

This transcript was prepared by Samuel Parish Turnbull, Sr., and dedicated to the memory of his father and mother:

Alexander Noble Turnbull (15 March 1871 - 18 July 1933) and
Christina Oakley Turnbull (25 December 1877 - 24 February 1972)
of Monticello and Tallahassee, Florida.

This transcript is terminated in a way where each of their children and grandchildren can carry forward according to their own lineage.

Samuel P. Turnbull, Sr.
Tallahassee, Florida
April 1993.
(Now of Cotton Port, Louisiana
October 1996)

Additional development of the lineage in the United States, including that of Dr. Andrew Turnbull (1720 - 1792), has been investigated by:

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CONTENTS:

TURNBULLS OF BEDRULE, SCOTLAND

Pages 1 - 32.

TURNBULLS IN AMERICA

- Andrew Turnbull and John Turnbull
- James Turnbull and descendants

Pages 33 - 35

Pages 36 - 47.

TURNBULLs

of

BEDRULE, SCOTLAND



TURNBULLS OF BEDRULE

Having researched the Turnbulls from the time they entered this country in about 1734 to the present time, I became interested in their history prior to 1734. Sam Turnbull, Jr. and I made two trips to Scotland, one in the summer and the other in the fall of 1992. We visited Bedrule, Scotland. Bedrule is located near the border separating Scotland and England. Bedrule was the headquarters for the Turnbull Clan. The Clan map of "Scotland of Old," by Bartholamew, shows an area surrounding Bedrule with Hawick on the West, Minto on the North, Jedburgh on the East and the Border on the South as "Turnbull of Bedrule Territory."

Many stories have been told and written about how the name Turnbull was obtained. Originally the name was de Rule or Rcule or even William of Rule who was knighted Sir Turn-e-bull which was later reduced to Turnbull. I found at least four Coat-of-Arms with from one to several Bull heads. R. E. Scott wrote a story about the Turnbulls, "I Saved the King", which is out of publication but further along in this script I will quote his story. Most of the information I could find established the name Turnbull in the Thirteenth Century. I found in the remains of the Jedburgh Abbey that one of the support columns has the Turnbull Crest (Bulls Head) built into it and the Abbey Superintendent assured me that it was the Turnbull Crest. The Jedburgh Abbey was constructed around 1180. A picture of the Abbey and Crest are in my findings.

In the Church in Bedrule, which was built in 1349, there is a plaque hanging on the wall with the inscription "Andrew Turnbull, 1667-1747". From what I could gather from the Abbey people and an Artist who lives in Bedrule, that this Andrew Turnbull was the father of several sons who left Scotland for other lands.

Three of those sons, I believe, ended up in the U.S.A. First and the namesake Andrew who journeyed to Greece and married Gracia Maria Rubins, daughter of a Greek merchant, he was granted a tract of land in the State of Florida. He died in Charleston, S.C. in 1792. More on Andrew later on in this script. My lineage was James who entered the U.S. in 1734. Much more on James later in this script. John entered the U.S. in 1740 and settled in Virginia. I have known several Turnbulls whose lineage took them back to John.

Reiver means robber, raider marauder and plunderer, these were the border people and people of the border country have not changed physically or characteristically in many centuries, there is still a frontier line between Scotchman and Englishman.

The English-Scottish frontier was decided when the Romans spent five years, beginning in 122 A.D. building the Hadrian Wall which separated the two. It is said that if Jesus was among the Turnbells, Maxwells, Grahams, Scotts, Nixons, Kerrs, Armstrongs and others that they would deceive him. Fraser in his story "The Steel Bonnets" tells how theirs is almost a forgotten chapter of British history, preserved only in folk-tales and ballads. It is the story of these raiding families, of the outlaw bands and broken men, the "hot-trod" pursuits, and the great battles of English and Scottish armies across the Marches. The "Steel Bonnets" tells their true story and in its historical context - how the Reivers ran their raids and operated their system of blackmail and terrorism, and how the March Wardens, operating the unique Border law, fought the great lawless community. This was the Anglo-Scottish frontier over four hundred years ago.

It is well to see why these border people turned into so called outlaws and fighters. They had been defeated, their country had been taken away by others, their enemies were just across the border, they were continually being harassed, and some of their own people had turned against them and had become their enemies. They finally accepted defeat, some decided to move out. So in the early seventeen hundreds the first Turnbull entered this country and became a permanent resident.

The following is what Roddy Martine had to say in "Scottish Clan and Family Names" about the Turnbells: "For saving the life of Robert Bruce when he was attacked by a wounded bull, one William of Rule was awarded land and was thereafter known as Turn-e-bull. The Rule Water territory of the Turnbells was a baronial possession of the House of Douglas. By 1510, the Turnbells had become scornful of the authority of James IV. However, the unsettled state of the Borders continued, causing James VI to order his wardens to use 'hostile feud in hostile manner against all malefactors'. Many of the name of Turnbull left at this time. The chiefly branches of Bedrule and Minto fell into financial difficulties and scattered. Turnbull castles were Barnhill, near the base of Minto Craggs and built in the sixteenth century, and Bedrule, in the Rule Valley, which was destroyed by the English in 1545. They held Fulton Tower which is on the right of the Rule Water, and Minto estates on the River Teviot until these passed through various owners to the Elliots. The Turnbells owned Philhaugh estates in the Ettrick Forest for 300 years. The Murrays acquired part of the lands through marriage, and finally obtained all of it".

FAMILY TERRITORIES

by Anthony Kerr

"Clan Maps" and "Tartan Maps" of Scotland show surnames splashed across areas of varying extent, each with its own distinctive colour. This is a gross oversimplification so far as the South of Scotland is concerned, though it may have been valid for some parts of the highlands until 1745. In reality there would have been no area where everybody was called Turnbull and owed allegiance to Barnhill Castle; any more than there was an area where everybody was called Kerr and showed allegiance to Ferniehirst or Scott and showed allegiance to Buccleuch. Things were a lot more complex, and allegiance was not a straightforward matter of "one man, one Lord" - certainly not in the period we are considering.

In the first place, Kerrs, Scotts, Elliots, Rutherfords, Turnbulls and others were inextricably mixed throughout the Central Borders, though in varying proportions from place to place. They were also inextricably intermarried, and with considerable men killed in battle, in raids on the scaffold at an early age, it was not unlikely that their sons might be brought up by a maternal uncle with another surname and form strong links with his family.

Secondly, the same individual often held various bits and pieces of land from different "superiors", owing allegiance to each of them for the relevant property. (This gave rise to problems if they fought each other, as often happens.)

Thirdly, two landowners, not necessarily "superior" and "vassal", but quite possible equals who found it useful to co-operate, could be linked by a "bond of man-rent" and it was quite feasible for the same individual to have this type of relationship (basically a mutual protection agreement as we have seen) with several others, who again might choose to fight each other.

"Kerr territory" was therefore the area where the Laird of Ferniehirst could call out more men than any one else, rather than a vast tract of land which he actually owned. Many of them could also be called out by Scott of Buccleuch or Rutherford of Ilk or Turnbull of Bedrule, for instance, and the reverse of course applied. Subject to this reservation, and all of the uncertainty this implied, it extended roughly from Lillards Edge to Carter Bar and from Crailing to Denholm, with outlying pockets further north and west. There were also Kerrs in Ayshire and Sterlingshire (among other areas), but Ferniehirst could not usefully have called them out, as any given emergency would have been long since past when they showed up "late but in earnest".

TURNBULL; by Anthony Kerr.

Fate has been unkind to the Turnbulls. none of them managed to collect a peerage on his way, and as a result their early history is less well documented than that of other great Border families. though interesting accounts are to be found in R. E. Scott's "I Saved The King", Jeffrey's Antiquities of Roxburghshire and Tancreds Rulewater and its People. Their earlier name was "de Rule" or "Rule", from the Rulewater area where they were already present in the 13th Century, and they were probably of French or Anglo-Norman origin like many families throughout Central and Southern Scotland.

William de Roule, a friend and hunting companion of Robert the Bruce and Sir James Douglas, is said to have acquired his new name and quite a lot of land to go with it through a remarkable incident a year after Bannockburn. While hunting near Callander, King Robert was suddenly charged by a wild white bull (probably the same breed that survive at Chillingham in Northumberland): de Rule, a massive and fearless man, seized the bull by the horns and twisted its neck round, thus killing it and saving the King. For this he was rewarded with a grant of land and the name of Turnebull (tuny ye bull); the name of de rule disappears from the records about that time, which seems to show the story is genuine. This Goliath met his David, a diminutive English knight called Sir Robert Benhale, the day before the battle Halidon (1332). By this time he is no longer a young man (if he is the same William de Rule who witnessed a grant to the Monks of Kelso in 1300); but he paraded before the English lines with a dog nearly as big as himself, offering to fight any that dared come forward. Benhale took him up, and started by killing the mastiff; this evidently disconcerted Turnbull. After which the Englishman sliced off his arm and then his head.

Several of the Turnbulls distinguished themselves on the French side in the Hundred Years War, notably John "Out with the Sword" Turnbull who was killed at Cravant in 1424. The French and French-Canadian family of Trembly is probably descended from them.

Another and a more peaceful William Turnbull was Secretary and Keeper of the Privy Seal, Archdeacon of St. Andrews and thereafter Bishop of Glasgow. This office he only held for seven years, dying in 1454 while on a pilgrimage to Rome, but during that time he founded Glasgow University's charter and early organization is given under "Turnbull in Chambers' Dictionary of Eminent Scotsmen, Published by Blackie in 1875.

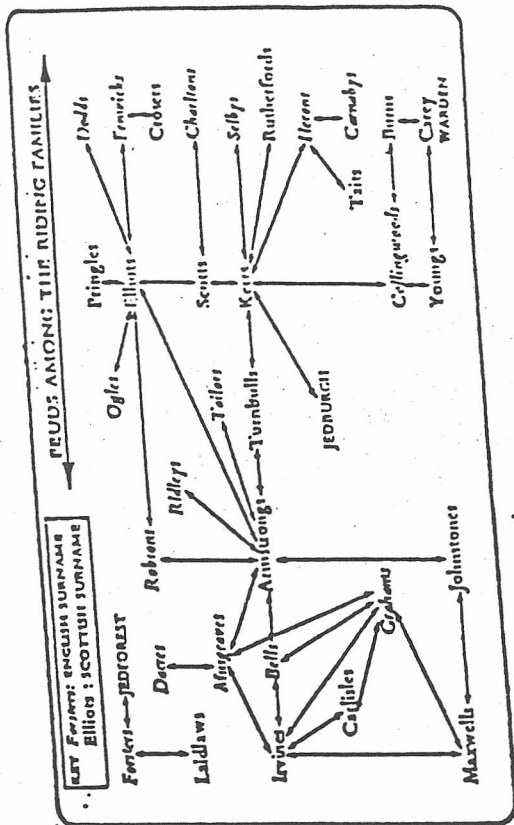
At the height of their influence, the Turnbolls controlled Hallrule, Bonchester, Denholm and Minto; together with the Kerrs, Douglasses and Scotts they played an important part in holding Scotland together after Flodden and in preventing the English from exploiting their success to the full - this in spite of the fact that James IV, a few years before Flodden, had publicly humiliated them by compelling 200 of them to come before him in their shirts, holding naked swords pointed towards them and with halters round their necks, then hanging a few (some say as many as twenty).

Later, however, they were largely alienated from the Scottish monarchy (too many of them had been deprived of their lands, and the fate of Johnnie Armstrong of Gilnockie still rankled in Border hearts), and for a while they supported England; yet on the day of Arnam Moor they remembered they were Scots, changed sides and helped to decide the issue for Scotland. This battle, where the Kerrs earned their motto, "Late but in earnest", is also remembered for the desperate courage of the "Maiden Lilliard" of Maxton. In those days it was not unusual for the wives and girl friends of the fighting men to watch the action, like rugby club supporters today; when her lover was killed she waded in to avenge him in this world and join him in the next: "and when her legs were cutt off she fought upon her stumps". A small monument commemorates her on the ridge which still bears her name, and where the battle was fought.

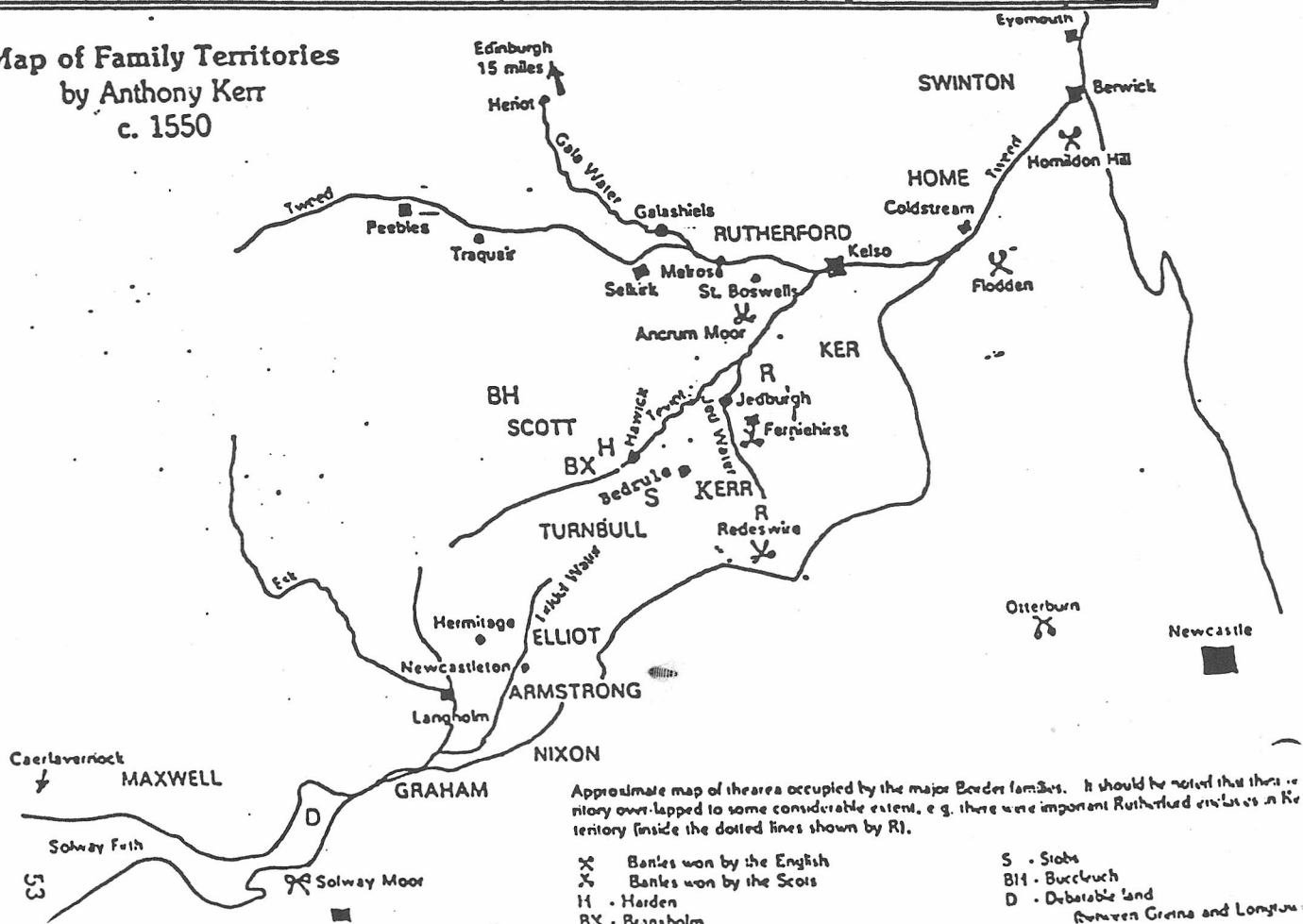
The Turnbolls suffered heavily in the pacification of the Borders under James IV and I. They were left with little of the land that had once been theirs, but many remained in the Borders, as tenant farmers, shopkeepers and craftsmen; others sought their fortune further afield, as countless Scots of every family have done, by necessity or by choice: one of them, Sir Richard Turnbull, now back in Jedburgh, was the last Governor-General of Tanganyika and was previously a latter-day "Warden of the Marches" in charge of Kenya's Northern Frontier District, a wild, beautiful land of raid and reprisal as large as Scotland itself.

Anthony Kerr 1985

The Border Clans



Map of Family Territories
by Anthony Kerr
c. 1550



I SAVED THE KING
(The Story of the Turnbolls)
By F. E. Scott

AT THE TOWN OF STERLING began the great wood of Caledon where roamed a number of white bulls, with crisp and curly manes like fierce lions, and more wild than any other beasts. As soon as any man appeared before them the bulls would rush forward without fear of hounds, sharp lances, or other weapons.

It is said that King Robert Bruce went hunting in this wood and, having only a small party with him, narrowly escaped with his life. One of the bulls, after being wounded by one of the hunters, rushed fiercely on the King who had then no weapon in his hand to defend himself from the impact.

Then a man of great spirit, who was nearby, leapt before the King and, grappling with the bull, cast it to the earth with great force and held it there while the remaining hunters slew it with their weapons. The man who rescued the King was called thereafter TURN-E-BULL and awarded with rich lands by the King."

The man of spirit was William of Rule whose athletic and sporting prowess was already known far beyond his native bounds in the Scottish Borders.

The fullest account of that forest chase was first written by Hector Boece, an early Scottish historian, in his "History of Scotland" published in Latin in Paris about 1526. His tale was based on current tradition perpetuated by word of mouth and, no doubt, by the ballads of wondering minstrels. In 1530 the account was translated into the old Scots tongue by John Bellenden of which the above is a brief quotation in modern idiom.

Traditions are frequently coloured and enlivened in retelling but even after allowances have been made the romantic origin of the name Turnbull is one which any family can be justly proud.

In this case, truth is contained in the tradition, with its minor variations, since "the rich lands" mentioned were the western parts of the estates of Philiphaugh, in Sekirkshire, and bestowed by King Robert to a William called Turnebull in 1315 for the payment of one broad arrow each Assumption Day of the Virgin (August 15). Interesting to note too that before this time the name Turnbull had never appeared on record.

Such a romantic tale has been the subject of several ballads and none expresses the episode better than the Denholm-born John Leyden in his "Scenes of Infancy" wherein he describes the heroic deed:-

Where Turnbolls once, a race no power could awe,
Lined the rough skirts of stormy Ruberslaw.
Bold was the chief from whom their line they drew,
Whose nervous arm the furious bison slew,
On Scotia's lord he rushed with lightning speed,
Bent his strong neck to toss the startled steed;
His arm robust the hardy hunter flung
Around the bending horns, and upward wrung
With writhing force his neck retorted round
And rolled the panting monster on the ground
Crushed with enormous strength his bony skull;
And courtiers hailed the man who turned the bull.

But who was this William of Rule? In the 13th century the designation appears several times on record. In 1296 a Thomas and Adam, both described as "of Rule," were among the many Scottish Border lairds who swore fidelity to Edward I, the English King, as a matter of expediency at a time when the throne of Scotland was vacant and national affairs were in a somewhat chaotic state. Again a William of Rule, probably the first of the Turnbull name, acted as a witness to a grant made to the monks of Kelso in 1300.

There is no doubt that the family adopted their designated surname from the Rule Water, a tributary of the River Teviot in Roxburghshire. It rises in the Southern Uplands and flows in a northerly direction for some nine miles, touching the parishes of Kirton, Cavers and Bedrule, before falling into the Teviot about midway, between the towns of Hawick and Jedburgh.

Rule, as a place name, is probably a relic of the ancient Celtic tongue spoken by the earliest inhabitants and used to describe the rivulet as "roaring in haste"-aptly named.

The main township is generally believed to have been situated on the left bank of the river on the slopes of Ruberslaw, the 1392 craggy peak, that dominates the whole area.

Dark Ruberslaw, that lifts its head subline.
Rugged and hoary with the wrecks of time.

Nothing now remains of the ancient habitation with only a Farm-house, its outbuildings and a few workers' cottages, marking the site. But the farm place-name is truly significant - Town o Rule.

After 1315 mention of Rules in the district became fewer as the new surname of Turnbull was substituted for the place-name and the older one died out completely.

Following the hunting incident William became something of a national hero and assumed a bulls head as his heraldic symbol with the motto, "I Saved the King". Modesty found no place among his martial and sporting qualities! Perhaps it was this lack of restraint, in his maturer years, that eventually led to his gruesome end at the Battle of Halidon Hill in 1333 when a Scottish force, in command of a Douglas, attempting to relieve the town of Berwick, was halted by an English Army.

Chroniclers tell of how:- "A certain stout champion of great stature, who for a feat done by him was called Turnbull, advanced before the Scots army and a great mastiff dog with him, and challenged any of the English army to fight with him a combat. One, Sir Robert Benhale, a Norfolk Knight, by the King of England's leave, took him up, fought and killed him, and his dog too".

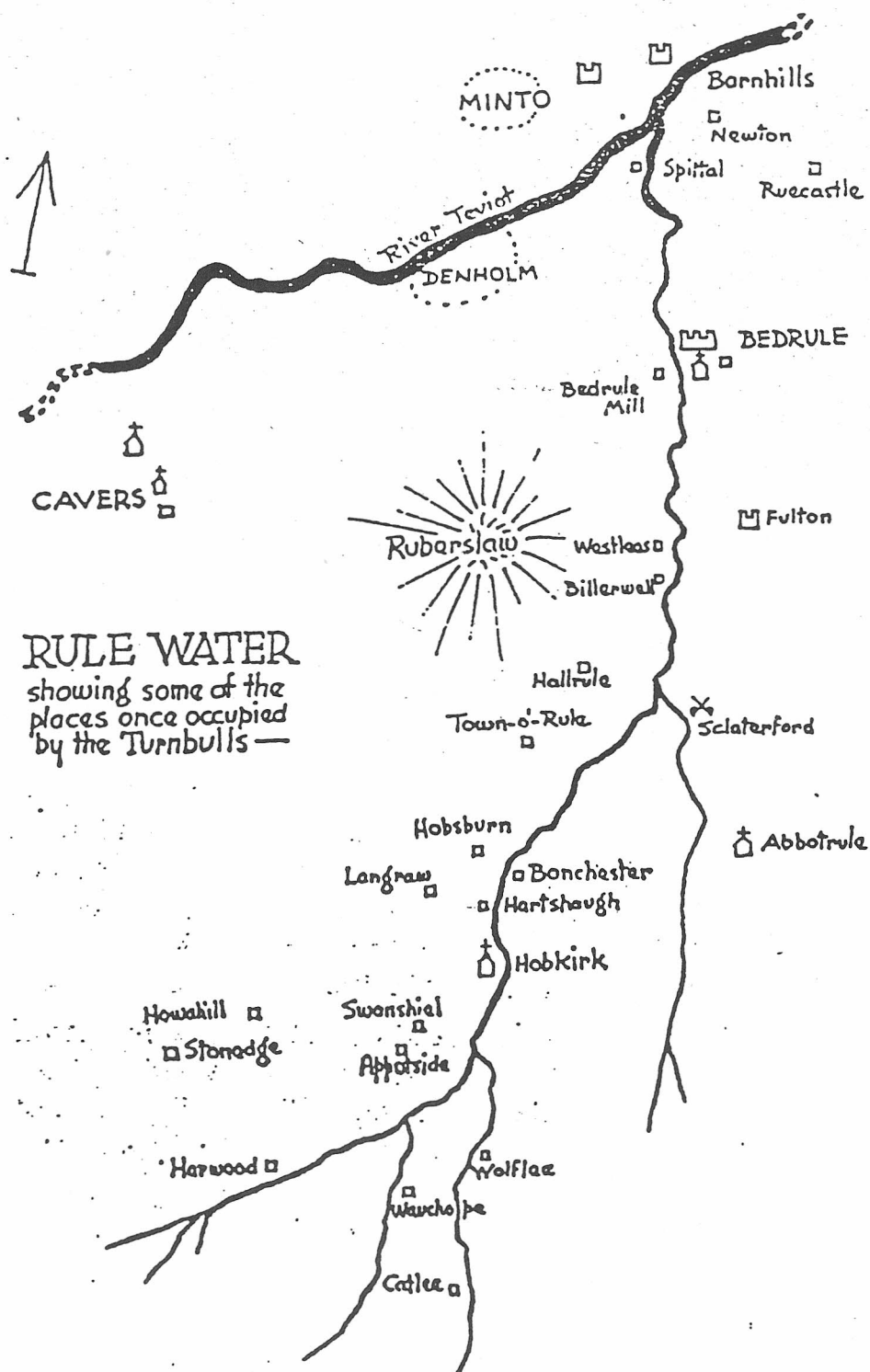
Another historian adds more details by relating how the mastiff attacked first and was severed in two by a mighty swipe of the knight's sword! In the single combat that followed Turnbull lost an arm and then his head. Thereafter the Scots suffered a sore defeat among the many killed was the leader Douglas.

The Rule Water Territory of the Turnbulls was by that time a baronial possession of the powerful house of Douglas and successive superiors were ever mindful of the fighting qualities of the Rules-cum-Turnbulls who were given small lairdships in exchange for military service in time of need - a mutual arrangement beneficial to both the baron and his tenants.

In the beginning of the 14th century, one of the most famous of the Douglasses was the Good Sir James, friend and close companion of Robert the Bruce, and it may well have been through his influence that William of Rule was included in the King's hunting party.

The oldest and largest stronghold in the Rule Valley was undoubtedly Bedrule Castle built in the 13th century by the Comyns, another influential family, who entertained Edward I there during his Scottish visit in 1298. On the death of the Red Comyn at the hands of Robert the Bruce in 1306, all the Comyns lands were forfeited. Before 1320, the castle had been added to the Douglas possessions

Sir James soon installed a Turnbull as its occupant and members of that branch of the family remained there for many generations. The power of the Douglasses eventually almost



RULE WATER
showing some of the
places once occupied
by the Turnbills —

equalled that of royalty and, indeed, as one old historian remarked that "nae man was safe in the country, unless he was either a Douglas or a Douglas man". And, of course, the Turnbulls proved themselves to be good and reliable Douglas men!

Although Bedrule Castle, among other Scottish Border strongholds, was destroyed by the English in 1545 during their devastating raid, the Turnbulls continued in heritable possession until about the end of the 18th century.

The derivation of the place-name Bedrule, with its many variations in spelling, is a matter of choice from the "birch" trees by the river Rule, to the lands named after "Bethoc", supposedly the wife of Radulph, son of Dunegal, recorded about 1150 as the first-known lords of manor.

The castle today consists of large grass-covered mounds and heaps of fallen rubble above the steep right bank of the Rule, a short distance from the church. A dry-stone dyke cuts across the site where part of the ground has been cleared to add to the arable land of the adjoining field.

From a survey made by the Royal Commission of Ancient Monuments, it was established that the castle had had an ovalshaped enclosure measuring 66 yards by 43 yards with signs of five circular towers, one of which formed the gateway approached by a track from the river to the west (near the former church manse). Although no datable relics are known to have been found among the ruins, the arrangement of the ancient buildings are suggested by the Commission to be similar to others of the 13th century date. a closer examination of the dividing dyke reveals many hewn stones obviously quarried from the convenient ruins.

PHILIPHAUGH

But what happened to the "rich lands" of Philiphaugh awarded to Turnbull the First in 1315? These lands in Ettrick Forest, with the Murrays as the immediate neighbors, remained in Turnbull hands, at least in part for 300 years.

During the first occupation a John Turnbull is mentioned in 1360 as Sheriff of Selkirkshire, and, four years later, another of the family name held the post of depute sheriff-the only occasions in which Turnbulls are credited in connection with the administration of the law.

In 1461 the Murrays acquired part of the lands and the properties became further merged after the marriage of a Murray to a Turnbull. After two of the Philipaugh family were killed at Flodden, and another in Spain, the estate gradually dwindled. When the last of the name died there in 1572 what was left was divided up and eventually fell into Murray possession.

Minto

The family name had also a long connection with Minto, a nearby estate on the opposite bank of the Teviot to its junction with the Rule Water. A Walter, reputed to be a son of the original Philiphaugh, was granted possession and had his titles to Minto lands confirmed by David II before 1370.

Then one of the famous, or infamous, of the Turnbull clan appears on the scene as lord of Minto. This was John, nicknamed "Out with the Sword" on account of his headstrong temperament and hasty actions! John had apparently married a Stewart of Jedworth and, in 1330, gave the lordship of Minto to his nephew, Sir William Stewart, whose disposition matched that of his uncle. That unlikely pair had much in common and were often in the forefront of plundering raids into Northumberland.

In 1399, during one of these incursions, the Scots were surrounded in Coquedale and taken prisoner. The Border chiefs, including "Out with the Sword" and Sir William Stewart, were committed to the Tower of London where they remained until 1413. Six years later the doughty pair were listed among the leaders of a Scottish force supporting the French army against the English, being overseas for many years until "Out with the Sword" Turnbull was killed at the Battle of Cravant in France in 1424.

Several of the clan gained French honours for their gallantry and services and settled in the provinces of Champagne and Normandy where the name of Turnbull is recorded with their coat-of-arms of three bulls' heads!

After "Out with the Sword's" death, his son, Walter, made a claim through the courts that at the time his father gave away the estate at Minto he had already been declared a leper and was therefore debarred by law from taking part in any contracts! A 19-strong jury, including several of his family name, met at the Leper Hospital at Rulemouth (now Sittal-on-Rule) and in Walters favour. Naturally the Stewarts appealed and the case hung fire until 1438 when King James II appointed Douglas of Cavers, the Sheriff of Teviotdale, to perambulate the Minto bounds and make a decision.

The result was a compromise with Stewart receiving one third of the lands, including the baron's superiority, while the remaining two thirds reverted back to the Turnbulls. And so for several more generations the Minto lands were held by two lairds, before passing through various owners until the Elliots bought the estates in the late 17th century.

BORDER BATTLES

The story of the Turnbulls is a long and complicated one.

More appears to be known of their misdeeds than their good ones judging from the many mentions in Pitcairns Criminal Trials recorded from court proceedings (1488-1624) at Jedburgh and elsewhere. Other sources testify all too clearly that the clan was somewhat unruly, but what Border family could possibly claim to leading an angelic life in these unsettled and unscrupulous days?

Few Border battles have been recorded without one or the other of the Turnbells being implicated and, indeed, when the occasion arose, the whole of the clan rallied to the Douglasses, and their neighbours, in defending their country and homeland, besides relishing any opportunity in battling with the "auld enemy" over the Border.

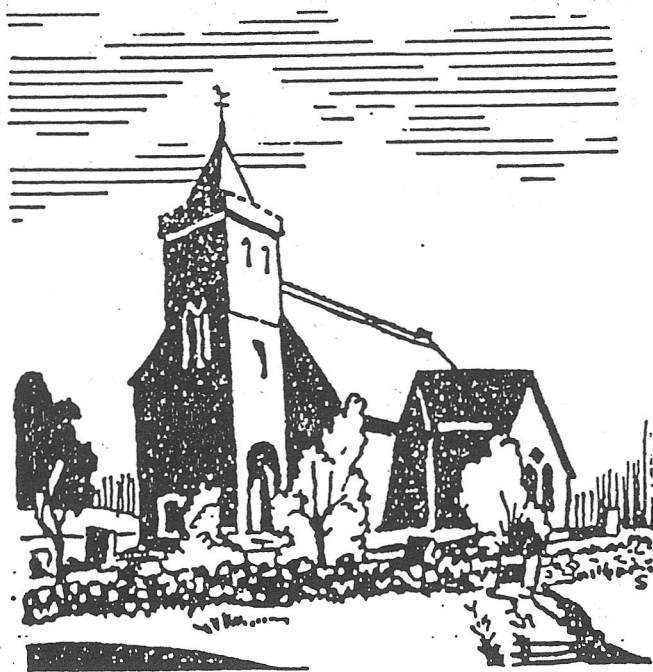
Although no specific mention is made of the Turnbells at the Battle of Otterburn in 1388, it is very unlikely that they missed the engagement since the Scots army of some 30,000 men, in the invasion of Northumberland, was led by James, Earl of Douglas, accompanied by his son, Archibald, founder of the Cavers branch of the family

By 1510 the Rulewater clan had become so audacious and scornful of authority that even King James IV sensed the danger of allowing the Turnbells to exert all the power they could muster. Determined to make an example of them, and as a deterrent to others, James, with a suitably large and impressive force, set out from Edinburgh for Spittal-on-Rule. From there an order was broadcast for all able bodied Turnbells to submit themselves before their sovereign. Two hundred members of the family complied and appeared before the King wearing linen sheets, holding naked swords in their hands, and with halters round their necks.

Accounts vary of what happened next. Some reckon every tenth man was hanged, and that the place where the penalty was carried out is still pointed out as Deadman's Haugh! Others say that only a few suffered the capital punishment, several imprisoned as hostages, and the majority bound on promise of their good behavior. The effect of the rough justice produced a quietude in the district for a few years -- not for long.

The affair at the Sclaterford in Rule valley in 1513 may not be regarded as a major Border battle yet it illustrates how the Turnbells could rally to a cause, forget their parochial differences, petty family feuds, and be ready to assist in the repelling of marauding bands.

Following their success at the Battle of Flodden, the English army retired south to treat their wounds and regroup in readiness for further onslaughts on a stricken nation.



Bedrule Church, and its surrounding burial ground, seen from the path leading from the former manse. The site of Bedrule Castle lies about 200 yards to the left of the drawing on the same level.



The ivy-covered ruins of Barnhills Castle, built in the 16th century on the north side of the River Teviot, near the base of the Minto Crag.

But firstly southerners had to cross the Cheviot Hills and pass through the territory of desperate men before penetrating into the heart of Scotland.

Towards November of that fateful year, Lord Dacre with a thousand horsemen came over the hills. Warning beacons were soon alight and word spread rapidly for all armed men to rendezvous in the upper Rule valley where they concealed themselves in the deep cleuchs of the Bowset Burn in the path of the oncoming enemy. The English party, encumbered with cattle and sheep looted en route, rode into ambush and, as Dacre later recounted, "the Scots bickered us right sore, and gave us hand strokes". Booty was abandoned as the marauders fled for the safety of their own country and, despite the arrival of reinforcements to a total of 4000 horse and 400 bowmen, continued their retreat harried all the way by pursuing Borderers.

The Scottish force of some 700 consisted of Kerrs and Douglasses from Jedburgh, the Scotts from Hawick, and, of course, the Turnbulls clan to a man defending their own territory with George Turnbull of Bedrule as their leader.

Taking advantage in 1514, of the lack of the united leadership, and weakness of Regent Arran, in Scotland, an English army again crossed the Border, plundering and ravaging the least defensive areas, forcing several local chiefs to pay for protection, and into entering the service of their ranks. The following year yet another force of over 5000 foreign mercenaries and northern English, including about 700 "broken" Scots (Turnbulls among them), invade the Borders once more.

The previous subduing of the Border clans had left the district practically defenceless, the valley of Rule, with its many towers, devastated, all homes destroyed, and cattle and household goods carried off. What the feelings of the Turnbulls in the invading force were can be guessed at. Helpless to interfere, or even intercede for their own, they could bide their time.

But a Scottish force had hurriedly been assembled under Archibald Douglas, 6th Earl of Angus, soon joined by the Scotts of Buccleuch and their retainers. The English leaders, confident in their superior numbers, met the defenders on Ancrum Moor. What they could not foresee was that the coerced Scottish Borderers in their own forces would cast off the Crosses of St. George supplied to them and turn their swords against the hereditary foe! The tide of battle suddenly changed. English ranks were broken and routed till "the Scots following ... there was no longer a battle but a slaughter.

The last of the Border frays took place on June 7, 1575 at Reidswire on the bleak moorland of the Carter Bar where Scotland and England meet. It was the day when the Wardens of the respective Marches met to settle disputes, redress wrongs, and arrange compensation for proven thefts from either side. Allegations of unfair treatment caused some resentment. Then the men from Redesdale and Tynedale on the English side of the Border Line discharged a hail of arrows among the Scots bystanders! Just then a body of Jedburgh citizens arrived as pent up emotions were released into a glory conflict:--

The Sheriff brought the Douglas down,
Baith Rule Water and Hawick town,
Wi'a' the Turnbulls, strong and stout.

At first the fight appeared to favour the English but the skirmish ended in a complete victory for the Scots:--

Little harness had we there;;
But auld Badrule had on a jack,
and did right weel, I you declare,
Wi'a' his Turnbulls at his back.

PACIFICATION

For 300 hundred years inhabitants of the Scottish Borders lived in a Territory dividing two nations at war. Periods of peace were so few and were so short that the natives subsisted in an atmosphere of almost constant conflict. Even in a so-called peace, the people were still exposed to freebooting raids from southern neighbours, yet none looked to a Scots King, or his Government, for protection, compensation, or revenge. The Border clans learned the hard way. They had to depend on their strong arm for protection, and replace their stolen goods and livestock at the expense of some unwary, or weaker, neighbor preferably from south of the Border. Life was free, dangerous and adventurous; there was no choice.

The unsettled state of the Borders, and the lawlessness of the clans, did not help towards establishing a permanent peace between the nations despite many attempts by both the Scottish and English authorities. A complete reformation in the whole social structure of the Border area took some time even after the Union of the Crowns in 1603 when James VI became James I of Great Britain, France and Ireland.

King James knew it would be no easy task to convert the turbulent clans into law-abiding citizens so vigorous and ruthless methods were adopted. Wardens of the Marches on both sides of the Border Line were ordered "to use hostile feud in hostile manner against the malefactors". to punish by death, or banish, all who would not conform.

The most influential men in the area had to sign an undertaking to assist the Kings officers; and among them were the Turnbulls of Bedrule, Minto and Wauchope. The natives had never experienced such a strict control. Many were outlawed and either fled the district or joined mercenary bands on the Continent, like the 200 legionnaires who enlisted under Scott of Buccleuch to assist the Netherlands in their war with Spain. Among the declared fugitives, whose whereabouts were henceforth unknown, were George Turnbull, son of James of Westlees, and Gavin, son of the laird of Bedrule.

Petty crime was continued by a few of the outlawed men but organized raids and disorders were easily suppressed. By 1612 the pacification of the Borders was about complete, the clan system broken, and the Government authority established.

How did the Turnbulls adjust to the new life under peaceful conditions? Not very well, it appears. Those declared rebels forfeited what holdings they had in the valley, while others, including the chief branches of Bedrule and Minto, fell into financial difficulties and had to sell their properties to pay their debts.

In the valuation roll of 1643 some 26 Turnbulls were assessed for land in the parishes of Abbotrule, Bedrule, Cavers, Hobkirk and Kirkton, lying on or near the Rule Water. By 1811 the numbers had dwindled to two, one in Hobkirk Parish and the other in Kirkton, while in Bedrule, after 500 years, not one of the family name is recorded!

There is no doubt that many families left their old homeland to carve out new careers overseas, and in the more populous areas like Glasgow and Edinburgh where the surname is still popular. Border towns absorbed their share; Hawick, today, the name of Turnbull is second only to that of Scott as the most predominant.

Local pronunciation has a number of varieties in spelling - Trumell, Trummel, etc. Those recorded since the Turn-e-bull of 1315 include: -Trumble, Tornbule, Tournebull, Trubul, Trimbill, Trimble, Trombel, Trumbul, and the French Tournebu or Tournebeuf, and others.

BISHOP WILLIAM TURNBULL

In startling contrast to the general nature of the clan, one appears who achieved everlasting fame for his career in the Church and in Scottish educational circles as the founder of the University of Glasgow!

This was William Turnbull born about 1400, reputed to be a younger son of the Laird of Bedrule Castle. By the age of 20 he received a licentiate from St. Andrews University and thereafter gained degrees as Master of Arts and a Bachelorship in Canon Law. In 1431 Turnbull was appointed Rector of Hawick, and Canon of Glasgow and Aberdeen at the same time.

An outstanding scholar, further ecclesiastical honours were preferred upon him - Dean of Faculty, Bishop of Dunkeld, Privy Councillor, Keeper of the Privy Seal, and, in 1477, the Bishopric of Glasgow. From Pope Nicholas V, Bishop Turnbull secured an edict allowing him to establish a college in Glasgow. When the building was completed (in 1451) he was elected its first Chancellor. He is believed to have died while on a pilgrimage to Rome on September 3, 1454.

HERALDIC ARMS

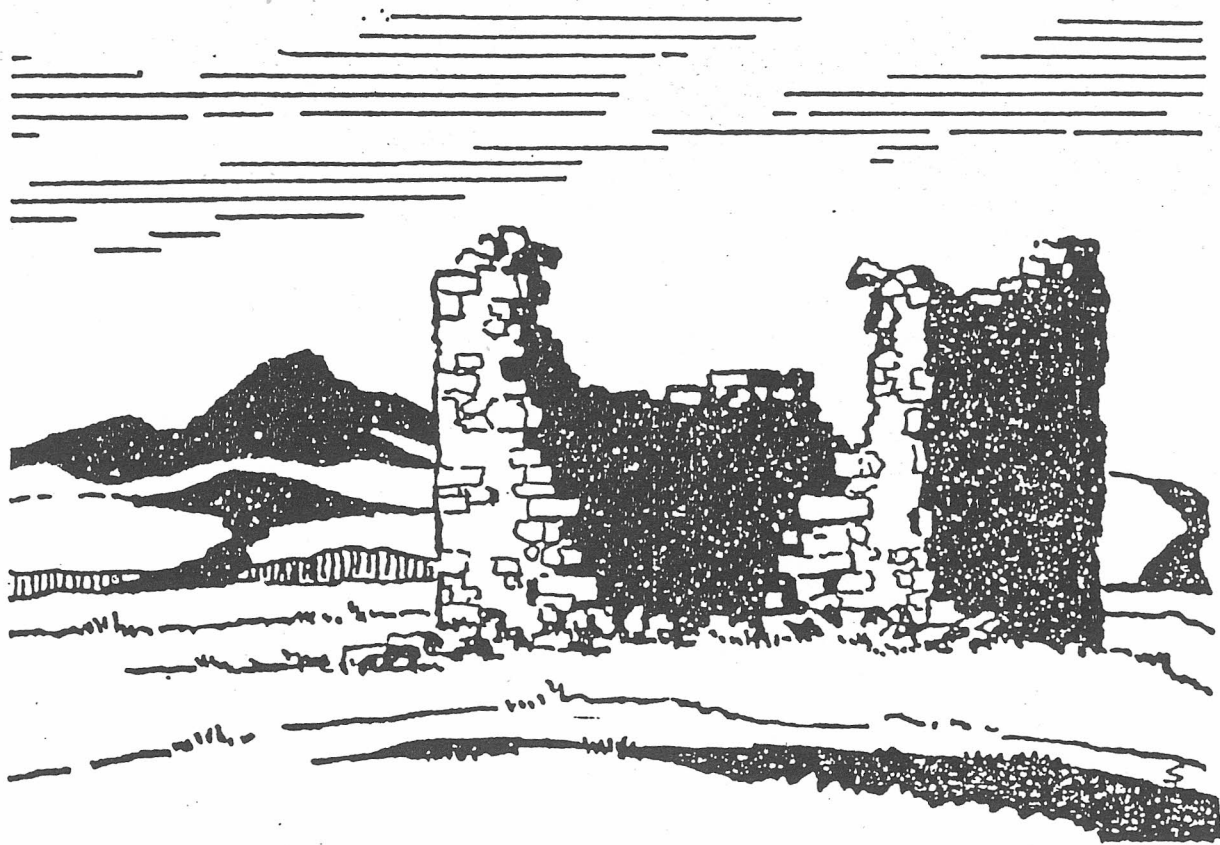
Family names frequently suggest the symbols to be used in a coat-of-arms, such as the "strong arm" of the Armstrongs, or other distinguishing emblems associated with an individual clan. The armorial bearing chosen by the original Turnbull was ready made and, surely, could have been none than a bull's head, qualified by the reminder "I Saved the King".

The Turnbulls of Philiphaugh, Bedrule and Minto appear to have used the same arms of one bull's head as did Bishop Turnbull on his episcopal seal and on carved stones in Jedburgh Abbey and Glasgow Cathedral.

For some unknown reason the Turnbulls of Minto changed to three bulls' heads in the 18th century and carried the slogan "Courage". In 1759 a branch of the Bedrule family also adopted the three heads above the motto "Audaci Favel Fortuna" (Fortune Favors the Brave), while the French Tourneboeufs and Tourebullles proudly proclaimed their Scottish origin by displaying "trois tetes de buffle!"

In Bedrule Churchyard are a considerable number of tombstones bearing the Turnbull crest with the Bull's head. But who would expect to find the three heads elaborately carved on a stone in an overgrown burial ground on the island of Tortola in the Virgin Island, West Indies? The memorial is for a William Turnbull, probably a planter, who died there in 1766 and his wife Anna, deceased 1771. And, incidentally, a number of dark-skinned natives there bear the name of the one-time slave-master.

TURN-E-BULL'S BONES



The remains of Fulton Tower on a bare hillside on the right bank of the Rule Water.
On the skyline rises the rugged outline of Ruberslaw.

An excellent story concerning the Turnbolls is told by James Robson in his "Churches and Churchyards of Teviotdale" (1893):-

In digging graves here (Bedrule) within recent years large numbers of bones have been, from time to time, unearthed. These in some cases have been found to be exceptionally large. This has led to the assumption that possibly they were the remains of some of the chiefs of the Turnbolls clan who were known men of large and powerful build. A story is told concerning the discovery of human bones in this churchyard... over a dozen years ago. It has the advantage of being true, as the writer can vouch its accuracy. Two young worthies from the neighboring village of Denholm appeared at the church one Sabbath morning. It so happened there was an interment that day, and in digging the grave the sexton had come upon two very large thigh bones... the two worthies had no difficulty in identifying the osseous relics as being those of the veritable and original Turnbull, the hero who saved the life of King Robert Bruce.

It was a Sunday nevertheless they appropriated the prize, and, to avoid suspicion and prevent exposure, they each stored one of the huge bones down his trousers leg, and with perfect composure and serenity marched home in company with their unsuspecting churchgoers. It need hardly be added that the uncouth relics were refused house room, and had to submit to an unceremonious burial, one in a "yard" on the east, and the other on the west side of the village, where they still remain... so Denholm, unawares, may thus be the remains of a great Scottish hero.

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By R. E. Scott, 1977.

One of the valleys that runs north out of the Cheviots into Teviotdale carries the Rule Water to its parent river. It is one of those pockets in which the most ancient stock of any country might survive, taking in the new blood of successive immigrants or conquerors, yet retaining an original identity. Bedrule lies in the recesses of hills that had once divided the Welsh-speaking kingdom Gododdin from English Northumbria, and later formed the debatable land between Scotland and England. It is the original cradle of a tribe called the Turnbulls.

The earliest records of them appears in the time of the Anglo-Norman Kings of Scotland. A Richard de Rullos is named there in 1130: a Gilbertus Behulle in 1248. The district itself is called Terra de Rul in 1266. But it seems unlikely that its inhabitants descend from one of the Anglo-Norman families whom Scottish Kings brought from England or France. The name Turnbull, and its legendary origin, suggest quite different affinities. Hector Boece related this legend as historical fact in 1526, in his account of the manner in which a man named Roull saved the life of King Robert Bruce in the forest of Callander, from a wild boar or bull. After the beast felt sore wounded, he rushed upon the King who had no weapon in his hand, had surely perished had not help come. Howbeit, one came running unto him who overthrew the bull by plain force, and held him down until the hunters came who killed him outright. For this valiant act the King endowed the aforesaid party with great possessions, and his lineage to this day is called the Turnbull.

Had this been historical fact, it would provide supporting evidence that Robert I had planted a Turnbull in Bedrule in the same way as he planted a Burnett at Banchovy, for services rendered. But in addition to the negative evidence, there is the positive presence of a William 'dicto Turnbull in record earlier than Bruce's reign. In any case, the heroic progenitor of the tribe who slays a wild beast to the stock-in-trade of the Celtic legend. The Macleods have a version of it, and the oldest one of all in Scotland was brought among the Ossianic tales from Ireland. In this one, Diarmaid, legendary progenitor of Clan Campbell, kills the wild boar in Gaelic ballad and folk tale. The principal

difference between the campbell and the Macleod versions on the one hand and the Turnbull one on the other is that of language. The Welsh of the Gododdin epic-Scotland's earliest poem-had given way to English over a thousand years before the poet of the Turnbull country, John Leydon, wrote in 1801:

His arms robust the hardy hunter flung
Around his bending horns, and upward wrung,
With writhing force his neck retorted round.
And rolled the panting to the ground,
Crushed, with enormous strength, his bony skull;
And courtiers hailed the man who turned the bull.

Leyden has identified the beast as a bison a few lines earlier. But it is the bull's head that is incorporated into the coat-of-arms of Turnbull, as of MacLeod, while the Campbell heraldy contains a boars head. But heraldy was a form of military identification introduced into Scotland from about the 12th century, with all the kit of the Norman feudal system. It made use of the emblems of older society, as well as introducing those of the newcomers. The three bull's heads of Turnbull (variously adorned in later matriculations) appear to belong to pre-heraldic, Celtic past like the legend that accounts for them. But they were displayed in many a Border battle, and notably at the defeat of Halidon Hill in 1333, when a Turnbull knight challenged any one of the enemy to single combat.

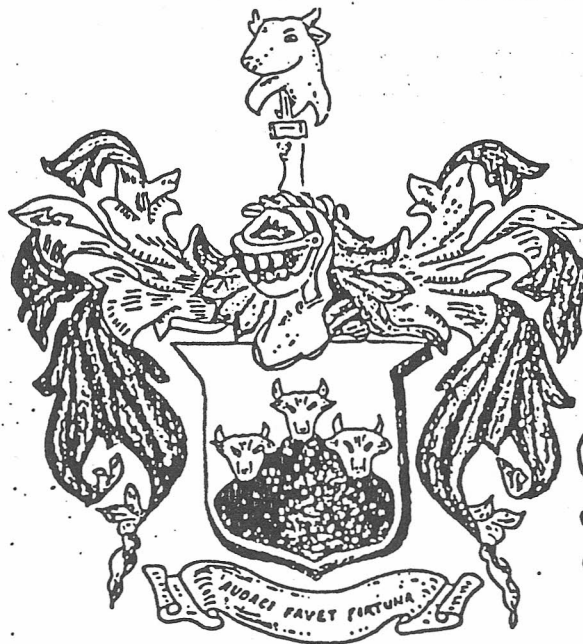
By the time of John Leydon the poet (1775-1811), the Turnbull country stood on the threshold of industrial revolution. He was born in the village of Denholm near the junction of Rule water and the Teviot, and joined Sir Walter Scott in collecting their Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border, that amount to a vanishing way of life and its traditions. The greater part of Denholm was owned at this time by John Turnbull (1735-1816), whose wife was Jane Leyden; and the lives of their descendents illustrate the great dispersal that was about to take place in the rural Scotland of the clans.

An account similar to the above can be found in "American Ancestry", in the Carnegie Library, Atlanta, Georgia. They say that Turnbull is one of the oldest Clans of Scotland. Also for several hundred years they had representatives in the English Parliament. Lord Percival Turnbull was one of the Trustees of General James Edward Turnbull Oglethorpe in the founding of Georgia. Sir Walter Scott's mother was a Miss Turnbull as reported by a Dr. John R. Turnbull of Toronto Canada (Missionary of Christian Alliance). John R. Turnbull also stated: "Five Turnbull brothers left Aberdeen, Scotland and moved to America. One settled in Canada, one in Virginia, one South Carolina". It is believed one was Andrew Turnbull in Florida. The Turnbull name appears in Who's Who in England.





THE TURNBULL COAT OF ARMS HEREBY ILLUSTRATED IS OFFICIALLY DOCUMENTED IN FIFE'S SENESCAL ARCHIVE. THE ORIGINAL DESCRIPTION OF THE ARMS (SHIELD) IS AS FOLLOWS:
 "AR. A GARS PPR. BETW. THREE BULLS' HEADS ERASED SA. ARMED VERT."
 WHICH TRANSLATED THE BLAZON ALSO DESCRIBES THE ORIGINAL COLORS OF THE TURNBULL ARMS AS:
 "SILVER: A WHEAT SHEAF PROPER BETWEEN THREE BLACK BULLS' HEADS JAGGED WITH GREEN HORNS."
 ABOVE THE SHIELD AND HELMET IS THE CREST WHICH IS DESCRIBED AS:
 "A RIGHT HAND HOLDING UP A HALF DIAMOND CHARGED WITH THREE ORBS SILVER. ALL WITHIN TWO GREEN PALM BRANCHES."



Four different
Turnbull Coat
of Arms, plus
the Crest that
is on the ruins
of the Jetburgh
Abbey, that are
known.





IN THE GLORY OF GOD
AND IN MEMORY OF
THE FOLLOWING DESCENDANTS
OF THE ANCIENT BARONIAL FAMILY OF
TURNBULL OF BEDRULE

ANDREW - 1607 - 1747

TENANT IN MINIO CLUCHILLAN

THOMAS - 1706 - 1774 OF CAISHAWILLAN

TENANT IN BURNFOOT

WILLIAM - 1745 - 1825

TENANT IN BURNFOOT & WESTER BUCCLUGH

THOMAS - 1784 - 1867

TENANT IN EAST MIDDLE

AND OF

PETER - 1836 - 1921

SURGEON GENERAL R.H.S. J.M.S.

MARY OLIVER 1848 - 1902

THIS WIFE

AND SIX OF THEIR TEN CHILDREN

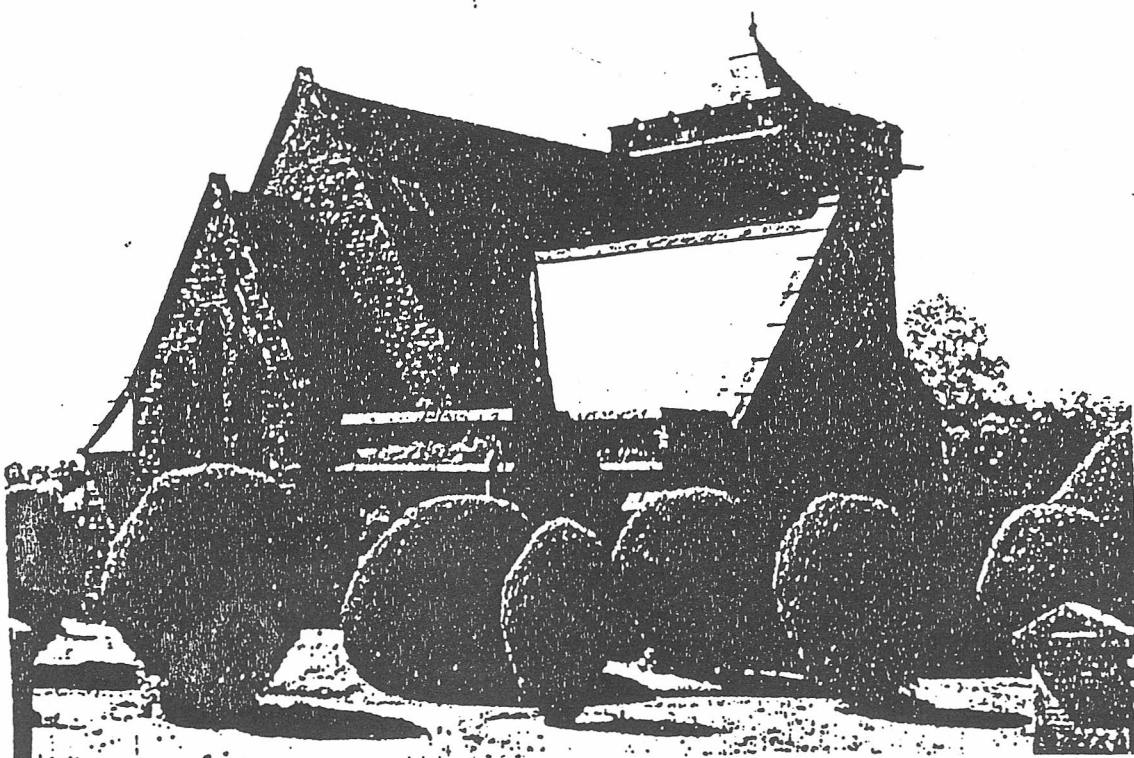
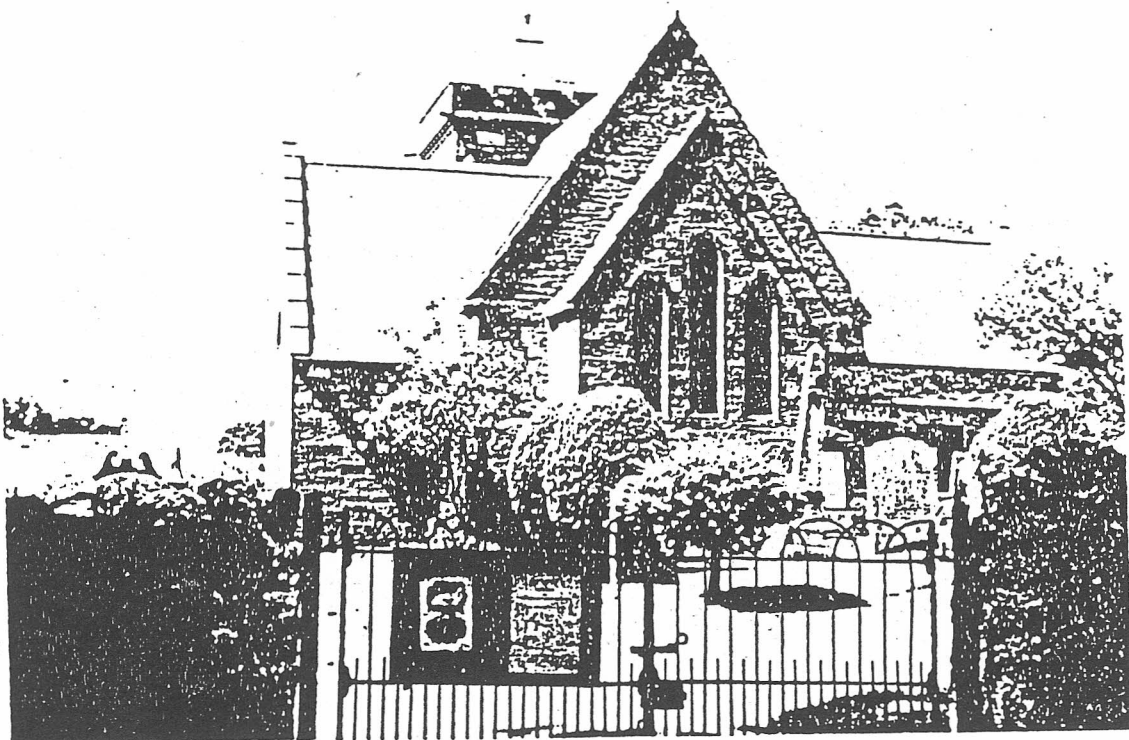
THOMAS MARGARET MARY EVELYN

BRECK AND PERCY

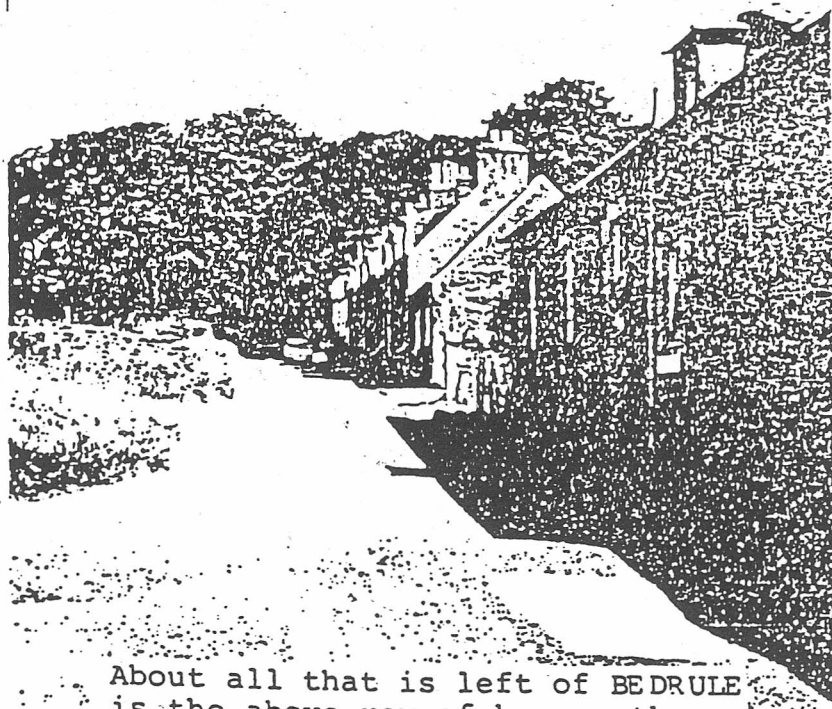
ERECTED IN 1933 BY

GEORGE NORMAN HUGHES AND DOROTHY

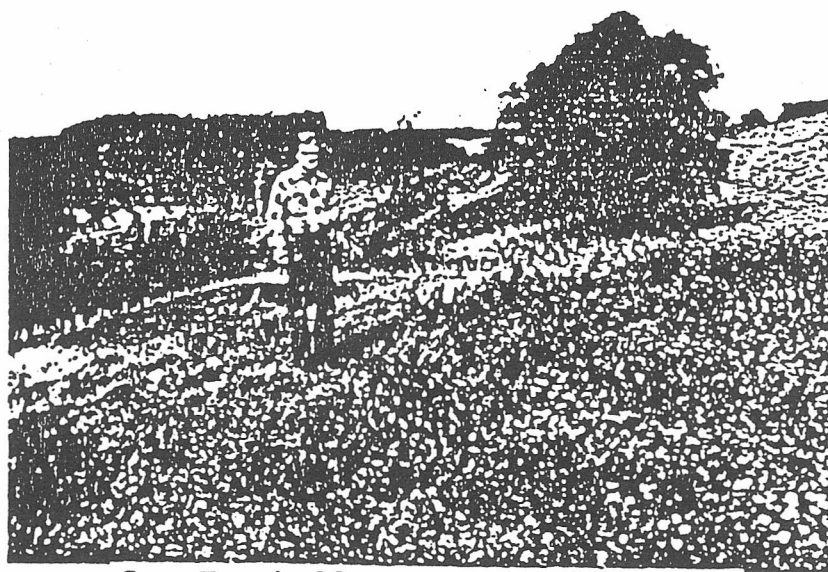
PLAQUE IN THE
CHURCH IN BEDRULE



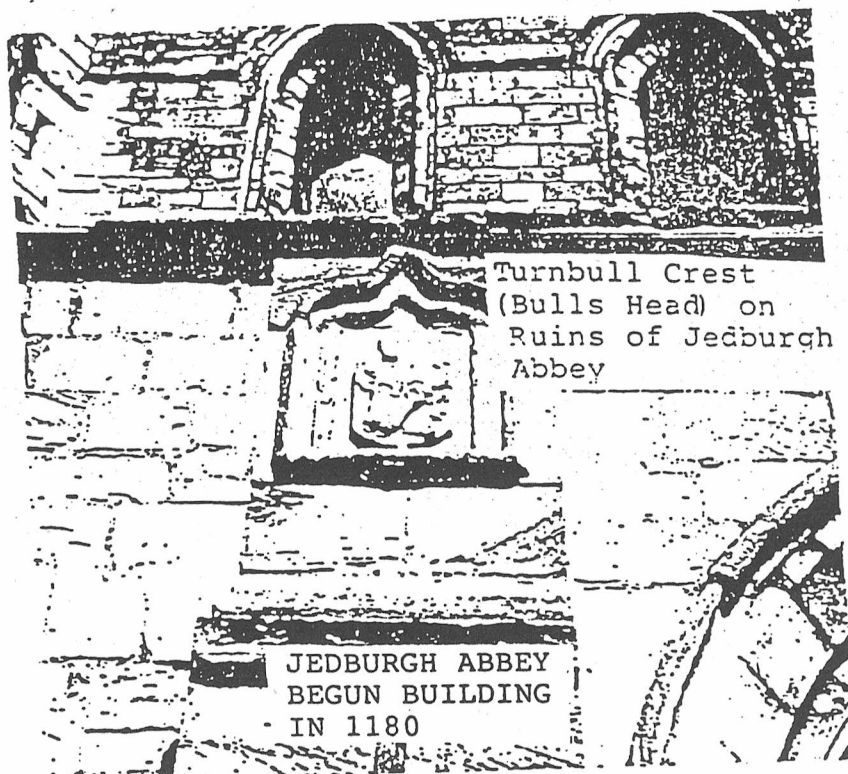
BEDRULE CHURCH
BUILT IN 1349



About all that is left of BEDRULE is the above row of homes, the Church and the Cemetery.



Sam Turnbull, Jr. standing on the ruins of what was once the location of the Turnbull Castle.



Turnbull Crest
(Bulls Head) on
Ruins of Jedburgh
Abbey

JEDBURGH ABBEY
BEGUN BUILDING
IN 1180

Notes on West Window in Bedrule Church
Designed and Executed by
Herbert Hendrie, A.R.C.A., Edinburgh

In the left hand light is shown St Andrew, the Patron Saint of Scotland depicted as a fisherman holding his fishing net. In the right hand light is shown St Mungo, (or Kentigerna, A.D. 601). He is depicted as a Bishop holding a crozier. Bedrule Church is his right hand.

One of the Turnbills of Bedrule was Bishop of Glasgow from 1448 A.D. and in pre-reformation days the Bishop of Bedrule or Bedrule as it was then called, was in the Diocese of Glasgow and the See of Glasgow.

St Mungo was brought up from a child in the Monastery of Culross, and was afterwards made Bishop of Glasgow, where he laboured hard to promote primitive piety and monastic discipline. He was buried in Glasgow the Cathedral of which was dedicated to his name.

In the small 'Tracery' window above the two lights is shown the badge of Sir Robert Usher.

In the right hand lower corner the fish with the cross commemorates the tradition of the fishery with the emblem of St Kentigerna, of the lost ring belonging to the Queen of Culross.

The Border Marches of England and Scotland in the Sixteenth Century

Border records of the sixteenth century show fairly clearly where the limits of the six Marches ran, but there are some portions for which the evidence is conflicting or incomplete. For example, the line between the English East and Middle Marches cannot be established with complete certainty; contemporary authorities do not agree exactly, and I have drawn the boundary along what seems the most likely line. Similarly, local opinions differed about the boundary between the English West and Middle Marches, particularly where it touched the Anglo-Scottish frontier. I have used the Cumberland-Westmoreland line, which both evidence and common sense seem to favour, rather than an arbitrary line touching the Border at Kershopefoot.

By Anthony Kerr

