



# turnbull clan association

June, 1979

## - NEWS-LETTER -

Dear Member,

This is our third News-Letter since we were formed in 1977 and I am pleased to report that our Association has made steady progress and that our membership has now passed the 300 mark.

May I take this opportunity to welcome all our new members who have joined in the past few months and to thank them for their support. I can only repeat that the interest which is shown in our family name is fantastic and strengthens our resolve to research our history even more thoroughly so that we may learn yet a little more about ourselves.

### MEMBERSHIP

We have run two main membership drives this winter, both of which have given interesting and good results. Firstly, we completed the Newcastle upon Tyne area as far as names in the Telephone Directory could take us. Secondly, with the help of Walter Spratt of Geelong in Victoria, Australia, we attacked the Australian Continent—Melbourne in particular—which has received a superb welcome and our membership has increased by about forty from this one particular mailing. Postal services being what they are, with many delays, etc., we are still receiving interesting queries and have high hopes of many more members. Whilst speaking of Australia, I am sure you will be delighted to know that Wendy Turnbull, the Australian, Wimbledon Ladies' Doubles Champion, has joined the Clan, and we wish her all the best for a great future in World Tennis.

In the U.S.A. we have been consolidating our position and have not run any more recruitment schemes, but rather allowed natural development to take place, by word of mouth, etc. We understand that Dottie Berk of Chicago, Dr By Turnbull of Lafayette and Michael Turnbull of Ohio, will be putting their heads together soon on plans for more expansion and we shall look forward to hearing what form this will take. Before leaving the subject of membership, we would like to thank our organisers who are doing such a grand job for the Clan overseas and at the same time give members their full addresses, should anyone wish to contact them:

#### U.S.A.

##### (East)

Mrs Dorothy Turnbull Berk,  
1204 W. Lonnquist Blvd.,  
Mt. Prospect,  
Illinois 60056.

Michael G. Turnbull,  
338 Granville Ave.,  
Bellwood,  
Illinois 60104.

##### (West Coast)

Dr Byron G. Turnbull,  
754 Old Jonas Hill Road,  
Lafayette,  
California 94549.

#### South Africa

Col. James Turnbull,  
Victoria Club,  
P.O. Box 277,  
Pietermaritzburg,  
Natal.

#### Australia

Walter Spratt,  
7 Grant Street,  
Newtown,  
Geelong,  
Victoria 3220.

S. J. Turnbull,  
2181 The Grandstand,  
Erskine Park, N.S.W. 2759,  
(P.O. Box 375 St. Mary's,  
N.S.W. 2760).  
Telephone 02-670-1624.

### FINANCE

I am pleased to report that our funds are adequate to meet the various mailing and printing expenses, which are, by far, our most expensive items. We are most grateful to those members who have paid 1979/80 by Bankers' Order, as this makes the Secretary's job much easier. May I ask, however, that members do pay their dues for 1979/80 against the slip included with this News-Letter, and so allow us to have a platform upon which to fund our forthcoming Gathering in October 1979.

## THE GATHERING

This is, of course, the big story for the year and has been occupying most, if not all, of the Committee's time. Plans are now well advanced and you will receive your Booking Form and Itinerary along with this letter. The dates of October 12th, 13th and 14th have been chosen deliberately to be out of season, being much more economically sound as far as accommodation is concerned. I am sure you will agree, upon examination of the terms which we have negotiated with local hoteliers, that we have done well. The programme is varied and should suit most tastes, both from the activity point of view, to that of the more enquiring mind—always remembering that one can simply opt out should one wish to do so.

It is our earnest hope that some of our overseas members may be able to attend, but we are not too hopeful because of the short notice given of the Gathering and the fact that it is off-season. In the U.K., however, there is no excuse and we are hoping for a very good response to what, we are sure, will be a most enjoyable weekend.

Meantime, I believe, that in the U.S.A. Dottie Berk and Mike Turnbull in Chicago, are planning something on a smaller scale in order to knit together American members. Where, or what form it has to take, we do not yet know, but we wish them well and look forward to some pictures, etc.

## Dr MICHAEL ROBSON'S REPORT—Turnbulls Past and Present

Present-day Turnbulls researching their family history probably find it quite easy to trace ancestors back to the mid nineteenth century. The evidence of family papers and the memories of older generations can be supported by the registers of births, deaths and marriages which have been regularly and accurately kept since 1855.

Going back beyond 1855 presents problems. Surviving registers are incomplete and other existing records have never been brought together in a convenient form, so that a tremendous amount of time and searching is needed to fill the gaps, though even then the missing branches of the family tree are frustratingly numerous. It is a curious fact, however, that information for an earlier period still is quite abundant and there are many published records (as well as unpublished ones) of sixteenth century Turnbulls and their predecessors.

So Turnbull's, like others with Border names, find that they have to deal with a history that falls into three stages. Material is presently being assembled at Hawick Museum relating to all three but in particular to the first period up to the early seventeenth century. Results will be made available as soon as possible and attention will then shift to the more difficult "stage two."

## SOUVENIRS AND TARTAN

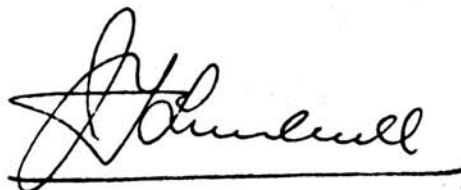
By this time I am sure every member has seen the new tartans which have been adopted by the Clan. The response has been excellent from all over the world and the Dress Turnbull has, so far, proved just slightly more popular.

We are also pleased to announce that the Knitwear project is complete and that we can supply in lovely Super Lambswool, or Cashmere, jerseys to suit every taste, both in colour and style. Although how to market the product is a little more difficult, especially through the mail, but those who have been lucky enough to obtain a jersey, with its beautiful, embroidered Turnbull Crest, have been very loud in their praise. We feel that, for the moment, any member wishing details should simply write to us, stating needs, etc., and we shall do our best to fulfil the order.

Speaking of embroidery brings to mind an interesting development which has been suggested by our man in Thailand, namely Robert M. Turnbull. At this moment he is helping with the rehabilitation of many thousands of refugees, and many of the ladies are beautiful seamstresses who are very skilled in hand embroidery. It is his intention to produce an embroidered plaque in silk, for framing and hanging on the wall. The Committee are very much behind him in this idea and are looking forward to receiving the prototype. Should things work out then we will list the silk plaques on our sales list and, hopefully, Robert will have created some worth while employment for the refugees.

In closing may I thank you all for your letters and information. We are most pleased at our steady growth and we are looking forward to a busy summer when, hopefully, we shall meet many more of our cousins who make up THE TURNBULL CLAN!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. F. Turnbull', written over a horizontal line.

JOHN F. TURNBULL.



**T**HE TURNBULL Clan Gathering, held in Hawick over the weekend, proved a resounding success, with 70 delegates from all over Britain and abroad taking part in the celebrations.

The festivities began on Friday night, with a ceilidh held in the Crown Hotel.

Throughout the evening, the visitors were treated to a feast of traditional entertainment and the company was favoured by many well-known local entertainers and singers, including Rob Hobkirk and his band, Wat Robson and friends, Reene Currie, Edna Tait, Cathy Williams, Charlie Turnbull and his country dancers and Will Scott.

Latecomers who arrived during the course of the evening were made welcome and the success of the first event of the programme set the scene for the rest of the weekend.

On Saturday morning, Dr Michael Robson, Curator of Hawick Museum, gave a lecture on the history of the Turnbull Clan, in which he revealed that there is evidence

of Turnbells existing in the eighth century.

The lecture was recorded by the guests and should make interesting reading when transcribed.

In the afternoon, following lunch at the Horse and Hounds Inn in Bonchester, the guests were taken on a tour of the places of interest in the area.

First, the two busloads went to Bedrule and then round Jedburgh Abbey, Barnhills and Fatlips Castle, before going to Mossbail so that the visitors could have a taste of the Common Riding.

They enjoyed the outing immensely and returned to Hawick at about six o'clock.

# Clan Gathering great success

On Saturday night, the international dinner was held in the Crown Hotel and the company was graced by many excellent speeches. The main toast, "To the Turnbull", was given by Dr Bill Cameron, who was in sparkling form and gave a humorous and spirited speech.

During the evening they were entertained by Bert Armstrong, the renowned local singer, accompanied by Adie Ingles on piano. The visitors found the Border songs enchanting and the dinner, which finished late, was voted a great success by the 90 guests who attended.

On Sunday morning a good congregation turned out at

Bedrule Church to hear the Rev. Harry Dodds preach a memorial sermon which was much appreciated by all who attended.

Following the service, the company had a light lunch in the Fox and Hounds Inn at Denholm before making their departures. The general feeling was that it had been a great weekend and that the guests were already looking forward to the next gathering.

Mr John Turnbull, who organised the event, commented: "There will definitely be another one in four years. However, depending on membership, there could be another Clan Gathering sooner".



*THE TURNBULL CLAN . . . Turnbells from all round the British Isles and overseas visited Hawick this weekend for the Turnbull Clan Gathering.*