



The Bull's Eye

The Official Newsletter
of
Clan Turnbull of N.A.

John F. Turnbull, Founder 1977

Dorothy Turnbull Berk, *Concensor Ementis*



Volume 1, Number 2

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1998 leaves in its wake a renewed, strong, and united Clan Turnbull, and 1999 looks like it will be our best year to date!

NORTH AMERICAN TURNBULL CLAN ORGANIZATIONS UNIFY

Turnbull Clan Council Formed

The Notice of Dissolution sent out by Dorothy Turnbull Berk in March has caused a great deal of confusion among the membership, and has necessitated a certain amount of restructuring. The developments that led to the creation of the Council are outlined here.

Upon issuance of the Notice of Dissolution, New England Regional Coordinator Mark Turnbull contacted the Regional Coordinators of Ontario (Corey Turnbull) and the West Coast (Bill Turnbull, who succeeded Dorothy's brother). New York members John G. Turnbull and Mike Felmar volunteered their time and efforts, and together Mark, John, Corey, Bill and Mike started analyzing the situation and decided to ask the entire membership to determine what the future course of Clan Turnbull should be. John

prepared and distributed the survey, the results of which were reported in our last issue.

While all this was going on, John Turnbull of Charlotte, North Carolina and James Trumble Jr. were mobilizing members in the nation's South in preparation for reorganization - or recreation - of the Clan Turnbull Association.

Once the two groups became aware of each other, the process of analyzing and reconciling the various visions of the organization began. The input of the members, through their survey responses, was invaluable in shaping the final conception of Clan Turnbull Association of N.A.

New Council Members and Individual Contributions Sought

If there is any member who would like to join the Turnbull Clan Council, please contact John G. Turnbull of New York at the

address below and advise him of your area of interest and how you think you could be of help.

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Fred and Family at Altamont



The Earl of Caithness (Head of Clan Sinclair), Lee Turnbull, and Sinclair kinsman



CLAN TURNB



The Chief of Clan MacTavish with Mark Turnbull in New Hampshire



Norma Cumm and Sue Gallant at the New Hampshire tent

Claude and Sara Turnbull Snow, George Dyer, Sally Turnbull Dupuis and James Trumble, Jr. at Stone Mountain



John Turnbull with the Earl of Caithness.



Even the RCMP couldn't



Mark and Lee Turnbull at the ready at Loon Mountain.





P.M. Jim Motherwell, A&S.H., newly appointed P.M. to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II



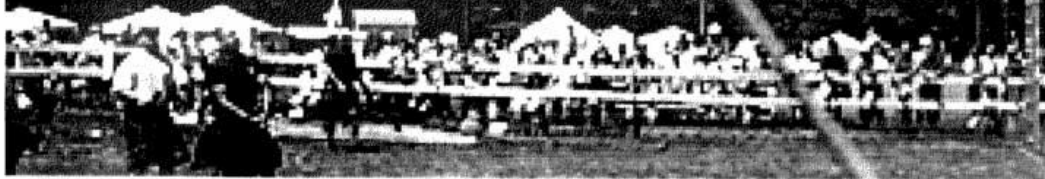
Great grand-pappy Turnbull reliving the glory days of the 78th Frazier Highlanders.



British Military Historical Society of the United States founder Frank Timoney, John, and Bulls of War researcher Dick Crawford



Lee Turnbull, his son Glenn and Glenn's wife Michelle fielding questions in New Hampshire.



THE DAWSON AND MIER EXPEDITIONS

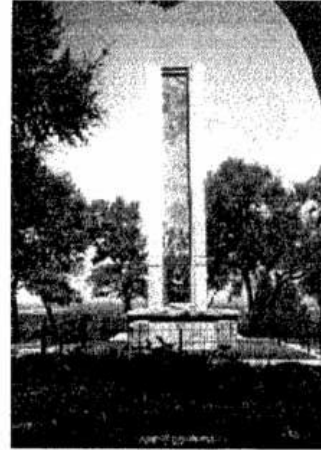
THE RETURN OF HEROES

On September 19, 1998, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department hosted a ceremony titled "The Return of Heroes" commemorating the 150th anniversary of the return of the mortal remains of the members of the Dawson and Mier Expeditions and their reburial at Monument Hill, La Grange, Texas. In this ceremony, three of our clansmen were honored. William James Trimble, Edward Trimble and James Turnbull.

The Battle of San Jacinto did not end the hostilities between The Republic of Texas and Mexico. Texas recognized the Rio Grande River as the boundary between the two countries, and Mexico recognized the Nueces River. There were numerous raids and incursions by both Texans and Mexicans in the disputed areas. These incidents led to the following series of events.

THE DAWSON MASSACRE

On September 10, 1842, spies reported to Texans at San Antonio that a force under General Adrian Wolf was approaching the town. The next day, Wolf's army of about 960 succeeded in capturing the town after a brief skirmish, which left one Mexican dead and 23 wounded. Two Texans were wounded. Three days later, 52 Texans who had taken up arms against the invaders were taken prisoner and marched to Mexico. Meanwhile, on September 12, news of the capture of San Antonio reached Gonzales, and Mathew Caldwell, only recently returned from imprisonment in Mexico for his part in the Santa Fe Expedition, gathered a group of Texans to march to San Antonio by way of Seguin. At about 3 a.m., September 14, the news reached La Grange. A public meeting was called, and volunteers were asked to meet at Blackjack Springs, approximately 10 miles southwest of La Grange, at noon the following day.



Monument Hill, La Grange, Texas

On the 18th, Caldwell's 225 men were camped about 20 miles from San Antonio. John R. Baker, Ewen Cameron and William Alexander Anderson "Big Foot" Wallace, later of the Mier expedition, were part of this force. Wolf was planning to start evacuating San Antonio that morning. Not knowing this, however, Caldwell ordered John C. Hays to organize a small group of rangers who would draw Wolf's forces out of the city towards Caldwell's camp, where the Texans would wait for the expected attack on a battlefield of their choosing. The maneuver went as planned, and by 1 p.m., on the 18th, a Mexican force of about 850 men was engaged. During the course of the battle Wolf learned that a small group of Texans was advancing upon his rear at a distance of about two miles. Realizing that his forces would be in grave danger if the Texans made a united attack upon his front and rear, Wolf sent out a force of about 400 men and one piece of artillery to crush the newly discovered Texans.

This latter force of Texan volunteers had left Blackjack Springs on the 15th and was joined by others en route to San Antonio. On the 17th, at Nash Creek, the men, numbering 54 and mostly from Fayette County, elected Nicholas Mosby Dawson captain. In this group of men were William James Trimble and Edward Trimble having arrived in Fayette county from Sullivan County, Indiana only a year or two before. They were the sons of James and Sarah Trimble who came to Texas with William James' wife and children. Late that afternoon, shortly after beginning their first genuine rest since leaving home, they were met by John Wilson, a courier from Caldwell's group, who urged them forward for the attack scheduled for the next day. Immediately, the company resumed its march, camping on the Guadalupe near the town of Seguin the following morning. There, Dawson dispatched Alsey S. Miller and Nathaniel W. Faison to determine Caldwell's exact location. About seven miles east of the Salado, Dawson's company met the returning spies, who reported that the battle was already taking place and about 200 Mexicans were apparently being held in reserve. Realizing that he had only a small force, Dawson suggested falling back to join other Texan forces en route. A debate ensued and an address by Joseph Shaw apparently swayed the men towards voting to advance. Between 3 p.m. and 4 p.m., on the 18th, they discovered a small body of enemy cavalry between Caldwell and their position. As they moved forward, they could make out what seemed to be two groups of troops, and the spies mistakenly declared one of the groups to be Caldwell's. It was not until the distance between the two groups had shortened to about one-half mile that Dawson's men realized that both, approaching groups of troops were Mexican. At this point, it was too late to retreat. Dawson quickly tried to prepare his men for the coming attack in a sparse mesquite thicket covering

about two acres, near the present site of Fort Sam Houston.

Within a few minutes after the Texans had dismounted they were surrounded. At first, outnumbered 8 to 1, the men were able to keep the enemy at bay with their rifles; however, once the Mexican cannon began to open fire and get range, Dawson's force quickly began to be slaughtered. Wounded and realizing the desperate situation of his men, Dawson raised a white flag, trying to surrender. In the confusion of the battle both sides continued to fire. Dawson was killed and Alsey S. Miller recovered and raised the flag, but the firing continued. After a little more than one hour, the battle ended with 36 Texans killed, 15 taken prisoner and three escaped. Edward Trimble died on the battlefield September 18, 1842. William James was taken prisoner and after enduring more than 15 months in captivity, died in Perote prison near Mexico City on January 5, 1844. William James probably died of Typhus, as there was an epidemic caused by the louse infested walls of Perote prison. After the battle, the Texan prisoners were marched to San Antonio. Meanwhile, Caldwell's group had successfully beaten back several Mexican charges upon their position and had forced Wolf's troops, which had sustained heavy losses, to retreat to San Antonio.

The morning after Dawson's fight, Caldwell's men located and inspected Dawson's battleground. The bodies of their fellow citizens had been stripped of every article of clothing, and many wounds had apparently been inflicted after death. After Caldwell's troops had surveyed the scene, the Dawson men were buried on the site in shallow graves. Visitors to the scene a few weeks later reported finding several body parts protruding from the ground. The Mexicans were not buried, and many of their bones were still on the field one year after the Battle.

THE MIER EXPEDITION

Learning of Wolf's invasion of San Antonio, President Houston, on September 16, 1842, called for the assembly of militias to join forces in San Antonio and repel the invaders. He authorized them to pursue the enemy "into any point in the Republic, or in Mexico, and chastise the marauders for their audacity" if certain conditions - adequate food, clothing and munitions, and proper discipline - were met. Captain William S. Fisher was chosen to command the Texans and assumed the role of colonel. The group was divided into six companies, led by Captains Claudius Buster, Ewen Cameron, William Eastland, John Pierson, Charles Keifer Reese and William Ryon. They began to march towards the Mexican town of Mier on December 20, reaching it on the morning of the 23rd. Upon entering the town, Colonel Fisher was informed that General Antonio Canales was in the vicinity with 700 troops, but these alleged troops were not encountered by the Texan scouts. Fisher demanded five days supply of sugar, coffee and other necessities, enough for 120 men, from the local officials. He then moved the Texans out of town, taking the alcalde as a hostage. At 10:00 a.m., on the 25th, the Texans camped at the point designated for the surrender of the requested articles from Mier, but no supplies were delivered. A Mexican captured nearby stated that General Pedro de Ampudia had stopped the delivery of the requested supplies. He further claimed that General Ampudia was at Mier with 350 men and two pieces of artillery. Hearing this, Fisher decided to attack Mier to obtain the supplies that were needed by his troops. The Texans were unaware that the Mexican troops actually numbered about 3,000. The Texans would be attacking a force that outnumbered them almost 12 to 1.

John R. Baker was sent in advance with ten or twelve men. After a brief skirmish, two of this group (Patrick H. Lusk and Samuel H.

Walker) were captured. Learning of this incident Fisher ordered his troops to move forward, and by 7:00 p. m., the Texans halted just outside of Mier on the opposite side of the Rio Alamo. That evening, the Texans, with the exception of 42 men who were left behind to guard the rear, crossed the river. Those who crossed the river were immediately but unsuccessfully attacked. While crossing, Joseph Berry fell and broke his thigh. Dr. John J. Sinnickson and a guard of seven men were left with Berry nearby in an abandoned hut. The Texan force went into town and, though they were met with immediate and steady resistance by Ampudia's forces, managed to maneuver themselves from house to house to gain advantage. Mexican artillery fire continued throughout the night, but the Texans, conserving ammunition, did not commence firing in earnest until the morning of the 26th. Between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon, the battle was at its peak. At one point, while reloading their rifles, Captain Cameron and his men were in danger of being overrun by Mexicans. The Texans, however, were able to beat back the Mexican charge upon their position by throwing loose stones from the street at them.

About 1:00 p.m., the Mexicans ceased firing and sent in a flag of truce. Expecting to hear terms for a Mexican surrender, Colonel Fisher was surprised to be told that the Mexicans had 1,700 troops in the city and 800 fresh troops nearby and unless the Texans surrendered, every Texan should be put to the sword. The Texans were given one hour to decide. During this time Fisher met with Ampudia, and the Mexican terms were reiterated to him. When he returned to his men, Fisher informed them that if they tried to fight their way out of town it would be very likely that at least two thirds of them would be killed. Some of the Texans still wished to fight but eventually decided with the majority to surrender. During

the truce, two Texans went into hiding and escaped from Mier without surrendering. After an hour of consideration Fisher agreed to surrender under the terms that the prisoners would be "treated with consideration which is in accordance with the magnanimous Mexican Nation." It was further stipulated that the prisoners should be retained on the frontier rather than marched to the interior. About 3:00 p.m., the surrender took place. It was not until the following day that the Texans learned that due to the large number of Mexican casualties, Ampudia would have retreated if the Texans had not surrendered. The official Mexican

report of their casualties listed 650 dead and 200 wounded. Of the 261 Texans who marched on Mier, 243 were captured, 16 were killed (or soon died of their wounds) and two escaped. The next day the Mexican officers held a court-martial upon the lives of their prisoners. The Texans were spared by one vote.

On December 31, the prisoners, with the exception of those too wounded to travel, were started on a march to Matamoros, poorly clothed and without adequate blankets to keep them warm at night. They reached Matamoros on January 9, 1843. Despite the terms of their



Captain Cameron, in taking his leave of these brave men, and particularly of Turnbull, a brother Scotchman, with whom he had been in many dangers, wept bitterly, and implored the officers to execute him and spare his men. Just previous to the firing they were bound together with cords, and their eyes being bandaged, they were set upon a log near the wall, with their backs to their executioners. They all begged the officer to shoot them in front, and at a short distance; that "they were not afraid to look death in the face." This he refused; and, to make his cruelty as refined as possible, fired at several paces, and continued the firing from ten to twelve minutes, lacerating and mangling these heroes in a manner too horrible for description.

-- From Journal of the Texian Expedition against Mier by Gen. Thomas J. Green 1845