

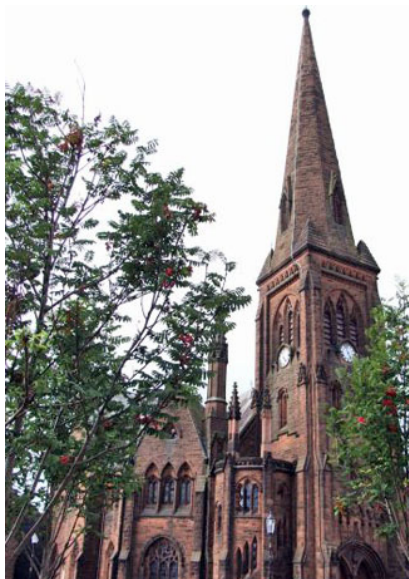
## ROBERT THE BRUCE... THE KING WE SAVED

Part One - by Staff Writer Kim Trimble

The story is well known to the members of our clan of William of Bedrule's rescue of the king of Scotland from a raging bull and how we became the Turnbull Clan, but just who was this king that gratefully bestowed on our ancestor the name of Turnbull? Robert the Bruce, King of Scotland, the man who led his army to defeat the English and win freedom for his country is a national hero to Scots, but who was he before that? Who was Robert the Bruce?

Born on July 11, 1274 at Turnberry Castle, Ayrshire, Robert carried the blood of nobility. His ancestry is both Celtic and Norman. Robert was the first son of Robert de Brus, 6th Lord of Annandale and Marjorie, Countess of Carrick, daughter of Niall, Earl of Carrick. His claim to the throne was tenuous. John Balliol was actually the King of Scotland at the time but he had surrendered his kingdom to Edward the First of England, Longshanks, known as "the Hammer of the Scots" in 1292. The royal arms were stripped from the coat of arms and John Balliol became known as "Toom Tabard" which means Empty Coat.

William Wallace had attempted to restore King John, who had gone into exile, to the throne. Wallace had some success in defeating the English at the battle of Stirling Bridge and became the guardian of Scotland in 1297. He was subsequently defeated by Edward's forces at the battle of Falkirk. Wallace resigned as guardian and went into hiding for seven years until 1305 when he was betrayed as he slept. Wallace was captured in Robroyston near Glasgow. He was put on trial for treason, convicted and executed in a most hideous manner. On the 24th of August,



*Greyfriars Kirk, Dumfries, sight of the historic meeting on Feb. 10, 1306.*



Robert the Bruce

1305, William Wallace was hung, drawn and quartered, and beheaded. Edward I of England, as a warning to other would be rebels, had Wallace's body parts put on display in Berwick, Stirling, Perth, and Newcastle. His head was impaled on a spike at London Bridge. Following Wallace's resignation as guardian of Scotland, John 'the Red' Comyn and Robert the Bruce became joint guardians of the oppressed kingdom until

Ingram de Umfraville took Bruce's place in 1300.

Bruce submitted to Edward "Longshanks" of England in 1302. He did this to win a pardon for himself and also because he didn't want to see the Comyn/Balliol families come into power with their claim to the throne he so strongly desired for himself. Wallace was in hiding and Bruce did not see any reason to continue the fight for independence if he was not going to be king. With Wallace's execution in 1305 though, things changed yet again.

It wasn't until 1304, with the death of his father, that Robert had come into real competition with the Comyn/Balliol family for the Scottish throne. Before he could become the king though, Robert had to somehow eliminate his competition. John 'the Red' Comyn, the nephew of the exiled king John Balliol, stood in his path to the throne. Comyn was a powerful opponent who had the support of many friends and allies; he was very influential as well and had, maybe, a stronger claim to the kingship than did Bruce.

The future king had to come up with a plan to win Comyn's support in his wish to be king. His plan was to give his land holdings to Comyn in order to buy the (continued on page 5)

## From the President

by Rhet Turnbull

My first experience with Turnbull Clan Association was at a local Highland Games. I happened upon the Turnbull tent and was thrilled to discover others with my same name. I already knew the story of the Turning of the Bull but soon learned more by talking to the tent hosts and ended up not only smarter about my heritage but with some new friends as well! Since then I've attended many games and enjoyed each one. The Games offer a wide variety of inexpensive family fun such as music, the competitions, and meeting the tent hosts. The Games also give me a good excuse to pull the Kilt out of the closet, though you certainly need not own a Kilt to enjoy the Games! (Nor does a Turnbull really need an excuse to wear a Kilt!)



The Highland Game season is here and this summer and fall there will be dozens of Games, Gatherings, Celtic Festivals, and related events around the US and the world. I encourage you to make a point of attending a Game this year. If you live in the US, there is almost certainly a Game within a few hours drive. If you live in Australia, Canada, or the UK, there is also a good selection of Games. There's even a long-running Highland Game in Indonesia! The following website has a good calendar of Highland Games and events: <http://www.usscots.com>. (Check out page 7 of this issue for games with Turnbull tents!)

I hope you're able to enjoy a Highland Game this year. If you do go, please send us a few photos and comments so we can share them with others in the Bullseye and our website. Perhaps I'll meet you there!

## Sharing and Caring

Thoughts and prayers are extended to Keith Turnbull and family with the loss of Keith's great aunt Hazelle.

### BULLSEYE

The Bullseye, a Turnbull Clan Association Worldwide (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), Staff Writer: Kim Trimble. Contributing writers: Adriana Bonewitz, Dawn Day

### Turnbull Clan Association Worldwide

[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

## Meet the Family

### Mark and Gwen Turnbull share an Invitation to all descendants of Henry Hall and Emma Turnbull

#### Family Reunion

**July 22-25, 2010**

#### Swift Current, Saskatchewan

Hall and Emma married June 27, 1906 at Hamer Bay, District of Perry Sound, Ontario. Between 1907 and 1915, four children were added to the family, after which they headed west to take up their homestead near Hall's family farm in St. Boswell's. Another child was born in 1921.

#### Activities include:

- ✱ Creating a Pictorial Family Tree
- ✱ Displaying Family Records from Scotland, England, & Canada
- ✱ Visit to the Family Farm
- ✱ Silent Auction - to help pay for the events of the weekend



Learn about the Turnbull origins and the family's journey that brings us to where we are today. Meet family for the first time, or renew relationships; discover family resemblances and family traits. This is going to be a fabulous weekend which we hope no one will miss.

For more information, contact Vivian Fox  
Phone: (403) 887-1857 EMAIL: [vfox@tpi.ca](mailto:vfox@tpi.ca)

## La Breith Sona! Happy Birthday!



Susan Turnbull, Wally Turnbull, Marsha Smith, Janis Hall, Fred Turnbull, Thomas Turnbull Stevenson, Mary Ellen Turnbull Longley, Betty Lange, David Dunstan, LeRoy Trimble, Robert M. Trimble, Alice Morgan, Janis Dairiki, Allen A. Turnbull Jr., John J. Turnbull, Brian P. Turnbull, H. Lee

Hadley, Mary Samms, Sarah R. Turnbull, Dorothy M. Turnbull, Daniela Copa Perez.





# TURNBULL TRAILS

## A HISTORY OF THE BORDER CLAN TURNBULL

# THE TROUBLED YEARS IN THE BORDERS

by Norman Turnbull

Turnbull Clan High Shenachie

When Will-O-Rule saved King Robert the Bruce's life in 1313, he would have been part of the Douglas Company, probably a small baron, and maybe even because of his stature and build, Douglas's champion. He would most likely be in his early 20's at this point, which means he would have been born around 1290. His father and any older brothers, however, could well have fought along side Wallace at Stirling Bridge and Falkirk in 1297 and 1298, as the Douglasses did. It's a fact that boys as young as 11 did bloody their swords and axes.

In the year 1583, a catalogue of woes arrived on the desk of Sir Francis Walsingham, Secretary of the State to Queen Elizabeth I. It came from Lord Scrope, Warden of the English March, and was a further reminder of the "broken state" of England's northern frontier. This "compleynt" (complaint) and claim for redress against the Armstrongs was yet another example of a seemingly endless stream of similar "reiffis" (robberies), "murtheris" (murders), "birnyngs" (burnings) and "spoylings" (spoiling) that emanated from the Border.

To Wilsingham, sitting at the hub of government and deeply immersed in affairs of state, such barbaric behaviour must have seemed outlandish indeed. But to the likes of Gynkne (Jenkin) Hunter and Bartame (Barty) Milburn, left impoverished and bereft, it was the grim reality of daily life on the Border Marches. Even their crudely built, defensible homes, referred to in contemporary documents as "bastell-houses," were a direct result of a continuing legacy of three centuries of warfare, violence, lawlessness and systematic devastation that had left the Anglo-Scottish Border country into a pitiful state.



An example of a bastle house, built for security from raiding neighbors.

During the second half of the 13th century peace and prosperity reigned across the Borderland. Sharing a rugged landscape and a similar culture, Border folk of both kingdoms had much in common and lived together in relative harmony. Border towns flourished, merchants and landowners prospered and farmers were able to enjoy the fruits of their labours.

On a national level, however, each nation remained wary of the others' territorial ambitions and during this period of calm, the English in particular had taken the opportunity to strengthen their Border holds on Norham, Alnwick, Wark and Carlisle, as well as establishing efficient lines of communication along their Northern frontier. When Scotland's King, Alexander III, was killed in a riding accident in 1286, he died heirless and in the absence of an obvious adult successor to the Scottish throne, the English monarch, Edward I, in furtherance of his plans for the total domination of Scotland, used his influence to install John Balliol on the Scottish throne in 1292.

Unfortunate and weak minded, Balliol was forced to recognize Edward as his feudal overlord and by a process of intimidation and humiliation, the English monarch proceeded to rule Scotland by proxy. In time, Edward's behaviour became so overpowering that Balliol, albeit under pressure from his council, eventually rebelled against him. In an act of defiance, the Scots negotiated a mutual defence agreement, which became known as the, "Auld Alliance," with Edward's traditional enemy, France, and proceeded to lay siege to the English fortress at Carlisle.

In a fury, Edward retaliated by launching a series of devastating invasions across the Border. In 1296, Berwick was stormed and in an act of sheer brutality the town's entire male population was put to the sword, earning Edward the epithet "Hammer of the Scots."

Recoiling from the initial impact, the Scots soon retaliated with equal ferocity and in 1297, under William Wallace, defeated the English at Stirling Bridge. *To be continued in the next issue.*

*Norman Turnbull is collecting materials related to Turnbull history and ancestry. He would very much appreciate copies of any historical or ancestral information you have on your family. He is also offering his services to help you trace your roots. Through his researching for the clan, he has access to a lot of information. He asks that we share his contact information with you. If you are trying to locate a long lost ancestor, he might be able to help. You may contact Norman through email at: [nturnbull@btinternet.com](mailto:nturnbull@btinternet.com) or by phone: 01450363589 or mail: 5 Beattie Court, Hawick, Roxburghshire TD9 8HN Scotland*

# Turnbull



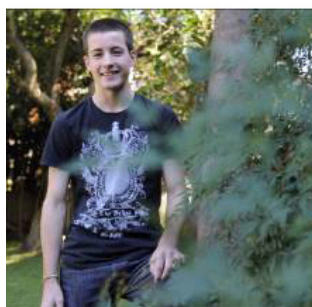
# Tidbits



## Dublin, Ireland

Gareth Turnbull made a winning return in the 800 metres in 1.53.87 at the Dublin Garded Meeting in Irishtown Stadium after a six year absence from competition.

## Sydney, Australia



Jason Turnbull, 18, on a school trip to Cambodia says it was the most eye-opening experience of his life. He is now speaking at MakePovertyHistory forums and lobbying for funding to end global poverty. "I couldn't just stand by while people around the world do not have access to adequate health care."

## Missouri, USA

Meet Colin Turnbull. An ordinary student by day. By night, Colin Turnbull is known as Colin Turntable, making music that can be accurately described as "fresh." Currently he is a pianist for the Parkview Jazz Band, but can also play the guitar, drums, bass, and ukulele.



## Essex, England

Lord Lieutenant of Essex, Baron Petre, presented Leigh station officer Mike Turnbull with a Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. Chief Fire Officer David Johnson, who attended the ceremony, said: "This medal recognises... achievement and is presented by us on behalf of the Monarch and a grateful community."



## Hawick, Scotland

Congratulations to the Hawick Pipe Band for their excellent performance in the Scottish Pipe Band Competitions. (Well done all, - including your Turnbull members!)



## Dunedin, New Zealand



Barbara Turnbull is a theatre nurse with the Red Cross in northwest Pakistan. She said she dreamed of being a Red Cross nurse since seeing one on television as a child. "They showed a nurse working with starving children. To me that was the epitome of nursing - ...doing something that wasn't all about me."

## California, USA

Virgin Airlines has announced that it will make the flight from California to New York more interesting by offering fine wines in first class. The first offerings include Turnbull Sauvignon Blanc 2008 from Turnbull Winery, Napa Valley.



## Sydney, Australia

Independent curator Deborah Turnbull, has been selected to manage the Grid Gallery, Australia's first permanent public gallery for digital-based art. Ms. Turnbull said "It's an exciting and intriguing project because it is physically, architecturally and virtually situated."



## Nova Scotia, Canada

Pictou student, Kurtis Turnbull, received a bronze medal at the National Science Fair for his experiment, *A Radical Theory: Why antioxidants may not always be good*. "I looked at other research that was done and decided to expand on it," he said, adding biology is his favourite subject. Kurtis is planning to attend Dalhousie University next year.



## New York, USA

Mentor and neighbor, Arnold Penney, was the first to salute brand new 2nd Lt. Jonathan Turnbull minutes after he received his diploma at West Point Military Academy.



## New Children's Book - Abigail and the Royal Thread - Now Available

*"...Abigail, I know we are expectin' a lot from ye to learn so quickly... Sometimes it takes lots of practice to be really good at something. But none of the practice will matter if you don't believe ye can do it... Keep trying, but most of all believe that ye can. Believe, Abigail, believe!"*

~ Excerpt from *Abigail and the Royal Thread*

In Betty Turnbull's new hardcover children's book *Abigail and the Royal Thread*, Papa tells his grandson Billy, dejected over his inability to hit a baseball, the memorable story of a young 18th century Scottish farm lass named Abigail Rutherford who learns that the combination of hard work, determination, and belief in oneself can make dreams come true.

The Rutherfords, while poor, are respected for the superior wool, thread, and cloth they make. One day they receive the opportunity of a lifetime: to own the land they now live on in return for weaving a tunic for King James I of England. The problem is, they have a short amount



*This children's book is set in early 18th century rural Scotland Borderlands. It teaches a powerful lesson about perseverance and belief in oneself, while introducing the region's rich history of weavers and sheep farmers.*

of time in which to complete this gigantic task. The entire family works together, but it appears they will fail until Abigail takes her mother's advice, devotes herself to quickly mastering a nearly impossible skill, and believes with all her heart and soul that she and her family, working together, can meet the deadline.

The book concludes with young Billy deciding to go outside and practice hitting a little bit more and Papa urging him, "Believe, Billy, believe." Turnbull also includes a historical timeline of King James I of Scotland and a fact page on the current flag of the UK.

*Abigail and the Royal Thread* is available through [totallyturnbull.com](http://totallyturnbull.com). Proceeds go to the *Turning of the Bull* monument fund and copies purchased before July 15 will be signed by the author.

## THE KING WE SAVED...

(continued from page 1) support he needed. He arranged for a meeting with his adversary to be held on the 10th of February 1306 at Greyfriars Kirk in Dumfries. Comyn agreed to attend and the two met at the altar of the church on the chosen day. Instead of accepting Bruce's proposal however, Comyn was outraged at the plan and a heated argument ensued.

At the peak of his own anger Robert the Bruce pulled his dagger and plunged in into John Comyn killing him right there in the church. Comyn's uncle, Sir Robert Comyn tried to come to his nephew's aid and was subsequently slain by Bruce's men.

However dubious the murder of John Comyn might have been, Robert the Bruce was now the heir to the throne of Scotland. He was in a precarious place though, having killed a respected

nobleman, in a sacred place no less. He knew that Comyn's kinsmen would not go quietly in the night and he was now an outlaw because of his temper. He was excommunicated from the church by Pope Clement V for his actions on that history changing day.

None the less, just six weeks after the murder, on March 25th 1306, Robert the Bruce was crowned king of Scotland. Now all he had to do was to drive the English out of his kingdom...

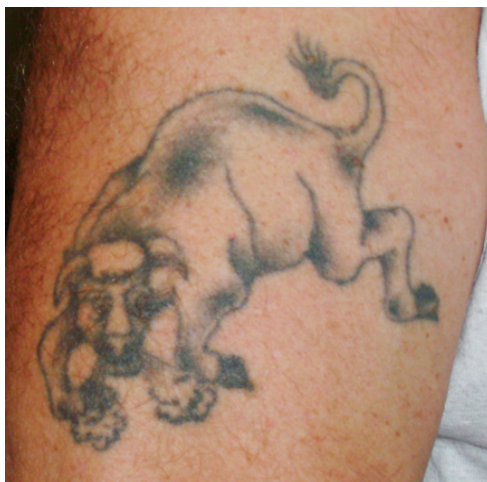
To be continued...

*Editor's note: The editor welcomes back staff writer, Kim Trimble, who took a sabbatical to finish his university degree. Congrats! and it is nice to have you back.*



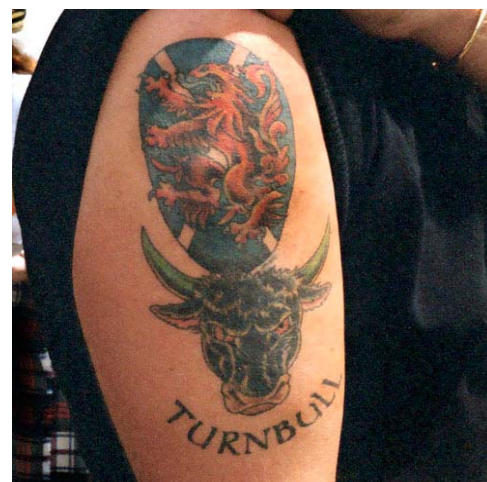
# Turnbull Tattoos... Final Entries

*Jim Turnbull, Manitoba, submits his tattoo, "The original idea came to me embroidered on a pillow as a gift. Later I had the "bull" stencilled on both sides of the gas tank of my motorcycle, then decided to have it done as a tattoo – and I have been wearing it proudly for over 30 years."*



Part three: This month concludes the submissions of Turnbull Tattoos for the first ever Turnbull Tattoo contest. Sponsored by Turnbull Clan Association and Totally Turnbull, the winner will receive a year's membership in TCA and a Turnbull Arms Stein. Here are the last two entries. You, the readers, will have a

chance to review all the entries in the July Bullseye and vote for your favorite.



*Scott Turnbull of Greenville, SC. proudly displays his Turnbull tattoo on his right arm.*

## AGM 2010 - New Hampshire Highland Games

This year's TCA Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place September 17-19 at the New Hampshire Highland Games, Loon Mountain, NH. The Turnbull Clan will have a large tent and plenty of room to host everyone.

This is one year you won't want to miss. Among the many highlights, TCA is excited to announce that Norman Turnbull, Turnbull Clan High Shenachie, will be joining us from Hawick, Scotland. Norman will be presenting a session on Turnbull Clan history, as well as updating us on Fatlips Castle, Bedrule Castle and other ongoing projects in Scotland.

Norman has also offered to help members trace their family roots from the Scotland side. This would be a great chance to talk to him personally.

Other highlights include a TCA banquet and meeting at the very popular Fratello's Restaurant. Betty Turnbull will be present with an AGM special and to sign *The Man Who Saved The King* and *Abigail And The Royal Thread*, with proceeds going to the monument fund.



*NH tent hosts Lee Turnbull and Mark Turnbull stand ready to welcome all Turnbull Clan members to the AGM, Loon Mt., NH*

The games will be hosting the first International Gathering of Drum Majors. Concerts include the Red Hot Chilli Pipers & Albannach, Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Hass and others.

Lodging fills up quickly. So don't hesitate to book now. The games are near Lincoln, Conway and Woodstock, NH. TCA tent host, Mark Turnbull, has reserved several cabins at Cozy Cabins, Lincoln. These rustic cabins are very close to the games. View the cabins at [www.cozycabins.com](http://www.cozycabins.com) and call (603) 745-8713 to request one of the cabins - be sure to mention TCA.

Other suggested places to stay include: Best Western White Mountain Resort, Franconia, NH, (888) 669-6777 or Comfort Inn & Suites, 21 Railroad St., Lincoln, NH (603) 745-6700. Remember to book soon!

The Turnbolls always have a great turnout at these games. Let's help make this year the largest ever!

### Brothers' Birthdays Celebrated



Brothers John and Stewart Turnbull celebrate their birthdays (40th and 53rd) at a family gathering in Cheshire, England.



## An Open Letter to the Bullseye

*Editor's note: This letter was received from TCA member John Turnbull of Mendocino, California. He asked that it be printed as an open letter.*

Dear Wally and Betty,

I have returned from a trip to Haiti where I was with a small team from Southern Baptist Disaster Relief Mission, to build temporary housing (Samaritan's Purse) for the victims of the devastating earthquake. Prior to going I purchased a book titled "Creole Made Easy" written by Wally R. Turnbull, with Audio CDs plus a Workbook by Betty J. Turnbull. When I read about the authors, I realised they were no other than you both. I cannot tell you enough how helpful it was to learn sufficient Haitian creole to function as we taught the local people how to build. I was able to converse with useful phrases that applied to our daily working rather than silly tourist questions such as "where is the hotel or station." Also at the airport in Port-au-Prince there was a Creole cookbook written by you; I told the salesperson I was related to you and she was thrilled. Talking with a retired teacher he told me of the great work you both accomplished with rural education in Haiti, as a fellow Christian and Clansman it made me proud of you.

I was so touched and impressed by the Haitian people. They are so friendly and loving to each other, and us and in the most devastating conditions I have ever seen. The culture is so relational, the men would hold our hands as we walked and talked, the children would sing folk songs as we worked. After we showed them what and how to do the work they all pitched in. The heat and humidity were brutal and we were very wary of heat exhaustion and potential heatstroke, and the locals taught us how to pace ourselves. I am already planning my next trips to help these poor people, and hope and pray they are not to be forgotten as the World media move on to their next newsworthy stories.

## OOPS - Happy Belated Birthday



TCA and the Bullseye staff would like to apologize to one of the youngest members, Owen Turnbull Ledger, and his family for omitting his name with the May birthday wishes. Owen celebrated his 4th birthday on May 11. Glad you had a happy day! Owen is the grandson of long time member Cara Cox, Perth, Western Australia.

*Left: Owen prepares for his first day of Kindergarten.*



*John Turnbull of Mendocino, California, on a recent trip to earthquake ravaged Haiti. John worked along side the Haitian people and Samaritan's Purse to help build desperately needed housing. John says this is the first of many trips.*

## LOOK FOR THE TURNBULL TENT!

While planning your trips to the Highland Games this summer, checkout your area for one with a Turnbull Tent. Below is a list of games, dates and locations that already have a sponsored TCA Turnbull Tent and host. No Turnbull host near you? Why don't you consider hosting a Turnbull tent? It can be a fun way to enjoy the games, have a home base and meet other Turnbolls. If you need advice on how to get started just let us know at [editor@turnbullclan.com](mailto:editor@turnbullclan.com).

**June 19** - Scottish Fest and Highland Games, Prosser, WA, hosts Dale and Mary Kay Hilding with Bill and Pat Trimble

**July 9-11** - Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, Linville, NC, host Scott Turnbull

**July 10-11** - Athena Caledonian Games, Athena, OR, hosts Dale and Mary Kay Hilding with Bill and Pat Trimble

**July 24** - Edinboro Highland Games, Edinboro, PA, host Chris Nelson

**July 31-August 1** - Seattle Scottish Highland Games, Enumclaw, Bill and Pat Trimble

**August 14** - Central New York Scottish Games, Syracuse, NY, host Chris Nelson

**August 28** - Jamestown Celtic Festival, Mayville, NY, host Chris Nelson

**September 9-12** - Long's Peak Scottish-Irish Highland Festival, Estes Park, CO, host Helen Turnbull Goody

**September 17-19** - New Hampshire Highland Games, Loon Mountain, NH, host Mark Turnbull - *also location of the TCA 2010 AGM*

**September 18-19** - Niagara Celtic Festival and Highland Games, Olcott, NY, host Chris Nelson



*Las Vegas by night from the 108th floor of the Stratosphere Hotel.*



*Ken & Pat on the rim of Grand Canyon*

*Part three in a series of the travel adventures of Kenneth and Patricia Turnbull (Australia) through the USA in 2009*

We were very pleased when my family cousin decided to accompany us along the way to Las Vegas, as one knows that 'local knowledge' is worth everything when visiting unknown areas . . . and we weren't to be disappointed.

As we headed for Nevada, we wondered why Carol directed us along a winding and badly worn section of old Route 66. Well, we didn't need to wonder for long, as we arrived at Oatman, a small out-of-the-way township. It had been bypassed by progress, yet, it was amazingly very similar to the popular Disney animation, 'Cars'. We marveled at some of the old shops, while burros, formerly from the Grand Canyon trails, freely roamed along the main street.

Back on the highway, we very soon joined the heavy traffic viewing a huge new road bridge being constructed over the Hoover Dam, an eye opener. (Illustrated on the banner)

We were quickly swept into the Casino atmosphere in Las Vegas, the world famous glitter city in the desert. Gambling is a major part of the culture, so Pat and I joined in the fun.



*Dizzying heights of the Grand Canyon, a depth of one mile.*

We farewelled my cousin and headed for Red Fire Canyon, then, the awe inspiring Grand Canyon NP in all it's beauty.

A day at Salt Lake City for some family research, then Zion Canyon NP and an archeological dinosaur site at St. George, were our next encounters. We even managed to find the Circleville home of the well-known outlaw, Butch Cassidy.

So far, so good . . . as we headed east.



*Large mineral coloured crystals, bought at the Zion Canyon National Park in Utah.*



*Inverted dinosaur print in lake mud at Johnson Farm Discovery Site, St. George, Utah*

Turnbull Clan Association  
5216 Tahoe Dr.  
Durham, NC 27713

