

## TCA HONORS FORMER PRESIDENT

The Scottish Gaelic word *clann* means children or descendants. A clan takes its name from its perceived founder and believes members to have descended from a common ancestor.

Chiefship is a title of honor and dignity within the nobility of Scotland. In the Scottish clan system, the term chief denotes a greater chief than that of a chieftain. In consequence, branch chiefs (heads of branches of a clan) are designated chieftains.

When a chief's direct bloodline is broken and cannot be traced to a rightful hier, the clan no longer has a chief. Scottish clans who no longer have a clan chief are referred to as armigerous clans. Armigerous specifies a Scottish clan with rights to bear arms, but without a chief currently recognized as such by Lyon Court. Turnbull Clan is such a clan.

Armigerous clans sometimes establish an honorary chief. The position is just as it indicates, an honorary title. An honorary chief is not recognized by the Lord Lyon and his court, but is given respect as someone who has demonstrated the character and conduct deserving of the title.

The officers of Turnbull Clan Association have bestowed upon former clan president, Wally Turnbull, the title of Honorary Clan Chief. Wally served as TCA president for six years, his term ending in December, 2009.

During Wally's six years as president, TCA accomplished many goals. Wally was instrumental in acquiring official Arms for TCA, granted and registered by the Lyon Court. This long sought after goal's success can be attributed to Wally's perseverance through an extensive and tedious process.



Two very well attended Turnbull Clan AGM's were held in Scotland. Both were attended by members from around the world. In addition to affording members a chance to see the Borders and visit Scotland, these meetings served to bring about a kinship with family ties close and distant.

The Bullpen was an inspiration of Wally's. The Bullpen is a service provided by the Turnbull Clan Association for its members to interact with each other and other Turnbulls from around the world. The Bullpen provides a way for TCA members to connect and share with each other in cyberspace and sometimes in person. It is a way for members to meet and make new friends.

The Turnbull Virtual Museum, launched in 2006, was established for the purpose of recording and sharing objects of interest to Turnbulls from all parts of the world.

The Barony of Bedrule lands were among one of the earliest baronies in Scottish history and is of particular importance to the Turnbull Clan. The barony once included the important Turnbull lands of Bedrule, with Fulton Tower, Bedrule Castle and Fast Castle. Wally returned the Barony of Bedrule to the Turnbull family and it will remain so, as it is passed down from one generation to the next.

In addition to helping the officers develop new by-laws, a new constitution, and an international Board of Directors, Turnbulls from many nations were re-united into a strong worldwide Turnbull Clan Association.

Perhaps the accomplishment that Wally should be most happy with is his realization of his lifelong dream to create a place in the Borders where Turnbulls can connect to their heritage. Last year, *The Turning of the Bull* monument was dedicated and unveiled in Hawick, Scotland. The monument is a life-size depiction of William Rule turning the bull to save the life of Robert the Bruce.

Wally's role as Honorary Chief is not that of ruler, but of ambassador for Clan Turnbull. Speaking about this honor, Wally says "Though I don't believe that I merit such an honor, I am immensely pleased to receive it, not from pretense of what it is not but from grateful pleasure of what it is. We don't have a clan Chief and probably never again will. I'm not convinced that hereditary authority and responsibility are wise. The honor of this title is without any doubt the greatest thing that the Turnbull Clan could have done for me for it shows respect and affection. What more could anyone want?"



*Wally holds the Turnbull Standard at the foot of High Street, Hawick, before the monument unveiling, July 2009*

## From the President

### What Can Turnbull Clan Do For You?

by Rhet Turnbull

Thanks to my parents I've been aware of my Turnbull heritage my entire life. I didn't discover the Turnbull Clan, however, until I was an adult. It started when I visited a local Highland Games with a friend where I realized there were a lot of people that were really excited about their heritage and history. I soon joined TCA, primarily because I wanted to meet and connect with Turnbells from around the world. My journey since has been rewarding.



I'm sure each of you has a unique story about why you joined TCA. Some of you may have joined because of an interest in genealogy, others because you enjoy the Games. Some of you may simply want to meet other Turnbells while some of you might have joined to read our Bullseye newsletter. Regardless of the journey that brought you to be part of TCA, we're glad you're here and we want to be an association that serves all Turnbells around the world.

How are we doing? I'd love to hear from you about why you joined TCA and find out if we're meeting your needs. If not, what can we do better? Where would you like us to focus our efforts? Do we need better representation at Games? Does the website need work? Is there something you'd like to see in the Bullseye? Is there a particular age group we're not serving well? I look forward to hearing from you. Please email your responses to [president@turnbullclan.com](mailto:president@turnbullclan.com) or write me the old fashioned way at:

Rhet Turnbull, 8216 S. 101st St, La Vista, NE 68128, USA.

## Sharing and Caring

Our thoughts and prayers are with Dawn Day and her family with the passing of her sister Elvie. Dawn wishes to thank all of the TCA members who supported the family with prayers during Elvie's last months.

### BULLSEYE

The Bullseye, a Turnbull Clan Association (TCA) newsletter is published ten times a year at: 5216 Tahoe Dr. Durham, NC 27713 U.S.A.  
Editor: Betty Turnbull [editor@turnbullclan.com](mailto:editor@turnbullclan.com)  
Contributing Writers: Adriana Bonewitz, Kim Trimble, Dawn Day

### Turnbull Clan Association

[www.turnbullclan.com](http://www.turnbullclan.com)

Officers: Rhet Turnbull, President • William Trimble, Vice-President • Brian Turnbull, Treasurer • Christine Nelson, Secretary  
Founders: John F. Turnbull, Scotland • Dorothy Berk, USA

## TARTAN DAY CELEBRATED

by Dale Hilding

April 6, 2010 - Pendleton, Oregon



The Pendleton Library and the Pendleton Genealogy Society sponsored a public presentation about Scottish History and Culture. TCA members and long time tent hosts, Dale Hilding (left) and Bill Trimble, (right) were invited to speak about Clan Turnbull, the Reiver families and the culture of that period. Dale gave a brief historical

overview and how the Reiver culture developed. Arms and armor of the period were on display. Dale also explained the development of literacy and free education in Scotland and how this created an explosion of science, technology and inventions. Bill talked about the kilt and the associated articles of Scottish costume and its history. He also discussed various weapons of the period. The presentation was very well received.



Dale Hilding speaks to a group in Pendleton, Oregon, commemorating Tartan Day, about the development of the Border Reivers families and culture.

## La Breith Sona! Happy Birthday!

April & May



Nigel Turnbull, Peter W. Turnbull, Robert S. Turnbull, Lawrence Gatt, J. Charles Turnbull, Judith Wood, Bernardo Turnbull, Ann Weller, Vanessa Turnbull, Christine Nelson, John A. Turnbull, Clifford Trumbull Wood, Eric Turnbull, Lee Turnbull, Mark Turnbull, Andrew Turnbull, Johannes Hoyer, Barbara Schell, Shirley Turnbull, Iain Day, Kenneth Wolentarski, Hugh C. Turnbull,

Richard Turnbull, Martin Turnbull, Joseph Turnbull, Larry Christopherson, Ginny Christopherson, William Turnbull, Rose Marie Van Dee, Doris Babe, Robero Copa Matos, Thomas C. Turnbull, Jr. Iere Patricia Turnbull, Isabell Banister, Hugh J. Turnbull



# THE FOREST – WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

by Norman Turnbull  
Turnbull Clan High Shenachie

The “Caledonian Forest” is the name of a type of woodland that once covered vast areas of Scotland. Today, however, only 1% of the original forest survives, in 35 isolated locations. The forests are home to a wide variety of wildlife, much of which is not found elsewhere in the British Isles.

Forests of this type were found all over what is now the island of Great Britain. For a short period, before the climate began to slowly warm and the Pinewoods retreated north into the Scottish Highlands, the last remaining climatic region suitable for these forests was in the British Isles.

The Pinewoods, which formed this western most outpost of the Boreal Forest of Europe are estimated to have covered 15,000 square kilometers as a vast wilderness of Scots Pine, Birch, Rowan, Aspen, Juniper, Oak and a few other species. On the West coast, oak and birch predominated in a temperate rain forest, rich in fern, moss and lichens.

The forest takes its name from the ancient Romans, who called Scotland “Caledonia” deriving from the early Celtic languages word *Caleto* meaning *hard strong*. This name is recorded as being used by a local tribe or tribal confederation of native Picts or Britons. Wild Boar, Brown Bear, Eurasian Lynx, Grey Wolf, Elk, Au-rochs, (wild cattle) and Tarpan (wild horse) roamed the forests.



*Forests of Scots Pine, Birch, Rowan, Aspen, Juniper and Oak are estimated to have once covered 15,000 square kilometers. Now only 1% of the original forests remain.*



*The stout, compact bull of the Stirling Caledon Forest was described as “gritrit bullis with crisp and curland mane, with sich hatrent aganis ye societe and company of men.”*

Caledonian Forest was a great place for hunters to put meat on the table for their families. Apart from the wild pig or boar there were wild and very angry aggressive bulls. These bulls were muscular in stature with crisp and curly manes. They roamed the forests in herds. Stalking them was not an easy task. If they spotted you, you were in a lot of danger. They moved around with the bulls in front and the leader in the centre, the calves between them and the cows, and, if at all pressed, they would come on at you like the charge of the life brigade.

A young calf has been known to have been found on it's own, and been carried off to be hand reared, but it was a perilous task as the calf's begin to butt at two days old. Seldom do they grow milder with time. They were always shot and carried away the commotion and the fall, had subsided. A herd of these bull's can still be seen in a national park at Chillingham in Cumbria.

Caldon, which formed part of this great forest, outside Stirling, was classed as part of the Royal Estate and was home to Royal hunting parties. It was here that, one day, King Robert the Bruce, was out with a hunting party, that he was faced by a wild bull. In this party was a man of strong muscular build by name of Will-o-Rule (William Rule), a champion warrior of the Black Douglas, from the Rule Valley. He placed himself between Bruce and the ragging bull, grabbed it by the horns and forced the animal to the ground and twisted its neck till it snapped, saving the life of the King.

To show gratitude, Bruce granted the man lands in the Scottish Borders and renamed him from Will-o-Rule to Turn-E-Bull.

This act of bravery could very well have been classed as to change the coarse of the history of Scotland.

It is said of the forests of Caledonia, the Romans are reputed to have cut it down to drive out the Celts. Oak trees have been found, with canoes and remains of a whale, as far as Flanders Moss.



## Notes from Around the World



*Explosive Detection Dogs and their handlers are part of the Australian operations in Afghanistan to find and destroy explosive devices set out by the Taliban. Above: (L-R) Corporal Craig Turnbull with Tank, Lance Corporal Andrew Sichter with Bolt, Sapper David Brown with Bundy, Sapper Stewart Conlin with Solo, Sapper Brenton Keemik with Aussie and Sapper Rueben Griggs with Que in front of a Dutch Apache helicopter at Multinational Base.*



*Above: Adam Hall competing for a medal in the Vancouver Paralympic Games. Right, Coach Jon Turnbull of Wanaka, New Zealand.*

Wanaka, New Zealand, snow-sports coach, Jon Turnbull, served as the chef de mission for the New Zealand Paralympic team. He accompanied Wanaka adaptive alpine skier Adam Hall to the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver. Adam Hall won the gold medal in the men's standing-slalom.



*TCA Scotland treasurer and Hawick Town Councillor, George P. Turnbull, has been instrumental in creating an international school of hotel and catering in Hawick. The school will offer courses in travel, tourism and hospitality management. The school already has students from around the world eager to begin in October of this year.*

## 2010 AGM ANNOUNCED

The officers of TCA are happy to announce that this year's AGM (Annual General Meeting) will be held at the New Hampshire Highland Games, located in the beautiful Loon Mountains. The Games take place Septemeber 17-19, 2010. Stay tuned for information about the weekend's activities and places to stay. Mark your calendars now. Don't miss this exciting AGM!

## Why Several Turnbull Websites?

We are frequently asked why there are several Turnbull websites and if this means that there is more than one Turnbull Clan association. The short answer is yes and no. The longer answer is that there is only one Turnbull Clan but it has many regional parts because we are scattered all over the world. Additionally, a number of Turnbull families maintain personal websites which also contain general Turnbull information.

In the days before the world-wide web of the internet made communication and virtual community possible each nation where there were a large number of Turnbolls formed a clan association. These associations had friendly relations but little contact with each other as distance meant that they had to function independently. The Turnbull Clan was a strong part of Scottish history but had neither a chief nor arms which meant that there was no global structure or center.

Over time the regional Turnbull associations ceased to function actively everywhere except the USA where Scottish celebrations flourished. When Dorothy Berk, the founder of TCA USA passed away that organization was restructured to include members in Canada, Mexico, and the USA. Later, following requests from "orphaned" Turnbolls in other nations, TCA became a worldwide organization with an international Board of Trustees recognized by the Lyon Court in Edinburgh with the granting of arms for the first time in the history of our clan.

The TCA worldwide website covers Turnbolls worldwide and the TCA Bullseye newsletter available to Turnbolls everywhere is often reproduced by regional organizations for local members.

The worldwide Turnbull Clan Association does not govern regional Turnbull associations but it does serve those groups as well as individual members.

Unlike other nations where there is usually only one branch of the association, the USA being a large country with many Scottish activities is served by a number of regional branches with the strongest being TCA Northeast, Southeast, Heartland, Southwest, and Northwest.

Members of the Turnbull clan by birth or by marriage can join either their regional clan association, the worldwide association, or both. President, Rhet Turnbull, says that "the TCA officers are considering options to avoid duplication of dues."

Some members join the worldwide TCA association because they do not have a local branch. Others do so in order to share information with Turnbolls in other nations and for full access to the website [www.turnbullclan.com](http://www.turnbullclan.com) which contains a wealth of information, including thousands of genealogical records and the Bullseye newsletter. Those who join regional associations often do so in order to have personal contact with kith and kin and to participate in the local Scottish activities in which that association is represented. As Honorary Chief Wally Turnbull says "we need both the history of our heritage and the fraternity of friends and family."

# Turnbull Tattoos... part two



Part two: Last month Turnbull Clan Association and the *Bullseye* featured the first entries in the first ever Turnbull Tattoo contest. Here are seven more entries. You the readers will have a chance to review all the entries and vote for your favorite. The winner will receive a year's membership in TCA and a Turnbull Arms Stein. It's not too late to enter. Post your tattoo on the Turnbull Clan FB page or email a copy to [editor@turnbullclan.com](mailto:editor@turnbullclan.com).



*Top left: Al Turnbull's original design. Turnbull Clan Badge sitting on top of a Sgian Dubh dagger. The wording around the badge is Gaelic for "I Saved The King."*

*Middle Top: Mike Wills of Akron, Ohio*

*Top Right: Jamie Turnbull, York, United Kingdom.*

*Above center: Angelina Turnbull's Coat of Arms*

*Center Right: Rob Turnbull's badge of honor (Clearwater, FL.)*

*Bottom Center: Steven Turnbull, Claymont, Delaware.*

*Bottom right: Matthew Turnbull of Australia.*

**Editor's note:** The following two pages are a reproduction of the newsletter from the newly formed TCA Europe Association. Please note that since its mailing, the "previous management committee" mentioned has rescinded its resignation and is again functioning as TCA Scotland. Also, Norman was appointed High Schenachie by the worldwide TCA Association.



*Turnbull Clan Association Europe*

www.tcaeurope.org



# New TCA for UK and Europe



*Above, TCA Europe President Myra Turnbull, wife of the late John F. Turnbull TCA Founder.*

It is my great pleasure to announce that a new Turnbull Clan Association in Scotland has been formed under my leadership owing to the resignation of the previous management committee. As the wife of the late John F. Turnbull founder of the original TCA in 1977, I feel duty bound to carry on his good work. It is certainly an exciting prospect for me and my team to take the Turnbull Clan forward into the future with a strong heart and spirited determination in the true Turnbull tradition.

I am extremely fortunate to have the backing of a strong team in the form of my son Hamish as Vice President, my grandson Ross as Secretary/Treasurer and the Clan High Schenachie Norman, Sacred Keeper of the Clan history.

We are working on a great many ideas for the future and are currently developing a new website which will not only act as a future cornerstone of our organisation, but will also open up greater opportunities to develop connections with those who share our heritage. It is our intention to further strengthen the bond with our cousins abroad, particularly in the USA where the clan now has a well developed Association and with whom we have a close relationship.

However, to me this is a far cry from the days prior to 1977 when our Association was all a dream! So to go back to the very beginning especially for those members who do not know my story, here is a brief resume of how our Clan Association evolved.

My husband, John and I had been invited to join in the celebrations of the Elliot Clan (our near neighbours and good friends) at one of their gatherings and it was the late Sir Arthur Elliot, who was their Clan Chief, who sowed the seed of John forming a Turnbull Clan Association. Out of that seed blossomed an exciting challenge – how do we go about contacting all our fellow Turnbolls and inspire them with our plans?

Well, first of all we had to set up a group of like-minded Turnbolls. Then all the hard work started in earnest in my kitchen! There was typing of newsletters, addressing of envelopes and sending out application forms for membership to gather in the money to enable us to organise our first Gathering. So when the Big Day arrived, and our flag was flying high over Bedrule, there wasn't a prouder man in the kingdom than my beloved husband, John.

Here was a man, who had worked hard at turning his vision into a reality and because of his inspiration and dedication, here we are some thirty-odd years later, strengthening the bonds of friendship and carrying forward the name of Turnbull with pride and honour.

So I say to the younger generation – keep the flame burning bright – you have inherited strong foundations on which to build. As Clansmen and women we must work together to ensure the safe-keeping of our heritage which is so important to each and every one of us and I hope you look forward to the future, as I do, with great enthusiasm and excitement.

Sincerely yours,

Myra S. Turnbull, M.B.E. (ex-Provost of Hawick 1988 – 1996)  
President, TCA Europe



*Above, The first TCA Clan Gathering, at Bedrule 1977. Centre, TCA Founder John F. Turnbull. Behind J.F.T., Hamish Turnbull. Bottom right 2nd row, Myra Turnbull.*



*Turnbull Clan Association Europe*  
www.tcaeurope.org



## Vice President Hamish Turnbull



To my fellow Clansmen may I say how honoured I am to have been invited to take up the position of Vice-President of the Turnbull Clan Association in Europe, especially as my mother, Myra, is our new President!

Being the second son of my father, John F., the founder of TCA, I have been very much aware over the years how much commitment has been involved and will be required in the future successful running of our Association.

Although I work and live in the South of England I commute to Scotland quite regularly and with modern communication I hope to carry out my duties in the best Turnbull tradition. I look forward to the new challenge.

Best Wishes,

Hamish D.F. Turnbull  
Vice President, TCA Europe

## Drop in for a Chat!



*Above, TCA Europe's Head Office in Hawick, Scotland is based at Turnbull's in the centre of the town. A great meeting place - drop in for a chat with Ross or just to say hello!*

Contact TCA Europe on:

Post: **Turnbull's, 4 Oliver Place, Hawick. Scotland. TD9 9BG**

Tel: **+44 (0)1450 372020**

Email: **enquiries@tcaeurope.org**

Web: **www.tcaeurope.org**

## High Shenachie Norman Turnbull

I am pleased to have been invited to join the management of the newly formed TCA "Europe".

Myra Turnbull, wife of the late founder of the TCA, is our new president, and I am confident that with Myra's knowledge and inspiration, we can look forward to some great achievements in the future.

Apart from my involvement in the unveiling of the statue last year, I was also bestowed with the greatest honour of becoming the clan High Shenachie, by America. A High Shenachie is the keeper of information and clan history. I look forward to serving our clan members.

Norman Turnbull



## Secretary/Treasurer Ross Turnbull Irvine

It is with great pleasure that I take on the role of Secretary/Treasurer of the newly formed Turnbull Clan Association Europe. I look forward to the challenges that lie ahead and in particular am most excited about our return to the Annual Clan Gatherings, the first of which we hope to hold next year.

With membership applications already being received I would especially encourage those who live within our region to consider joining our new Association. Our new website will be up and running soon with exclusive members' area, news about up and coming events, our online directory and much more.

To request a membership application form please email [secretary@tcaeurope.org](mailto:secretary@tcaeurope.org)

As First Grandson of TCA Founder John F. Turnbull and our new President Myra, I look forward to helping her serve the clan as we begin a new chapter in Turnbull Clan history.

Yours sincerely,

J. Ross Turnbull Irvine  
Secretary/Treasurer, TCA Europe





*Editor's note: This is a continuation of a series of articles and photos from the North American 2009 Journey of Australian members, Kenneth and Patricia Turnbull.*

On leaving the Car Hire Depot, the pressure was on. We were country folk from Australia, so entering peak hour traffic in Los Angeles for the first time, and on the right side of the road, was a little short of nerve-racking.

Our four and a half month escapade had finally begun. We didn't know what lay ahead for us, but the Turnbull genes for adventure had certainly kicked in. Our daughter lived in Wisconsin, but that was seven weeks and ten states away.



*Montezuma's Castle, home of the Sinaguga people. 1200-1450 AD*



*Mud brick storehouse ruins of the Hohokam people. 300 BC - 1500 AD*



*The Castle Cactus garden. These are found only in the Joshua Tree National Park, California*



*Interior used on the film set for "Little House on the Prairie" - Old Tucson, Arizona.*

We were to meet up with my Turnbull family cousin in Arizona in three weeks time. For now, our immediate travel plans included exploring the many unique National Parks.

Our first was Sequoia National Park; an eye opening experience. But the second, Yosemite, caught us completely with our shorts and tops. Midsummer snow! But the Death Valley, Mojave, and Joshua Tree parks were much warmer.

It was a pleasant cloudless summer's morning, when we finally arrived at Carol's home, my Turnbull family cousin, in Sun City, Arizona. This was the second time we'd met.

Together, we visited ancient Montezuma's Castle, the Casa Grande ruins, the Pima Aerospace Museum and marvelled at the Air Force "Bone Yard." Walking into the *Little House on the Prairie* film set at the large Old Tucson film studios invited one's mind to wander back in time, too.



*Wild and colourful desert birds of Arizona. Bottom right showing an unusual nest in a live cactus tree.*

We hope that through this new feature, "Turnbull Travels" we will be able to 'travel' together and share each other's experiences. To contribute, contact [editor@turnbullclan.com](mailto:editor@turnbullclan.com)

Turnbull Clan Association  
5216 Tahoe Dr.  
Durham, NC 27713

