



# turnbull clan association

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2.16.82

## - NEWS-LETTER -

Dear Member,

The year 1981 has been a memorable one for our Association, principally because it saw the first International Gathering and all that that entails. Even now, six months on, we receive letters and news from those who have spread the word far and wide throughout the world.

It is always a pleasure to welcome new members and introduce them to their fellow members whenever possible through our membership lists, etc. We also take pride in the fact that our records are improving every year and an overall picture of the pioneering spirit of the TURNBULLS is gradually being built up.

This News-Letter is meant to keep you abreast of some of the current happenings within the Association and to present some modest plans for the future.

### MEMBERSHIP

It gives me great pleasure to report that our Clan is increasing steadily, mostly by members contacting their nearest and dearest, and telling them of our existence. At our last tally we had over 900 members throughout the world.

Since The Gathering in Hawick in May, 1981, we have not had any recruiting campaigns, but have been working steadily towards a Clan mailing in New Zealand. This is going very much according to plan and will go out from Hawick sometime this month. We are certainly looking for a good response early in the year. Our Organiser and Secretary in New Zealand is: Mrs Pat Turnbull, Sherwood Farm, Tussock Creek, 6RD, Invercargill, New Zealand, who is hoping for great things.

All we can say from Hawick is a big "THANK YOU" and wish her all the success in the world. However, we are sure that the Areas will respond as it is amazing how many Turnbulls are listed in telephone directories in N.Z.

News from the Branches has been a little sparse since The Gathering, but we know from experience that both Dottie Berk (U.S.A. East) and Jim Turnbull (Australia) have been up to their ears in correspondence, etc. Meanwhile in California our West Coast Councillor, Dr Byron G. Turnbull, has been doing his bit for "hands across the ocean". Such was his enthusiasm for anything from the "Old Country" that he managed, single-handed, to find hosts for twenty-three young people from the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme when they visited California recently.

## FINANCE

2.16.82

The year's events have seen our funds under strain but I am glad to report that we had £245.00 in the Bank at the last balance in November. We expect that the funds will receive a boost in January as new subscriptions start to arrive for 1982.

We are most grateful to Jim Turnbull (Australia) and Dottie Berk (U.S.A.) for gathering our subscriptions when they collect their branch memberships. This allows a single cheque payment and at the same time saves time and effort.

The committee see no reason why subs cannot be held at £2.00 this year but fear that postage and printing will make an increase unavoidable next year.

The sales of the Clan paraphernalia do help with the funds and we have been able to add one or two items this year. We would recommend the Anoraks to those who live in a cold climate. They are light in weight, but very cosy, and they look very smart with the Turnbull crest badge.

As mentioned in our last News-Letter, stamped addressed envelopes are most appreciated and we hope that members with queries will keep up this good work.

## Dr ROBSON'S REPORT

The heartland of the Turnbolls is usually considered to be in the parish of Bedrule, not far east of Hawick, and certainly this area has always been well populated by people bearing the Turnbull surname. There was in centuries past a definite association between Turnbolls and the district around Bedrule, just as there was between Armstrongs, Elliots and others and Liddesdale, or Borthwicks and Pringles and the upper valley of the Gala Water above Galashiels. This definite link between clan and place was found in the Scottish Highlands as well and is obviously an important feature of the earlier stages of a clan's history. It does not mean however that all members of a particular surname were only to be found in one district during late mediaeval times, and it is a striking fact that while Turnbolls were very strongly located in mid-Roxburghshire, they were also to be found widely scattered in other parts of Scotland and the North of England. This dispersal of the surname is another important aspect of family history; apart from definite location there is also a sufficiently wide occurrence of the name to remind the researcher that he may go far wrong if he works on the assumption that every Turnbull **must** derive from Bedrule. This increases the mystery surrounding the origins of the surname and makes it all the more important to keep an open mind. So when we find in May 1588 an "Adame Turnbull" in Aberdeenshire, we have several options, one of which is to imagine that he or his father might have travelled north from Roxburghshire, another being to assume that he was a member of an old, established Aberdeenshire family.

In any case, the earlier history of the Turnbolls is like that of any other family, difficult to reconstruct owing to lack of documentary records, and any attempt to write one must be made in the certainty that it will not achieve the whole truth. In 1982 it is intended to publish and make available through the Society an account of the earlier Turnbolls up to 1700. Any members who have authentic information about the origins of their own family and can supply details or photocopies of records are asked to get in touch with Clan Headquarters, 51 High Street, Hawick, as soon as possible.

Orders for this publication, understood to be provisional until such matters as price are decided, would also be welcome.

## CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The year 1981 has been a most eventful one for me and the Clan. It began with plans for The Gathering and all the organisation it would entail. However, it received a nasty set-back when I suffered a heart attack in March but, fortunately, I was able to recover enough to carry through our plans and I was helped at every turn by the committee for which I was very grateful.

The highlight of the year was the International Dinner held in the Crown Hotel on the Saturday night of The Gathering. The sight of the tartan and approximately ninety members thoroughly enjoying themselves was reward enough. I also remember vividly on the following Sunday, after a most enjoyable pub lunch, being spirited away to Bedrule Castle remains, where we gathered souvenir stones for our guests before their departure home — all great fun!

The summer was memorable in that it was punctuated by many visits to the shop by members who were in Scotland on holiday and took the trouble to look me up. They came from all over the British Isles and quite a number from overseas, a fact which is borne out by the many new entries in our visitors' book.

Finally, to wind up the summer my wife, Myra, and I visited California for the very first time. This was a never-to-be-forgotten holiday, during which we met Clan members from all over the State. Our only regret was that we did not arrange some sort of meeting or Gathering. Hopefully this will happen on our next visit as we were enchanted by the country, its people and the weather. Byron and Dodie Turnbull looked after us for the duration of our stay and they, along with their family, proved to be wonderful hosts.

### **RESEARCH YOUR FAMILY HISTORY AT HOME**

As you will see from the enclosed brochure new family research facilities are being provided in a beautiful part of the Border Country. And you can make the estate your home for all or part of the year. The luxury Scandinavian lodges presently for sale at Whithaugh in Liddesdale enable you to have a residence in the Borders where you can research family and local history among records now being assembled and visit the many places of interest in the area, all at your leisure. Whithaugh is in the midst of Elliot and Armstrong country, and less than half an hour by road from the Rule Water homeland of the Turnbells. We understand that residents will have the freedom to explore and relax in the estate, and that other attractive arrangements such as occasional courses in family history research are being made.

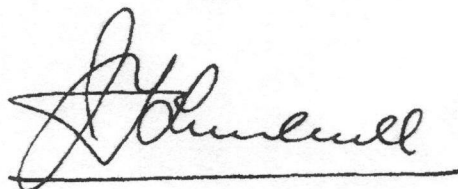
### **THE FUTURE**

We have not made any plans for a get-together of members in the British Isles in 1982, but as we are being urged to do something we shall look into a few possibilities—it is great to see so much enthusiasm.

Early in the new year we are having a Dinner for the committee members and their wives, together with the Elliot Clan committee. This should be most interesting, as well as enjoyable, and I am sure we will be able to swap a few ideas.

I would like to take this opportunity of sending you my greetings and good wishes for 1982, and hope that many more of the Turnbull Clan will have the pleasure of meeting each other.

Sincerely yours,

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

JOHN F. TURNBULL.

AUDACI FAVET FORTUNA



In future News-Letters we are hoping to include items from the news-letters which the branches put out so that every member is much better informed of our growing organisation.

No word on membership would be complete without a word on Canada, which is doing very well, thank you. However, members seem to be pretty well scattered and we could do with a bit of help in the formation of a proper branch. To all those who have helped with addresses we say—thank you very much indeed. Especially to one of our founder members in Canada—Miss Mabel Turnbull, who lives in Kilbarchan House, Seaforth, Ontario. This wonderful old lady has done wonders and has truly shown the Turnbull Spirit!

It is with great sadness that we have to announce the passing of two gentlemen who have been such a tower of strength to the Clan.

Firstly, Col. James Turnbull of Pietermaritzburg, who passed away on 5th June, 1981, after a short illness. Col. Turnbull (84) was our Secretary in South Africa and, indeed, founded our branch there. His outspokenness and stature were such that when he wrote to all the national African daily papers announcing the formation of the Turnbull Clan in Africa, there was a mighty outcry. It is perhaps fitting that the oldest, and one of the most respected newspapers in South Africa—"The Natal Witness"—carried the following as its main headline . . . "COL. JAMES TURNBULL HAS DIED" . . . and there followed an excellent obituary. We, for our part, can say no more except that we were proud to have known Col. James and that his work will go on.

Our other friend who died was none other than the Rev. Harry Dodd of Denholm. The Rev. Harry had endeared himself to all those members who have been able to attend our Gatherings. He had indeed become our Padre and he will be long remembered for the two memorial sermons he preached in Bedrule Kirk. The first in 1979 likened the Turnbulls to a "Tree" with many branches and roots, and is well remembered by those who were privileged to hear it. His second memorial sermon which was preached in May, 1981, is well recorded I am glad to say thanks to the foresight of Dottie Berk and Jim Turnbull who took recordings inside the Church. These sermons will be preserved in Hawick and, in time, will be available to anyone who would like to read, or hear them. On this sad occasion our thoughts go out to Mrs Dodd and family and we give thanks for all Harry was able to do for us.

## THE GATHERING

Our report on The Gathering must be short as it is covered by the newspaper cutting which is enclosed with this letter. The committee, and myself, were well pleased with the result and have noted the various points which were mentioned to us at that time. These will be put into operation at the next International Gathering in 1985. We were impressed by the enthusiasm of all who attended and also the idea that local branches may be started in parts of England. As far as we know this has not yet happened, but there is no rush and we are looking forward to hearing news of developments. As always we thank those members who travelled round the world to be with us and they are as follows:

Mr Alex. Turnbull, Victoria, Australia.

Mr and Mrs Jim Turnbull, N.S.W., Australia.

Miss June Phillips, N.S.W., Australia.

Mr and Mrs Bill Berk, Illinois, U.S.A.

Mr and Mrs George Turnbull, Wisconsin, U.S.A.

We hope that they are all well and have many happy memories of their visit with us.



I N M E M O R I A M

JOHN F. TURNBULL, Organizer and Founder of the TURNBULL CLAN ASSOCIATION, Scotland, passed away February 22, 1982 at Hawick, Roxburghshire, Scotland.

I M M O R T A L I T Y

Do not stand at my grave and weep...  
I am not there. I do not sleep.

I am a thousand winds that blow,  
I am the diamond glints on snow.  
I am the sunlight on ripened grain...  
I am the gentle autumn rain.  
When you awake in the morning's hush,  
I am the swift upflinging rush  
Of quiet birds in circling flight.  
I am the soft star-shine at night.

Do not stand at my grave and cry...  
I am not there. I did not die.

Author Unknown

We knew him but a short while but his memory will be loved and cherished forever. REST IN PEACE.

1984

*Barrie's Wedding Day: Barrie, Nana Sims, Merna, Debbie (bride), Harish.*

