



THE BULL'S EYE BULL-E-TIN



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D. T. Berk, Editor

GREETINGS OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON - HAPPY NEW YEAR

This December issue will be reaching you a few days late in order to avoid "holiday mixups". It worked so well last year that it bears repeating, particularly since membership renewal notices are enclosed.

We continue to hold the line without having to cutback in any area of service, therefore the 1987 dues assessment is still \$15.00.

HOGMANAY, IS SCOTTISH NEW YEAR

"Christmas doesn't mean a lot in Bonnie Scotland, but Hogmanay, mon, is something else!

Hogmanay? What's that?

Well, it's the Scottish New Year, but to call it New Year is to underplay it. Since 1600 it's been Scotland's annual winter time for letting off steam.

There's an old Scot's verse that goes, "Get up good wife, and shake your feathers, and dinna think that we are beggars, for we are bairns come out to play, get up and gie's our Hogmanay."

There are odd customs like "first footing." It is the tradition of trekking round the homes of friends and neighbors.

The visitor is welcomed at hundreds of parties, especially if he or she arrives carrying a small gift like a piece of coal, half-bottle of whicky or a cake of shortbread. These parties go on into the wee sma' hours, often lasting until dawn.

Tables are laden with the best to eat and drink: currant buns, "cakes and kebbuck" (oatcakes and cheese), and whisky make up the goodies. In rural districts there is often a "Het Pint", a wassail bowl of ale heated with nutmeg and whisky, sometimes Atholl Brose, a novel concoction of whisky, honey and oatmeal.

As midnight strikes, the call goes up "A guid New Year!" Scots and their guests kiss and shake hands, and out comes the glasses of whisky and wine.

The 'first foot' and, strictly speaking, that's the first person to set foot over your door in the New Year, should be personable and preferably dark. This ensures lots of luck in the coming year! Unlucky 'first footers' were grave-diggers, hangmen, witches, ministers and doctors. But nowadays 'first footing' means party-hopping.

Where does the Hogmanay custom come from?

Until 1600 the year officially began on March 25 all over Europe. But in the Scotland of 1600, New Year's Day was transferred to the more logical January 1. It chanced

that this New Year's Day fell right in the middle of the "Daft Days", otherwise known as the 12 days of Christmas, which in earlier times had finished with another party-time. Twelfth Night. It was eternal party-time!

The twelve days coincided with the pagan festival of Yule, hailing the Sun God's return from exile to bring longer days. The Hogmanay merriment goes back to those pre-Christian feasts.

One reason the New Year festival is so strongly established in Scotland is that New Year's Day has been January 1 since 1600; England kept the March 25 date until 1751.'

The above are excerpts from an article which was sent with no identifying source or author's name.

FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

Word has reached us of the passing of Adele Turnbull Bueling of Fairfield, Montana. Adele was a charter member of the Turnbull Clan Association. The past few years her health has been fragile but her letters were always bright, cheery and uplifting. She was very supportive of the Clan Association and was thrilled that in her day she was able to see it organized and be a part of it. To her family and loved ones we extend our heartfelt sympathy.

1987 INTERNATIONAL GATHERING OF THE CLANS - NOVA SCOTIA

A tentative program has been received for the 1987 International Gathering of the Clans - Nova Scotia, June 27 to August 16. The Highland Games will be held July 10-12, Antigonish. SCOTIAN TOURS, 1489 Hollis St., Suite 301, Halifax, N.S. B3J 1V1 has issued a brochure several different tours to the area. In the US you can call toll free: 1-800-341-6096. In Maine only: 1-800-492-0643.

1988 INTERNATIONAL GATHERING OF THE CLANS - AUSTRALIA

If planning to attend the 1988 International Gathering of the Clans in Australia, mark your calendar, the dates November 27 to December 4, 1988. Plenty of time and warning to start saving now.

BOOKS, RECORDS

Our family received a gift which some of you might enjoy, "THE BOOK OF THE MEDIEVAL KNIGHT" by Stephen Turnbull.

The small bio of Mr. Turnbull on the back flap of the books jacket states that he is "internationally recognized as one of the world's leading authorities on the Samurai of Japan, and in this book he brings his reputation for lively writing and painstaking scholarship to a study of the Samurai's European equivalent - the knight. He is the author of several books on the Samurai, including "THE BOOK OF THE SAMURAI" and "THE MONGOLS", as well as the author of British history programs for BBC Radio, including a series on the battlefields of Yorkshire. He was educated at King Edward's School, Stourbridge, and Downing College, Cambridge, followed by post graduate study at the University of Manchester and Leeds. In preparation for this book Mr. Turnbull traveled widely in Britain and France, and many of the photographs of effigies and battle sites were taken by him.

Under the section titled "The Battle of Halidon Hill", there is mention of knight,

William Turnbull and his ill-fated meeting with knight Robert Benhale of Norfolk.

Purchasing records is like buying a pig in a poke, that is, unless you know in advance what you want to buy. While in Scotland we purchased two records which we grow fonder of each time they are played. "AMAZING GRACE" by the Toyota Pipes and Drums, recorded by Lismor. Side two departs from the Traditional Scottish music and contains renditions of such international favorites as "By the Rivers of Babylon", "Mt. Fuji", "Sands of Time", "Send in the Clowns" and a Salute to America, "I've Got Rhythm", "When the Saints Go Marching In" and "The Halls of Montezuma" (also known as "The Marine Corps Hymn", the selection for which it was purchased.)

"VOL II - SONGS OF SCOTLAND" features a variety of performers and a nice selection of songs. Recorded by Lochshore.

PLATE COLLECTORS

For the plate collectors Scot Crest International is now producing the "Albyn" a 7" diameter decorative ceramic plate. The Turnbull plate features the crest (belt and buckle style), motto "I SAVED THE KING" - TURNBULL OF BEDRULE beneath with a background of the Turnbull Dress Tartan. These plates are made in Scotland and come individually boxed with the hanger fitted and included in the price.

Vendors had these plates for sale at some of the Games this past year. If your local Scottish Shop does not have this item on hand, ask them to order it for you. There are 100 or more Clan names listed as available.

QUERY

Margaret Turnbull, Route 1 Box 336, Depew, Oklahoma 74028 seeks information concerning NICHOLAS TURNBULL - parents or brothers and sisters. Born - 1785, Tennessee (County unknown). Died - between 1850 -1860. Married - Sidney ? Born - 1805, Tennessee (County unknown). Died - between 1880 - 1890, Lincoln County, Kentucky. Children: Fanny - Born 1827 - died - 1910, Stroud, Oklahoma. George - Born 1828. William - Born 1829. John - Born 1831 - died - 1918, Logan, Arkansas. M. H. (Miles) - Born - 1835. Margaret - Born - 1838 - died 1917, Stroud, Oklahoma.

NEWS FROM SCOTLAND

Myra Turnbull sends Holiday Greetings along with news that Michael Robson is still working on his "TURNBULL HISTORY" book. She enclosed a copy of "Scheme of chapters etc" received from Dr. Robson.

Some of the chapters listed: THE BORDER - quite brief description of the country of the middle Border, introducing notions of clans and territory. RULE WATER - description of the Rule Water valley, its estate and parish divisions. Surname of Rule. PHILIPHAUGH, HASSENDEAN and MINTO - description of these areas and of the estates and parish pattern. THE TURNBULL NAME - the stories and origin of the name. Then follows the TURNBULLS OF PHILIPHAUGH, SELKIRK, BORTHWICK WATER, BEDRULE, MINTO, FULTON, HASSENDEANBANK, WAUCHOPE, CLARILAW, BARNHILLS, RAWFLAT, JEDBURGH, HAWICK.

All of course subject to alteration, additions or subtractions.

At the time of the 1981 and 1985 Gatherings in Hawick, Dr. Robson gave a lecture before the bus trip of the so called Turnbull country. He also narrated the bus trips and made the history come alive. We anxiously await his book.

GET WELL GREETINGS AND PRAYERS FOR A SPEEDY RECOVERY

to tent host Norman B. Turnbull. Norman, along with his wife Donna have been hosting the Clan tents for the Games at Costa Mesa, San Diego, Fresno and Chino. Norman is now at home, 5375 Sapphire, Alta, Loma, California 91701, recuperating from surgery. According to his last report, the doctors are pleased with his progress. He is getting bored and itching to get back in harness.

TENTS AND THE GAMES

Turnbull Clan has been most fortunate in being able to have VOLUNTEERS represent us at several of the Games around the country. When you visit one of the tents and you have a little time to spare, please offer to man the tent and allow the host a bit of a break. Help is also needed to help put up and take down the tents and cart the boxes and suitcases of material for display. All offers of assistance welcomed.

BRUCE AND THE SPIDER

According to legend, Bruce while lying concealed from the English in the island of Rathlin, one day watched a spider making repeated attempts to fix its web to a beam of the ceiling, and at last succeeding. Encouraged by this example, he left the island in 1307, landed at Carrick with a small band of followers, and gradually drove the English from Scotland. (The Oxford Companion to English Literature, Sir Paul Harvey, p 113.)

For Scotland's and for freedom's right
The Bruce his part had played,
In five successive fields of fight
Been conquered and dismayed;
Once more against the English host
His band he led, and once more lost
The meed for which he fought;
And now from battle, faint and worn,
The homeless fugitive forlorn
A hut's lone shelter sought.

And cheerless was that resting-place
For him who claimed a throne;
His canopy, devoid of grace,
The rude, rough beams alone;
The heather couch his only bed --
Yet well I ween had slumber fled
From couch of eider down!
Through darksome night till dawn of day,
Absorbed in wakeful thought he lay
Of Scotland and her crown.

The sun rose brightly, and its gleam
Fell on that hapless bed,
And tinged with light each shapeless beam
Which roofed the lowly shed;
When, looking up with wistful eye,
The Bruce beheld a spider try
His filmy thread to fling
From beam to beam of that rude cot;

And well the insect's toilsome lot
Taught Scotland's future king.

Six times his gossamery thread
The wary spider threw;
In vain the filmy line was sped,
For powerless or untrue
Each aim appeared, and back recoiled
The patient insect, six times foiled,
And yet unconquered still;
And soon the Bruce, with eager eye,
Saw him prepare once more to try
His courage, strength, and skill.

One effort more, his seventh and last!
The hero hailed the sign!
And on the wished-for beam hung fast
That slender, silken line;
Slight as it was, his spirit caught
The more than omen, for his thought
The lesson well could trace,
Which even "he who runs may read,"
That Perseverance gains its meed,
And Patience wins the race.

Bernard Arton

PATIENCE and PERSERVERANCE, two good qualities to strive for in our New Year resolutions.

A SCOTTISH TOAST

Here's ta the heath, the hill, and heather,
The bonnet, the plaidie, the kilt, and the feather!
Here's ta the song that Auld Scotland can boast,
May her name never die!--that's a Scottishman's toast.

All of the best of all that is good is wished for you and yours in 1987.

H A P P Y H O G M A N A Y