limited to):

- Official, professional or establishment identities
- Social and Cultural identities
- Geographical margins: within and beyond the Metropolis

- Literary Genre(s)
- Moving between the margins and the mainstream
- Marginal figures
- Marginalia
- The Burneys in the Archive
- Burneys in relation to other authors

Abstracts of no more than 250 words should be submitted as an email attachment in MS Word to burneysocietyuk@gmail.com. You should also include a 250-word biographical statement. Please use your surname as the document title. The abstract should be in the following format: (1) Title; (2) Presenter(s); (3) Institutional Affiliation, where applicable; (4) Contact email address; (5) Abstract; (6) Biographical Statement.

The deadline for receipt of all proposals is January 31, 2019. We will attempt to notify all correspondents before February 28 regarding the status of their submission.

Upcoming Talk on Frances Burney by Miriam Al Jamil Thursday 13 September: 19.30-21.00

'Frances Burney (1752-1840): The wit, insight and courage of a Georgian writer'
Mecure Box Hill Burford Bridge Hotel, London Road, Mickleham, Dorking RH5 6BX

Frances Burney's novels, plays, prolific journals and letters make her an important figure in 18th century literature. This talk will focus on and explore the years of her residence in Bookham and Westhumble. Frances Burney married Alexandre d'Arblay in July 1793 at St. Michael's Church, Mickleham, and spent the next nine years living a frugal but contented life nearby. The financial success of her third novel, *Camilla* (1796), was their means of survival since d'Arblay was a dispossessed refugee from Revolutionary France. The talk by Miriam Al Jamil of the Burney Society looks back at Frances' life before her marriage, at her five years as Keeper of the Robes to Queen Charlotte, and at her first novels and plays. These works shed light on 18th century society, its values and concerns, as well as the part intellectual women played in cultural life. It is only in the last few decades after serious reassessment that Fanny Burney assured her place in the canon of English Literature. This talk tells her story in her own words as far as possible.

Booking Details: Booking Essential via Dorking Halls Box Office. Max 80 people. Talk 1 hour. Refreshments available at the bar. Directions: The Burford Bridge Hotel lies below Box Hill, off the roundabout on the A24 between Dorking and Leatherhead.

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/event/frances-burney-1752-1840-the-wit-insight-and-courage-of-a-georgian-writer>

Here is a transcript of a newly discovered letter of Frances Burney:

Addressed: Mrs Gwyn / Kitley

Your work, my Dear Madam, has been received as it deserved, & I am commanded to return you thanks for it. I should have known, untold, whence it came, by its neatness & elegance. It is precisely the right length. I know it was wished, at Kitley, there had been opportunity for you to take the measure; but it is now seen there was not the least occasion, for it fits with the utmost exactness.

We are all safe Landed here,—if we may call ourselves safe-Landed where we are for-ever out at sea,—& all are well, & gradually recovering from the fatigues of the last triumphant fortnight: for is it not the first of triumphs to a Sovereign to see himself received, in a time of the stillest peace, with all the acclamation bestowed on a Conqueror in time of War?—How highly must your patriotism have been gratified by the unbounded loyalty & zeal of your country: let me have the pleasure to congratulate you, when I add that they have fully & sensibly been felt where I know you will most anxiously wish them well understood.

I am quite happy to hear Mrs. Bunbury is better. I know that not even your pure native air could do you good, were you not to think her breathing one equally salutary. I can assure you of the very perfect health of Colonel Gwynn, who has but this moment quitted the Room in which I am writing.

I must beg my kind respects to Mrs. Horneck when you see her,—& certainly I must flatter myself the means will be within my reach,—contracted as it now is—next winter.

Our continuance here, or further excursion, or straight way Home, is all yet unfixed:—&, if you had never got a little peep behind the Curtain before, I think, at least, the mystery of the late morning at Kitley, would make you a little au fait as to the obscurity we are all under with respect to our own proceedings.—It looks, at a distance, something so resembling affectation, that it is not without personal initiation it can shew itself for good serious right earnest. —

Adieu, Dear Mrs. Gwyn, --

Believe me with great regard

your affect^{te}

& most obed^t

humble Servant

F. Burney.

Gloucester House,

Weymouth, Augst 31st

*I am desired to beg you will have the goodness to inform Colonel Gwyn about the [1 word] —
The Fair Maker is to be gratis.*

First of all, although not dated, the letter can be accurately dated to the period of the King's recovery and his tour of the West country in the summer of 1789. The Royal party left Windsor on 25 June, reaching Gloucester House, Weymouth, on 30 June where they stayed for the next six weeks. On 15 July (as Burney writes) "Mrs Gwynn is arrived, & means to spend the Royal Season here. She lodges at the Hôtel, just by, & we have met several times. She is very soft & pleasing, & still as beautiful

as an angel. We have had two or three long Tête a Têtes, & talked over, with great pleasure, anecdotes of our former mutual acquaintances—Dr. Johnson, Sir Joshua Reynolds, Mrs. Thrale, Barette, Miss Reynolds, Miss Palmer—and her old admirer, Dr. Goldsmith, of whom she relates—as who does not? —a thousand ridiculous traits."⁸

On 13 August, the Royal party set out on a Western tour, taking two days to reach Saltram, the seat of John Parker, 2nd Baron

Boringdon, where they stayed until the 27th August. During their stay, they toured the countryside, and visited some of the houses roundabout, including, on 26 August, a day trip to Kitley, the seat of the Polluxfen Bastards, near Yealmpton. Mrs Gwyn and her brother Charles Horneck were among the assembled guests mentioned in Queen Charlotte's diary. The Queen also mentions seeing "a most beautiful piece of Needle Work of Mrs Bastard in Darting stich done in Worsted

representing Abraham giving up His Handmaid Hagar.”⁹ The Royal party left Saltram the next day, spent a night at Exeter, and returned to Weymouth on 29 August, whilst Mrs Gwyn stayed on at Kitley House (where Burney’s letter of thanks was sent).

The tone of the letter implies that Miss Burney was writing on behalf of someone else and it would seem fair to assume that the person who “commanded” her to write was the Queen herself. She was writing to thank Mrs Gwyn for something she had made, possibly because the Queen had admired her handiwork and requested a similar item for her own use. We do not know the nature of this “work” of such “neatness and elegance,” but one might guess that it was a small article of clothing, or a piece of needlework since there is a reference to its fitting perfectly, although there had not been time to take exact measurements. This seems to fit exactly with the entry in Burney’s Journal of 25 August 1789, in which she first confirms to Colonel Gwyn that she has received a letter from his wife, and, at tea-time, talks to him about “his beautiful wife, whose letter had contained a commission relative to Her Majesty.”¹⁰ This was at Saltram on Tuesday, the day before the Kitley visit of Wednesday 26 August. There is no mention in Queen Charlotte’s diary of this commission, but she does record on 29th August when she is back in Weymouth that she “sent for L^{dy} Effingham & begun my new Muslin Work” after breakfast, and that they spent the whole day on it: they “read & Workd, Dressd, & dined at 4.”¹¹ She mentions continuing her own “work” or receiving beautiful handiwork created by others, from time to time throughout the rest of her stay at Weymouth, until the Royal family’s departure on 14 September 1789.

Mrs. Gwyn is not mentioned again in the extant diaries of Queen Charlotte, of which only the year 1794 and the last months of 1789 are known to have survived. Mary Gwyn is mentioned occasionally by Burney, who evidently enjoyed her company, and often remarked on her beauty.

We have little information about the rest of Mary Gwyn’s life, although a lengthy description of her in her later years survives, given by one of her contemporaries, James Northcote:

Conversation the Seventh

He was here interrupted by the entrance of the beautiful Mrs G—; beautiful even in years. She said she had brought him a book to look at. She could not stop, for she had a lady waiting for her below, but she would call in some morning and have a long chat. After she was gone, I remarked how handsome she still was; and he said, ‘I don’t know why she is so kind as to come, except that I am the last link in the chain that connects her with all those she most esteemed when she was young, Johnson, Reynolds, Goldsmith—and remind her of the most delightful period of her life.’ I said, Not only so but you remember what she was at twenty; and thus bring back to her the triumphs of her youth—that pride of beauty which must be the more fondly cherished as it has no external vouchers, and lives chiefly in the bosom of its once lovely possessor. In her, the

Graces had triumphed over time; she was one of Ninon de l’Enclos’ people, of the list of the Immortals. I could almost fancy the shade of Goldsmith in the room, looking round with complacency.

‘Yes’, said Northcote, ‘that is what Sir Joshua used to mention as the severest test of beauty it was not then skin-deep only. She had gone through all the stages, and had lent a grace to each. There are beauties that are old in a year. Take away the bloom and freshness of youth, there is no trace of what they were. Their beauty is not grounded in first principles. Good temper is one of the great preservers of the features.’¹²

Mary Gwyn died on 14th January 1840 at the family home in Portman Street, her husband having predeceased her by almost twenty years. Her daughter Sophy wrote a loving memorial for the monument where she was buried in Weybridge Church, and the legend of her beauty, integrity and sociability lived on long after her death.

1 *The Early Letters and Journals of Fanny Burney*, vol. 3, ed. Lars E. Troide and Stewart J. Cooke (Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen’s University Press, 1994), 198.

2 Will of Kane William Horneck, National Archives Kew, PROB 11/79915/113–4.

3 *The Letters of Ignatius Sancho*, ed. Paul Edwards and Polly Rewt (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, Edinburgh, 1994), 52–4.

4 Oliver Goldsmith’s *She Stoops to Conquer* was performed for the first time at Covent Garden in March 1773.

5 Oliver Goldsmith, “Verses in Reply to an Invitation to Dinner at Dr. Baker’s,” in *Letter In Prose And Verse To Mrs Bunbury* (1773), first published in *Miscellaneous Works*, (London, 1837).

6 Frank Frankfort Moore, *The Jessamy Bride* (New York: New York International, 1900).

7 Letter from James Northcote to Samuel Northcote, 19 December 1771, Royal Academy of Arts Archive NOR/6.

8 *The Court Journals and Letters of Frances Burney*, vol. 5 (1789), ed. Geoffrey Sill (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 2016), 320.

9 *The Diary of Queen Charlotte, 1789 and 1794*, ed. Michael Kassler, vol. 4 of *Memoirs of the Court of George III*, gen. ed. Michael Kassler (London: Pickering & Chatto, 2015), 4–5.

10 *Court Journals and Letters*, vol. 5, 388, 390.

11 *Diary of Queen Charlotte*, 8.

12 William Hazlitt, *Conversations of James Northcote Esq.* RA (London: Colbourn and Bentley, 1830).

Moira Bonnington spent ten years researching before enrolling as a mature student at Leeds University. She graduated with an M.A. by Research in 2015 and has since retired but continues her work as an independent scholar and enjoys sharing her discoveries in her history lectures. She describes herself as a freelance lecturer, amateur sleuth and eternal student.

Maria Edgeworth – 250 Years On

By Turtle Bunbury

2018 is the 250th anniversary of the birth of Irish writer, Maria Edgeworth. The following article and images are taken from the website of Irish author, historian, and public speaker and TV presenter, Turtle Bunbury, with his kind permission.

Maria Edgeworth celebrations are being held in Rome, York and Dublin in 2018.

As the Great Famine ripped through the County Longford village of Edgeworthstown in 1847, a tiny octogenarian was to be seen making her way from door-to-door, offering food and nourishment. Many of the beleaguered occupants would have recognised her as Maria Edgeworth, the gifted story-teller whose books had been entertaining adults and children alike for nearly half a century. In her prime, she was one of the most successful novelists in the world.

Maria Edgeworth was born on New Year's Day 1768, 250 years ago, and spent most of her life on the family estate at Edgeworthstown. With the death of her mother when she was just five years old, she turned to her father for parental guidance.

Richard Lovell Edgeworth was a remarkable man with a passion for science and literature. He was also an inventor of no mean skill, creating the prototype of the caterpillar track system used by present-day bulldozers, tanks and tractors. He also produced an early form of telegraph, a velocipede cycle, a "perambulator" to measure land, a turnip cutter and various sailing carriages. Buoyed by his success, Richard urged all his children to undertake basic chemical experiments from an early age.



The library at Edgeworthstown House.

Richard had been a wild man in his younger years with a dangerous lust for gambling but he was cured of such vices when he was shown into the Pakenham's library at Tullynally Castle, County Westmeath, and encouraged to read.

He in turn urged Maria to read anything she could get her hands on, be it English novels, French encyclopaedias or works by the great philosophers such as Voltaire. She was surely among the few women who read Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations*. Every evening, the family gathered in the library at Edgeworthstown to read aloud and discuss the latest books that had arrived from Dublin or London. This was the environment in which Maria learned how to craft stories with wit and style, charm and irony.

She certainly had a sizeable audience to converse with at home. After her mother's death, her father married thrice more and he ultimately sired twenty-two children, many of whom were close to Maria.

It was Richard who suggested that Maria channel her energies into "useful" writing. By that he meant novels and 'moral stories' for children that might actually bring in some money. He had put her to work at the age of 14 when she helped him translate a French book about education.

In the winter of 1793, she started work on 'Castle Rackrent', her critically acclaimed, innovative, comic masterpiece. The novel was written to amuse her favourite aunt, Margaret Ruxton, who lived in Navan, County Meath.

There were a few distractions before its publication.

Firstly, having lost two more wives to tuberculosis, Richard was married a fourth time in May 1798. His bride Frances Beaufort was an intelligent, well-read woman. She was two years younger than Maria and a strong bond developed between the two; Maria would go on to help educate and raise Richard and Frances's six children.



Richard Lovell Edgeworth (1744-1817). From an engraving by A. Cardon, 1812.

And then came the United Irishmen's rebellion which broke out just as Richard and Frances were tying the knot. Richard had raised a local militia several years earlier to keep such lawlessness at bay but, in September 1798, he and his family were forced to flee to Longford, a Protestant stronghold, when the countryside around Edgeworthstown fell into rebel hands. More alarmingly, when a French army marched into the county and camped just outside Longford, suspicious Protestants nearly lynched Richard on the groundless basis that he had tried to send a signal to the French with his telegraph.

Richard toyed with selling up there and then but his father-in-law persuaded him that things would calm down after Dublin's ultra-right-wing government was kicked out of office by the proposed Act of Union between Ireland and England. That said, Richard ultimately voted against the act that brought an end to the Irish parliament in Dublin.

Meanwhile, Maria finished 'Castle Rackrent' and sent the manuscript to Joseph Johnson, the leading literary publisher in London. Published anonymously in January 1800, the novel has been succinctly described by the literary critic Marilyn Butler as 'a remarkably intuitive, perceptive and far-reaching portrait of an unequal society.'

Although sales were initially small, Maria took heart in the news that both

George III and Pitt the Prime Minister had enjoyed it. Soon the book was beginning to shift large volumes and, by 1801, Maria felt sufficiently courageous to include her own name on the title page of the third edition. After that, she was never again published anonymously.

From 1800 all the way through to 1814, she was *the* most celebrated and successful living novelist working in the English language, ranking Jane Austen and Sir Walter Scott among her foremost admirers. Scott cited her as the inspiration for his first novel, 'Waverley'. Valerie Pakenham observes that had Jane Austen's short fling with Tom Lefroy been converted into marriage, Jane might have become Maria's neighbour when Lefroy subsequently bought the Carriglas estate near Edgeworthstown.

A complete edition of Maria's novels runs to 18 volumes. As well as *Castle Rackrent*, a satire on Anglo-Irish landlords, there were three more set in Ireland, namely *Ennui* (1809), *The Absentee* (1812) and *Ormonde* (1817). She also published *An Essay on Irish Bulls* in 1802, as a response to Protestant Ascendancy propaganda in the wake of the 1798 Rising.

Although often seen as a 'Big House' writer by Irish critics, others consider her a pioneer of the 19th century social novel, on a par with Charlotte Brontë and George Eliot. She was also one of the first successful writers of stories for children and apparently secured the second largest book advance of her generation after Scott. She was elected as one of the first female Honorary Members of the Royal Irish Academy in 1842.

She was a compulsive letter writer, as revealed in *Maria Edgeworth's Letters from Ireland*, a new tome edited by Valerie Pakenham and published by Lilliput Press. After her father's death in 1817, notes Pakenham, Maria was 'released' from the discipline of being his literary partner and began writing twice as many letters. She drolly complained when her stepmother and sisters tried to reduce the time she spent writing these often witty and razor-sharp letters to four hours a day.

Maria also inherited her father's love for science. Humphrey Davy, inventor of the miner's safety lamp, frequently stayed at Edgeworthstown, which was seen as an oasis of cultured enlightenment in the Irish

midlands at this time. William Rowan Hamilton, John Herschel and Michael Faraday were also in Maria's circle, while another close friend was the Dublin surgeon, Dr Philip Crampton.

In 1842, her half-sister Lucy married the astronomer, Thomas Romney Robertson, head of the Observatory at Armagh.



Maria Edgeworth, photographed by Richard Beard, in the early 1840s.

Maria never married. Her only known suitor was the Chevalier Abraham Edelcrantz, a Swedish poet and diplomat, whom she met in Paris in 1802. Although she turned him down, she remained obsessed with him for long years afterwards, creating an idealized version of him in her novel, *Patronage*.

In politics, Maria was an 'enlightened Conservative'. She hailed Catholic Emancipation as the dawn of a new golden age but castigated Daniel O'Connell as a rabble-rouser.

During the Great Famine, in which her brother Francis died, she did what she could to alleviate suffering in Longford. In 1847 she tried unsuccessfully to send some of their tenants to start a new life in America on USS *Jamestown*. Oral history relates how this tiny old lady went from house to house to feed and nurture the starving.

Fortunately she had always been a healthy woman, thanks in part to her brisk early morning walks and also, as she put it herself, thanks to her three favourite consultants, "Dr Quiet, Dr Diet and Dr

Merryman."

As well as science and literature, she was an enthusiastic gardener and builder. She did much to improve the condition of cottages in Edgeworthstown and delighted in laying new pavements and gutters, or lowering the river bed, as well as constructing a new school in the village.

Following the financial collapse of her addled half-brother Lovell Edgeworth, she worked closely in tandem with her stepmother Frances for 20 years to keep the family estate afloat. It helped that she had adhered to her father's advice to never spend the capital she earned on her books, or from her inheritance.

She died suddenly of a heart attack on 22 May 1849, aged 81. The family home survived for another three generations, when many neighbouring 'big houses' were burned out or abandoned and left to fall into ruin. The house is now a nursing home, while a bronze statue of Maria herself adorns the town's main street.

Turtle Bunbury is a best-selling author, historian, public speaker, content creator and TV presenter based in Ireland. He will appear on the new US series of 'Who Do You Think You Are?' in November 2018. He is presently working on a new series of books to be published in the UK and US in 2020 and 2021.

Turtle is the curator of **two historical exhibitions** on show at St Peter's Church, Cork City, Ireland, throughout 2018.

Turtle's books include the award-winning **Vanishing Ireland** series, *Easter Dawn* (2015), *The Glorious Madness - Tales of the Irish & the Great War* (short-listed for *Best Irish-published Book of the Year* 2014) and *1847 - A Chronicle of Genius, Generosity & Savagery*, which Oscar-nominated film director **Lenny Abrahamson** describes as "vivid, surprising, hugely entertaining; an unforgettable encounter with an extraordinary year."

Turtle also specialises in writing corporate, family and house histories.

You can reach Turtle Bunbury through his website at:
www.turtlehistory.com

Elizabeth Mary (Burney) PARKER (1934-2018)

By Cynthia Comyn



Elizabeth (who died in April this year) was born in 1934 in Alderley Edge, the younger child of Edward Burney by his first wife Mary Constance Allan (who died in 1935). Soon after, her father who had become His Majesty's Inspector of Schools, moved to Buxted in East Sussex to a house named Heatherwode where he remained until his retirement in 1947. In 1941, Edward married Edith Emeline Mary Hobhouse of whom Elizabeth spoke with much affection.

She and her elder brother Charles began their education at a nursery school in Buxted and went on to a PNEU School in Uckfield, about 3 miles from home. On one of these journeys, the school bus overturned but no-one was seriously injured.

After the outbreak of war in 1939, the Burney children went to live with their grandparents about half a mile away while their father worked in the Ministry of Information. Sometime later, Charles and Elizabeth were on the beach at Studland near Swanage with their father when two aircraft, thought to be Hurricanes, were seen

out at sea. Machine gun fire was heard on the esplanade behind the beach, Edward shouted "Down" and the planes each dropped a bomb on Swanage which resulted in 8 deaths. Later came the V1s (or doodle-bugs) which were terrifying – they would emit quite a lot of noise but when they fell silent, you had 12 seconds before their bombs exploded. One of these back-fired and fell onto a school playground in Framfield (only 3 miles away) killing several children. All this caused Elizabeth to suffer from anxiety and she was sent away for a time.

She was ten years old when the war ended and she was sent to a Woodward School, St Michael's in Petworth — and from there got into Lady Margaret Hall in Oxford where she read History. After graduation, she read for a B.Litt on the English administration in Normandy under Henry V.

Her brother Charles Burney became an archaeologist and spent several seasons excavating in Anatolia where he was joined on at least two occasions (in 1959 and 1966) by Elizabeth.

Meanwhile, Elizabeth had become a journalist and joined the staff of *The Economist* where she worked for about 13 years specializing in urban affairs and race relations. In 1967 she published *Housing on Trial* which examined the impact of local housing policies on black families. The following year, she married (as his second wife) Colin Alan Parker whom she had met at *The Economist* and by whom she had two sons Matthew and William. She continued writing and in 1967 published *JP — Magistrate, Court and Community*. She served on a government committee on council house allocation, on a conciliation committee of the Race Relations Board and as an adviser to the Runnymede Trust.

The family lived in Lambeth for

many years but when Alan retired from his accountancy practice and was appointed Bursar to Christ's College in Cambridge, they moved to an attractive house in the Chesterton area which belonged to the University and which had a small building in the garden formerly run as a school. Alan died in 2007 but Elizabeth remained in the house until her death. I was fortunate enough to have been invited (with Charles and Brigit Burney) to stay with her when the Burney Conference was held in Cambridge and we all had a very jolly and interesting time. Elizabeth (who was a diabetic) cooked the most delicious and interesting meals at some of which we were joined by her cousin Janey (Lady Berrill).

She was very much affected by the death in 2009 of her elder son Matthew aged only 40 who left a young widow and two sons but the boys gave her a great deal of pleasure and interest. Her younger son is married to the grand-daughter of Willie Whitelaw and has a young son of his own.

I met Elizabeth and Alan once when they were in Lambeth – my husband and I had been invited to tea; the boys, then hungry teenagers, leapt to the table but on finding the scones had been made with wholemeal flour abruptly removed their outstretched hands and groaned piteously. Our next meeting was at the installation of the Burney window in Westminster Abbey attended also by Matthew, his wife and their first baby. My memory of Elizabeth is of a rather self-effacing character who was somewhat shy but immensely kind.



The Hemlow Prize in Burney Studies

The Burney Society invites submissions for the Hemlow Prize in Burney Studies, named in honour of the late Joyce Hemlow, Greenshields Professor of English at McGill University, whose biography of Frances Burney and edition of her journals and letters are among the foundational works of eighteenth-century literary scholarship.

The Hemlow Prize will be awarded to the best essay written by a graduate student (registered within the last year) on any aspect of the life or writings of Frances Burney or members of the Burney Family. The essay, which can be up to 6,000 words, should make a substantial contribution to Burney scholarship. The judges will take into consideration the essay's originality, coherence, use of source material, awareness of other work in the field, and documentation. The winning essay will be considered for publication in the *Burney Journal* and the recipient will receive an award of US \$250, as well as a year's membership in the Burney Society.

The Hemlow Prize deadline for 2019 is 31 January. Two copies of the essay (one appropriate for blind submission) should be sent, by email attachment, to the Chair of the Prize Committee, Dr. Ann Campbell, anncampbell@boisestate.edu, or by mail to Dr. Ann Campbell, English Department, Boise State University, 1910 University Drive, Boise ID, 83725-1525.

McGill-ASECS Fellowship

About the Fellowship

The Burney Centre, in conjunction with the Rare Books and Special Collections Division of the McGill University Library, offers an annual Fellowship, designed to assist scholars who need to travel to and establish temporary residence in Montreal in order to use the resources of the Library. The Fellowship is available to scholars interested in any aspect of Frances Burney, the Burney family, and their extended circle. It carries an award of CAN \$3,000 for a one-month stay, at a time to be arranged.

The Fellowship is generously funded by:

- The American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (ASECS)
- McGill University Library
- The Burney Society of North America

Application Procedure

Applicants, who must be members of ASECS, should send a curriculum vitae and a description of their project, specifying the relevance of the Burney Centre and Rare Books and Special Collection Division holdings to their research, to the address below. They should also indicate when they wish to take up the Fellowship. There is no application form. Applications are considered by a Committee which gives preference to specific and clearly described projects.

The deadline for new applications is 30 November 2018, and candidates will be informed of the results in January 2019. Applications or enquiries should be emailed to burney.centre@mcgill.ca, attention Dr Peter Sabor, Director of the Burney Centre.

Vol. 15 of *The Burney Journal* coming soon

The next issue of *The Burney Journal*, Volume 15, is in the press and will be published soon. Volume 15 features essays by

Lorna J. Clark, "'Tis best to build no Castles in the Air': Romantic Fantasy meets Economic Reality in Frances Burney's *Court Journals*,"

Geoffrey Sill, "Frances Burney and the French Revolution: Politics in *The Court Journals and Letters*,"

Tara Ghoshal Wallace, "Burney and Empire," and

Kirsten Hall, "Tully's the Fashion,"

along with the Year in Burney Studies 2016 by Deborah Barnum.

The Burney Journal invites submissions on all aspects of lives and careers of the Burney family and features papers presented at meetings of the Burney Societies of North America and of the United Kingdom. *The Burney Journal* is indexed by EBSCO Host.

Submissions must follow MLA format and should vary in length from 5,000 to 7500 words. Please include a Works Cited page.

As befitting peer review, the author's name and affiliation should appear only on the cover page. Please send electronic submissions in Microsoft Word.

Please address correspondence to Marilyn Francus, Department of English, West Virginia University, 100 Colson Hall, P.O. Box 296, Morgantown WV 26506 or to MarilynFrancus@mail.wvu.edu.

Locating Frances Burney in Walcot Cemetery

By Trudie Messent

Frances Burney D'Arblay (1752-1840) was originally buried in the grave of her son, Alexander Charles Louis Piochard d'Arblay (1794-1837) in the Walcot Gate or 'Lower Burial Ground' across Walcot Street from St Swithin's Church, Bath, near the grave of her husband Alexandre Jean Baptiste Piochard d'Arblay (1754-1818). In 1924/1925 many of the Walcot Gate cemetery graves were removed to provide open space for a children's playground. The remains within these graves, including those of the d'Arblays, are now located in Haycombe cemetery. There was some confusion when I sought information on the precise location from the Cemetery Office as they directed me to a site opposite the War Memorial graves, which was incorrect, containing remains from St Michael's closed burial ground, Walcot Street. To locate the "Rockery," which is believed to contain Frances Burney's remains, you need to turn right after the War Memorial and the memorial stone photographed here is located to the left of the road, near the next left turn. (Hopefully these photographs will prove useful.)

Archive Source: <https://www.batharchives.co.uk/cemeteries/st-swithins> Accessed Aug 29, 2018

Photographs: Trudie Messent



Members' News

Australia

Michael Kassler, a music historian and Burney scholar based in Australia, has edited Queen Charlotte's account book for part of 1789 (all that survives). His edition will appear in the journal, *Eighteenth-Century Life*, later this year and will be a welcome supplement to his edition of *The Memoirs of the Court of George III*, published by Pickering & Chatto in 2015, now available from Routledge. As well as serving as general editor, Michael edited two of the volumes: vol. 1, *The Memoirs of Charlotte Papendiek (1765–1840)*, and vol. 4: *The Diary of Queen Charlotte, 1789 and 1794*.

New Zealand

Satire, Celebrity, and Politics in Jane Austen (Bucknell University Press, 2017), by **Jocelyn Harris**, is now available in paperback and hardback. 30% discount until December 2018.

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<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781611488395/Satire-Celebrity-and-Politics-in-Jane-Austen>

May 2019 Publication date for *CJL VI*

Volume VI of the *Court Journals*, covering the years 1790–1791, edited by **Nancy Johnson**, is now in press and scheduled for publication by Oxford University Press in May 2019.

This volume covers the last year and a half that Burney spent in the Queen's household. These were difficult years for Burney; they include the marriage of Stephen Digby, and her own failing health. A fateful conversation with her father Charles Burney gave her "permission" to resign her position, but how to do so and when to do so were all to arrange, and the plan took some time to be put into effect. Meanwhile, Burney continued to write journals and letters with her usual perceptiveness as she waited for release.

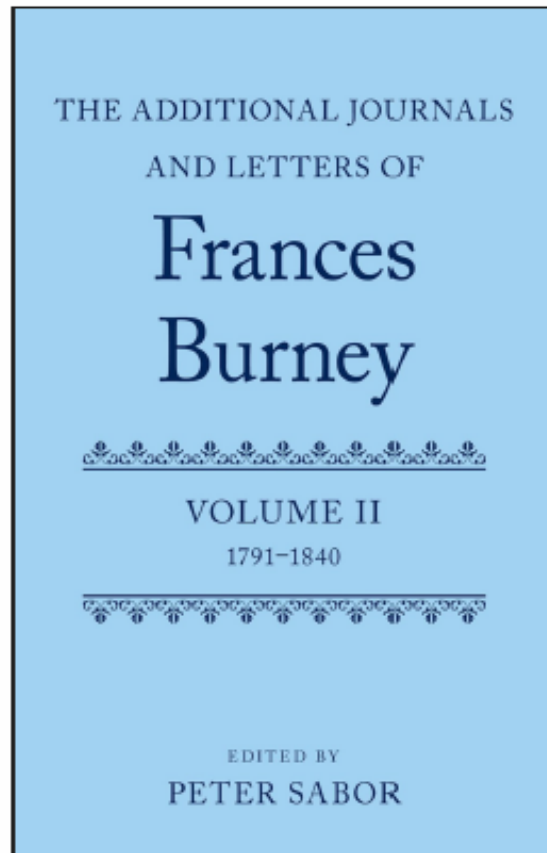
Seeking Contributions to Members' News

If you have some news to announce, send an email to the editor: lorna.clark@carleton.ca We are interested in any major events: a research project, any recent or forthcoming publications, talks or papers delivered, courses, travels, etc. especially those related to Burney, her circle, or her times, especially ones that might interest or enlighten other members. Thank you!

NEW FROM OXFORD

The Additional Journals and Letters of Frances Burney: Volume II: 1791-1840 Edited by Peter Sabor

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This is the second of two volumes of *The Additional Journals and Letters of Frances Burney*. Together the volumes present material not included in the existing series of Frances Burney's journals and letters. Volume I printed Burney's journals and letters from the beginning of 1784 until her appointment at Court in July 1786, closing the gap between *The Early Journals and Letters of Fanny Burney*, which covers the period 1768-1783, and *The Court Journals and Letters of Frances Burney*, which covers the period 1786-1791.

This volume consists of all the letters, and journal and diary entries, written between 1791 and 1840 that were not included in the series of later journals, thus completing the modern editing of Burney's surviving journals and letters from 1768 until her death in 1840. Among Burney's many correspondents in this volume, the most prominent is Hester Maria Thrale, known as Queeney, the eldest daughter of Hester Lynch Thrale and Henry Thrale. Sixty-four of the letters in this volume, dating from Burney's residence in France, 1802-1812, are written, in French, to sixteen different correspondents; they are printed here with accompanying English translations. About twenty of the letters are to members of her family, including one that she wrote in London to her husband in Paris in May 1813 which throws much new light on her life in England and on her progress in completing her final novel, *The Wanderer*. There are also letters to a variety of friends and acquaintances, some of long standing and others whom Burney first met only in her later years, including several to the Reverend Charles Forster, grandfather of E.M. Forster.

OXFORD
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Peter Sabor, *Canada Research Chair in Eighteenth-Century Studies and Professor of English, McGill University, Montreal*

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Membership Reminder

Annual membership in the North American Burney Society is available for USD \$30 or USD \$15 (students), payable as one-year, two-year, or five-year memberships, and £15 (student membership), £20 (single membership), or £25 (couples living at the same address) annually in Great Britain.

The dues year runs from June 13 to June 13, in honour of Frances Burney d'Arblay's birthday.

Membership includes subscriptions to *The Burney Letter*, *The Burney Society Newsletter* (UK), and *The Burney Journal*, the society's annual literary journal.

To request membership information, to send a membership cheque or money order, or to notify the society of a change in address, please use the addresses below, including your name, address, phone number, and email contact information.

A membership form for the Burney Society (UK) can be downloaded at

<https://burneysociety.wordpress.com/categories/membership>

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