



## THE BULL'S EYE BULL-E-TIN

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September, 1997

D. T. Berk, Editor

### HIGHLAND GAMES AND REPORT

Oct. 4 -5 - LOCH LOMOND HIGHLAND GATHERING, Highlands Park, Ben Lomond, CA, Host: William Turnbull, Santa Cruz, CA. Information: 408/338-1722

Oct. 16 - 19 STONE MTN. HIGHLAND GAMES, Stone Mtn Park, Stone Mtn., GA  
Hosts: Sally Turnbull Dupuis, Charlotte, NC and James Trumble, Jr., Reidsville, NC  
Information: 404/303-9234

Oct. 25 - WAXHAW GATHERING OF THE CLANS, Briarwood Farm, Waxhaw, NC  
Hosts: Sally Turnbull Dupuis, Charlotte, NC and James Trumble, Jr., Reidsville NC

GRANDFATHER MTN. HIGHLAND GAMES - John and Netta Turnbull hosts.

"A very successful Games indeed. Attendance on the Saturday (July 12) was approximately 30,000, Sunday was probably 15,000. The weather on Thursday was wet but fortunately cleared for the few hours needed to do our "Raising of the Clans". I did the honors for TCA. The weather on Saturday and Sunday was just perfect.

TCA at Grandfather goes from strength to strength. The years when I used to man the tent with only Netta to help are but a memory. Now we have a big enough group to have fun.

Funsters this year included Sally with Sharon, James Trumble, Claude and Sarah Turnbull Snow, Andrew & Rachel Turnbull with Betsy (Andrew's sister from Haiti) Netta and our daughter Nina

TCA was one of the six clans recognized in the GMHG program.

This year cars were allowed on the field between 6 am and 7 am, so Netta and I made an early start to take advantage of this. Our tent looked great. Our TCA banner is so easily installed now it's a pleasure to put it up. One banner and two bungee cords and that's all. Netta covered our food table with a thistle tablecloth, originally owned by her Aunt Netta, and a vase of wild flowers that Netta and I had picked on Friday.

Our day was great with lots of interest in TCA. Dennis Haggerman parted with his \$15 and about 20 others said they'd contact you directly. One observation I made was the new interest from the teenagers in Clans and Tartans. The "Four Nations" group, which in my terms is a heavy metal bagpipe group, played to hundred, and I exaggerate not, in the shade of the woods amidst the rocks (Rockin in the Rocks!) of Macrae meadow. Some enterprising person had arranged for "Braveheart" to be shown on local television on Friday night.

*In the evening James Trumble grilled hamburgers and dogs at Sally's place. Sally supplied all the other fixins. The Turnbull wines, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Red Bull and Chardonnay (all very expensive) with Turnbull whisky and a smooth old Malt were supplied by James, Andrew and Claude. How fortunate I feel to have such fine friends with such good taste.*

*Sunday was also an early start. Netta carried our standard at the Kirking of the Tartans. Claude Snow was standard bearer in the Parade of Tartans.*

*Sunday was a quieter day and it gave us some time to enjoy the Games and visit with other Clans and Societies.*

*At 4:30pm we loaded up the car and headed home, via the Blueridge Parkway, I40 and*

## ROOTS'97

Ann Stirling Weller was planning a trip to Scotland at the time she learned of Root '97. Your editor asked her to her observations and helpful suggestions to aid interested members in getting around Scotland on your own.

Ann's report is printed in it's entirety as she has also included some genealogical nuggets which may be of interest to others.

Woodhill Farm  
Box 270  
Wakefield, Louisiana 70784  
3 July 1997

Dear Dottie,

Many thanks for your welcome home!

We had a grand time, and enjoyed the "Roots 97" reunion on Saturday. It was held at the Crichton Gathering Ground just on the outskirts of Dumfries. It was a large grassy field, well suited for the occasion, with the clan tents lined up facing each other, and exhibitor tents to the back and side. There was a pavilion set up where speakers were introduced and announcements made.

It was all very informal, with the freedom to walk around the various tents gathering clan information, to watch the various bands perform or the young girls dance, to listen to the speakers at the pavilion, or to browse around the exhibitor tents to purchase the various tartans, jewelry, lowland bagpipes, harps, Scotch whisky, food, or booklets on the various clans. In all, we thought it was well done. They were a bit slow with some of the details early in the morning; for instance, no one seemed to be able to locate the programs, but that was taken care of soon enough.

Yes, we were fortunate to meet George and Myra Turnbull, and Alan. Brochures on the Turnbells were available, and a sample of the tartan was on display. George gave us e-mail addresses as follows:

corey@Falls.lgs.net

alan@borderer.Demon.co.UK

and his own address:

George Turnbull

Martinshouse

Hawick, Roxburghshire, England TD9 OJS.

Everyone in every tent was so nice, and tried to help any way possible. The AMG Archives turned out to be a huge collection of post cards, and they were not only able to locate the Campsie Hills north of Glasgow where my Leakes (Leckies) had lived on the plateau below, the fellow had a picture on one of the post cards of the Leckie house where family tradition has it that Bonnie Prince Charlie spent the night, and that was printed on the card as well!

As to travel, we just took care of our own. We wrote the tourist board and obtained a list of Bed & Breakfast places in the area, and called for a reservation well in advance. All over Great Britain, the "i" or information places are most helpful in finding accommodations for you in hotels or B&Bs. Just stop by before too late in the day, as in the smaller towns, especially, they close by 4:30 or 5 pm. They do not exist in the villages, but near by information places can help, and will call ahead to make reservations.

This was our fourth trip to Great Britain, so we were accustomed to the driving, and had rented a car at Gatwick. It was about a seven hour drive to Dumfries, but with our son, Jim, to help with the driving, it was a

fairly easy trip. We were there in time to have gone to the reception that night, but the unexpected heat, together with the many hours spent travelling on plane and by car necessitated a good night's rest. Next time, we'll go a day or so earlier.

Flights are also available to Glasgow or Edinburgh, and cars can be rented there with a much shorter drive to Dumfries. The railroad goes through Dumfries, and while we don't know the schedules, that is another possibility.

It might be well worth the time to those not familiar with driving in Great Britain to purchase a "Highway Code" booklet in a book store or newsagent. It explains the rules of driving in roundabouts as well as all the road markings, rights of way, etc.

As to advance articles about the reunion, had it not been for Jimmie Jean Bowman, we would not have known about either the Turnbull Clan Association or the reunion, so we are very grateful to her, and to you for sending along information in the Turnbull letter. In preparation for the next reunion, it would seem those of us connected with various genealogical societies could volunteer to have the notice of the gathering placed in the various letters or magazines. However, we don't take the Scottish magazines you mentioned.

We look forward to the next reunion, and hope more Americans will be able to attend. It is a wonderful introduction to the people and the traditions of Scotland. Do you know where the next reunion will be held?

The enclosed are xerox copies of some of the pictures Walter took at the reunion. Just haven't gotten around to getting extra prints yet.

We have been wondering how the Scottish Games in your area turned out? With all the bad weather you were having at the time, it didn't seem very promising for sunny skies, or much money to be made for the Scottish Old Peoples Home in N. Riverside, Il. We didn't know such a place existed.

The Houston chapters of the "Daughters of the British Empire" raise money for a home for older and or disabled folks of British descent. Each November they hold a bazaar with a tea room, rummage sale, etc.

As to our trip, Walter, Jim, and I were mostly on an antiquities tour this time. When we left Dumfries, we headed towards Skye, and then the Outer Hebrides. With the new bridge to Skye, we had only to arrange in advance for a ferry to and from the Outer Hebrides, and then to and from Orkney. They were the largest ferries we had ever seen, with several decks with lounges, a cafeteria, and well able to accommodate many vehicles of all sizes. They could be loaded either at the stern or the bow, and had side thrusters to turn them around in a small space in the harbor.

We did go by Jedburgh Abbey, and then down to the little village of Bedrule. There, we found some folks looking at tombstones, and when I asked if they were looking for names in particular, they explained they were Turnbulls from New Zealand. I followed them through a grassy field near the church to try to locate the old castle once owned by Walter of Bedrule--later known as Walter Turnbull. They did locate some stones in what appeared to be the shape of a building, now long gone. In the distance, was the sound of the river, and the trees were alive with the sound of birds.

The Turnbulls directed me to a Mr. McKay at the Hawick Public Library. He got out several books, one of which was Rulewater, but I

didn't think to ask if a copy could be purchased. He said we really needed to write the library in Dumfries in trying to trace our Turnbull family since John said in his will he was from that area. Once our line was established, Mr. McKay, who seemed to be quite an authority on the Roxburghshire area and Turnbolls, said he could help us further.

It is intriguing to learn some of the Border Reiver family names, and to know that many of the same names--Bell, Carr, Douglas, Dunbar, Elliot, Gray, Hall, Hamilton, Irvine, Kerr, Noble, Pollock, Robson, Scott, Sinclair, Taylor, Semple (Sempill), Turnbull, Watson, and Young are--or have been represented in the Natchez District in Mississippi and here in West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana many of them inter-marrying. Surely, they must have been descendants of the Border Reivers, and knew each other, and possibly even related from Border times.

From your letter, it sounds as though you are a first generation American, since you mentioned that your father was from the Glasgow area, and your mother from northern Ireland. Do your more recent ties to the "old" country help in tracing your ancestors? From which line of Turnbolls do you descend?

My Zachariah Butler ancestor came from Ireland. My maternal grandmother always said they were Scots-Irish, but didn't seem to know any more details.

Alexander Stirling (spelled Skirling before late 1700s) stated in his will made in this parish in 1805 that he was from Forfar, Angusshire, North Britain. Alexander Campbell was an ancestor from Losset and wrote his will in "Ballole in Isla, Argyleshire" on 11 August 1769, and of course, John Turnbull and James Leake. My English ancestor was John Alston, and his family was from Pavenham and Odell in Bedfordshire.

I have been writing a book on Alexander Stirling and his wife, Ann Alston ever since our reunion for their descendants in 1984. We are planning another in 1999, and the book is not yet finished. Even though there is a tombstone in Kinnettles, near Forfar, with a "k" in Skirling replaced with a "t", I can't seem to even be sure of Alexander's parent's names.

Your mention of the roundabouts as being like an Abbott and Costello comedy, reminded us that one of the helpful suggestions we received on roundabouts was to read the first signs as you approach for the large towns, and ignore the next postings for small towns unless that is where you want to go. The first time there, found us circling some of the roundabouts several times before decision or centrifugal force flung us out in one direction or the other.

By the way, we found it well worth the extra money to rent a car with an automatic transmission this trip. By the time we remembered to shift with our left hand, look to the right, and go in a clockwise direction in the roundabouts, we had many a frustrated driver behind us on previous trips.

Well, enough of all that. It was so good to hear from you, and to get to know you a bit from your last letter.

Take care, and I look forward to hearing from you again.

Your cousin,

*Ann*

*P.S. Do you have an e-mail address? Mine is Granny1897@aol*

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28th July 1997

Dear Dorothy,

Many thanks for your letter of 6th June regarding the Turnbells.

I have never heard from Mr William Turnbull of Northpoint Press.

Many other Border families will be mentioned, sometimes at length, in my account of the earlier Turnbells. I am sure that the Border Family History Association would help in promoting the book, and it may be that other, wider-spread organisations could assist as well, both in Scotland and in other countries.

I am interested to hear that Tancred's 'Rulewater' is still in demand. It is a very useful work in spite of being deficient in references. It can be bought second-hand for around £45.

We too had a pretty cold early summer but at last July made some amends. Before long this part of the country will be going into autumn although there will no doubt be some good days in August. Nevertheless we are enjoying life here and are endlessly busy. As you say I have more than the Turnbells to think about, with at least seven different projects on the go simultaneously!

However, I am hoping that the Turnbull book will be completed this coming winter and it will then be time to look for a publisher in earnest. I find now that new sources tend to bring me back to people I already know about so it seems to be the right moment to call a halt and leave other researchers to fill gaps and make corrections.

Meantime I am very grateful for your continued interest. When you work away on your own at a subject of your own choice you can feel quite isolated at times, and I find that whether or not I live in Lewis there has always been a lack of fellow researchers with whom to discuss matters and inevitable problems.

With all best wishes,

*Michael*

Michael Robson

## FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

Andrew Turnbull, beloved husband of Mable passed away recently. Andrew was a Charter member and a great and loyal supporter. He had been in poor health for several years and he and Mable moved to Barnwell, SC to be close to their daughter. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to the family.

Andy was one of the first to purchase our newly designed tartan ties. Mable wrote to say he was so proud of it and the Clan that she buried him wearing it. Andy will be sadly missed by many of our members who were part of his extended family.

## THE TURNBULLS 1100 - 1700

The first complete and authoritative history of "THE TURNBULLS 1100 - 1700" by Michael Robson. It is hoped that all who have Turnbull ancestry will find something of interest in this work, which is based upon original research and presents much new information. While the early years are covered thoroughly, it is expected that readers will wish to know more about the Border raids and unrest in which Turnbulls were heavily involved during the 16th Century. Works are planned on this particular topic and on the next stage of the Turnbull story after 1700.

Other topics are Origins, Clan Structure and Family Network.

Mr. Robson has been researching and writing this book for a number of years and as his enclosed letter indicates it is nearing the finish line.

## SCRAN

What is SCRAN? SCRAN is a Millennium Project to build a networked multimedia resource base for the study, teaching and appreciation of history and material culture in Scotland.

The letters stand for SCOTTISH CULTURAL RESOURCES ACCESS NETWORK.

Further information is available from: Scottish Cultural Resources Access Network, Abden House, 1 Marchhall Crescent, Edinburgh, EH16 SHW. Main telephone: 0131 538 7436. Or Graham Turnbull : Grants Tel: 0131 538 7436.

A brochure was forwarded to your editor by Carl F. Schnecke, FSA (Scot) of Clan Scott. He thought it might be of interest to our members as it shows Graham Turnbull as a source for further information.