

## A FREE AND SOVEREIGN NATION

### PART THREE: CONCLUSION OF ROBERT THE BRUCE

by Kim Trimble - Bullseye Staff Writer

Following the battle at Loudoun Hill and the death of Edward I of England, Scotland's fight for independence became easier for the Scots. Edward II was not like his father; he was a weak willed dilettante who is thought to have been homosexual. Though no coward, Edward II cared little for campaigning and waging war. He was however still responsible for finishing the matter that his father had left.

The battle and subsequent victory at Loudon Hill in 1307 served as a training ground for the Scottish forces. Other skirmishes provided invaluable experience for Bruce's forces, too. They were able to learn the methods and tactics of the English army and prepare for the long fight for independence. Intense training of his troops was led by Bruce and his captains in the two months that led up to the battle that finally achieved independence for the Scots; the Battle at Bannock Burn in 1314.



**The battle at Bannockburn 1314**

Bannockburn is located just over two miles to the south-south east of Stirling and approximately midway between Edinburgh and Glasgow. It is a small town named for Bannock Burn, a small stream the cuts though the village on its way to join the River Forth. Today Bannockburn is a part of the city of Stirling.

The battle took place over a two day period; June 23-24, 1314. Edward II of England had come north to relieve Stirling Castle but the Scots would have none of it and kept them at bay. Under overwhelming odds the Scots used the weakness of the English against them. Edward's troops were arrogantly condescending of the Scots and even though they outnumbered Bruce's forces by almost ten to one, Bruce and his men were far better equipped for battle. It was with dogged determina-

tion that these doughty men were victorious. The English side lost thousands of men while the Scots lost hundreds and in the end King Edward the second of England was persuaded to leave the battlefield and escape to the south. This action may have saved his life but the consequences were that the English fighters lost heart at the sight of their king fleeing the field. Fear set in for them while the Scots were inspired to fight all the harder winning the day and freedom at last for Scotland.

Though the English did not recognize Scotland as a sovereign nation for fourteen more years, until 1328 when the treaty of Edinburgh-Northampton was signed, the Battle of Bannockburn was the deciding factor. The terms of the treaty recognized Scotland as a fully independent nation, recognized Robert the Bruce and his heirs and successors as the rightful rulers of Scotland and set the border between the two countries as that recognized under the reign of King of Scots Alexander III (1249-1286).

Robert the Bruce was now the recognized, if not undisputed, King of Scotland. He still had enemies though. The Balliol family still claimed to be the rightful rulers of the land and did everything in their power to regain the crown. After Bruce's death the second war of Scottish independence was fought, secretly backed by the English crown.

King Robert was militarily successful, by defeating the English King he and his army accomplished that which was thought impossible. With the Declaration of Arbroath of 1320, he gained more credibility and this led to the lifting of his excommunication from the Catholic Church by the new Pope, John XXII. Then in 1328 King Edward III of England signed the Treaty of Edinburgh-Northampton recognizing Scotland as a free nation with Bruce as her king. Bruce has been a national hero in Scotland for over seven hundred years and with the passage of time he grows larger in our hearts and minds as we remember him and his heroic deeds.

It is indeed unfortunate that his death was an ignoble one. Not in battle did Robert the Bruce die like the warrior that he was. Instead he suffered a debilitating illness that many believe was leprosy, but since that disease is not discussed in the accounts of the time others feel that his death might have been due to an "Unclean disease" (continued on page 3)

## From the President

by Rhet Turnbull

One of the more fun roles of being TCA president is the opportunity I have to represent the Clan and share its rich and fascinating history. Recently, I had just that opportunity.

I was invited to attend and speak to the Rule Family Reunion in Dow City, Iowa, a Rule family tradition since the 1970s. So on Saturday, August 7, my wife, three children and I headed north from our home in Omaha, NE to meet the Rules in Iowa.

We gathered when the noon whistle blew at the Brasel Memorial Legion Hall.

It was a day of great fun; sharing stories, history, and talking about the Turnbull/Rule connections. I prepared a slide presentation of the historic roots of the Turnbull/Rule families which included photographs of key Scotland Border sites. Everyone seemed to enjoy learning more about the exciting history of how Rules became Turnbells and changed Scotland's history.

I encourage all of us to continue to look for avenues to share our Turnbull Clan history and camaraderie with others who might not yet know about their Borders connections. It's not only fun to meet new people, but its exciting to be able to expand and unite our global family.

Our family felt honored to be included in the Rule/Goddard reunion. We felt as though we found lost cousins and hope that they felt the same. Family members in attendance included Maxine Cross, Richard & Sharon Cue, Bart Rule, Jeanne Hoffmann, Ruth Anderson, James Rule, Glen & Marie Cue, Glenda Willmott Stougard, June Weiss, Jessica & Chayse Roecker, Marion Gibson, Howard & Frances Hanson, Becky Burling Wolf, and Buzz & Bee Burling. Numerous others who were not able to attend sent greetings.

**Coming Next Month:** Norman Turnbull's *Turnbull Trails* returns, Summer Games reports, AGM report and much more!

### BULLSEYE

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Founders: John F. Turnbull, Scotland • Dorothy Berk, USA



The 31st Rule/Goddard Reunion in Dow City, Iowa was a great success. TCA president, Rhet Turnbull and his family enjoyed being guests and meeting everyone.

## And the Winner is...

Kelly Turnbull of Toronto, Canada wins the Turnbull Tattoo Contest. Congratulations, Kelly!

Kelly wins a year's membership to Turnbull Clan Association and a beautiful stein printed with the official Turnbull Arms.

Congratulations to 2nd & 3rd place winners, Jason Turnbull and Al Turnbull who each win a TotallyTurnbull t-shirt.

Thanks to everyone who participated and for sharing your Turnbull pride with us.



### 1st Place



### 2nd Place

Jason Turnbull  
Columbia,  
Maryland



### 3rd Place

Al Turnbull,  
submitted  
by daughter  
Raquel Lee

**Important Upcoming Event:** AGM at the Loon Mountain Games Sept. 17-19. Scotland guest Norman Turnbull will share Turnbull history and stories. Don't miss it! Send your AGM banquet reservations (Saturday evening, \$30 per person) to [editor@turnbullclan.com](mailto:editor@turnbullclan.com)

## La Breith Sona! Happy Birthday!

August



John R. Turnbull Jr, Laurie Titus, Kathie Shilipetar, John C. Turnbull, Gregory E. Turnbull, Eleanor J. Turnbull, Emory Scott, Dorothy J. Cook, Kay Bridge, Mara E. Turnbull, Jimmie Jean Bowman, Janet C. Schwierking, Adriana Rosado Bonewitz, Mary Regina Turnbull, Cynthia Parham, John Turnbull III, Ann Stevenson, Ann Turnbull, and Kathryn Hunt



## SOVEREIGN NATION ...

(continued from page 1) such as syphilis, additional possibilities include; psoriasis, motor neuron disease or a series of strokes. On June 7, 1329, just one year after the signing of the Treaty of Edinburgh-Northampton Robert the Bruce died at the Manor of Cardross near Dumbarton. However, his death is not important to those left around the world who remember him as the man who set Scotland free. We choose to remember his deeds of valor, his undying desire for a free and independent Scotland.

It was his last wish that his heart be taken on a crusade to the battles abroad; 'Against God's foes'. The slaying of John Comyn had haunted Robert and he fervently desired atonement for the sin that nearly cost him his salvation. So while the body of Robert Bruce lies buried in Dunfermline Abbey, Sir James Douglas was given the task of fulfilling the king's last request. Bruce's heart was taken and preserved in a silver casket (right) that Douglas carried suspended from a chain around his neck. A crusade however did not take place in a timely fashion so Douglas and his team instead journeyed to the Spanish Peninsula in order to join Alfonso XI in a campaign against Muhammed IV, Sultan of the Moorish Kingdom of Granada.



Douglas fell in August 1330 during the siege of Teba and Robert's heart was retrieved by Sir William Keith and returned to Scotland and buried at Melrose Abbey in accordance with Bruce's wishes. Archaeologists discovered the heart in 1920, but reburied it without marking the location. Then in 1998, during some construction the casket was rediscovered and sent to Edinburgh where it was examined by AOC archaeologists who determined that the casket did indeed contain a human heart and was of the correct age. It was reburied at Melrose Abbey in 1998.



*Author's note: The following is an excerpt from a book that I came across while researching this article. It is from the book Transactions of the Hawick Archaeological Society, this section is from the 1882 October meeting. There is much more information regarding the history of the Turnbells so I have included the link to this remarkable book. If you go to this site the section about the Clan Turnbull is near the end of the 1,000 plus pages. Enjoy. Kim*

### OCTOBER MEETING.

## *Lower Rulewater and its Associations.*

It was a few years after this that the name of the clan, or at least of the chief, was changed, being no longer Roull but Turn e bull, and then, shortly, Turnbull. The way in which the chief got this remarkable name is well known, but will bear re-telling. William of Rule was a man of immense bodily strength; indeed, he was a very Samson among the Scots. He happened on one occasion to be with Robert the Bruce when that king was hunting in the woods of Callander. Bruce was pursuing a wild bull, but in course of time the tables were turned, and the bull pursued Bruce. It unhorsed him, and was on the point of finishing that gallant king's existence, when the stalwart William of Roull interfered, and making good use of his great strength, overthrew and killed the bull, thus saving the king's life. Doubts have been thrown on the authenticity of this legend, but from the fact that Boece mentions it, and that in a grant of land to William of Rule immediately after he is called Turn e bull, it is clearly the truth. Leyden describes the incident as follows—

**His arms robust the hardy hunter flung  
Around his bending horns, and upward wrung,  
With writhing force, his neck retorted round,  
And rolled the panting monster on the ground,  
Crushed with enormous strength his bony skull;  
And courtiers hailed the man that turned the bull.**

**For the doughty deed the grateful king gave to  
Turnbull the lands of Philiphaugh. But his**

**death was as tragic as the deed that gave him his new name. In the reign of David—Bruce's unworthy son—Turnbull accompanied the Scottish army to Halldon Hill when the English army invaded Scotland in 1333 to revenge the insult to Edward Baliol. Turnbull, proud of his great strength, before the battle began went between the two armies, and, like Goliath of old, whose fate he met, he challenged any Englishman to single combat. His challenge was accepted by a young Englishman, a knight of Norfolk, Sir Robert Benhale by name, noted for skill in swordsmanship. The two met, Benhale having first disposed of a mastiff belonging to Turnbull which sprang at him. Strength and rapidity of blows on the part of the Borderer were of no avail, for in a comparatively short time the chieftain lay at Benhale's feet dead. Such was the end of the first of the Turnbells.**

To read more copy and paste this link into your web browser:

[http://books.google.com/books?id=CDcDhz7uDTgC&pg=PA49&lpg=PA49&dq=battle+of+loudoun+hill&source=bl&ots=xJdEJXk5Ei&sig=XSVCGPmiS\\_ww3BCoi\\_CnWgtj9K4&hl=en&ei=HF4\\_TPaoHpC6sQPMn7j2CA&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=8&ved=0CB0Q6AEwBzgU#v=onepage&q&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=CDcDhz7uDTgC&pg=PA49&lpg=PA49&dq=battle+of+loudoun+hill&source=bl&ots=xJdEJXk5Ei&sig=XSVCGPmiS_ww3BCoi_CnWgtj9K4&hl=en&ei=HF4_TPaoHpC6sQPMn7j2CA&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=8&ved=0CB0Q6AEwBzgU#v=onepage&q&f=false)



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

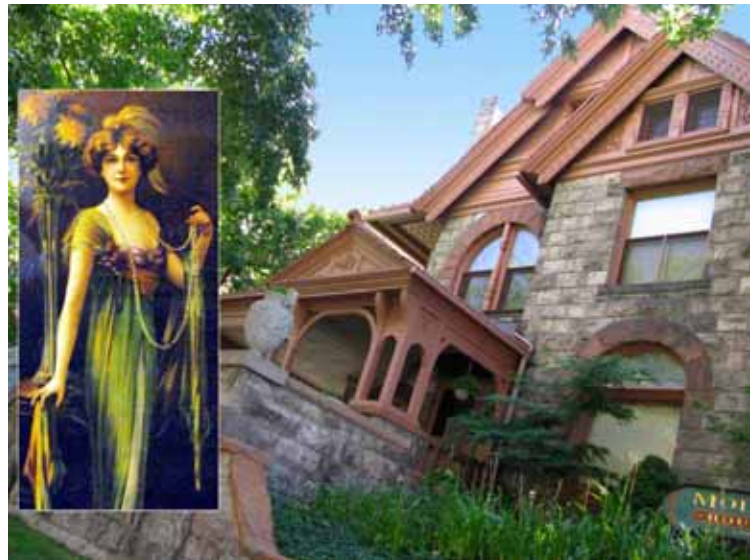
We continued to head east and spent the next two weeks, visiting a variety of our interests, including museums, zoos, an ancient limestone cave and 'Thunderhead' gold mine.

The Denver zoo (illustrated below) was well worth the effort. Then we made a last minute tour to the lavish mansion of Molly Brown; the last living survivor of the famous Titanic sinking. Noted was her attention to detail by choosing to dress appropriately, including her jewellery, before leaving the ship. Molly was also well known for her generosity.

Heading to South Dakota, we visited the massive Mount Rushmore sculptures (above) of the four American Presidents. We then travelled on to Deadwood, a small town with a very colourful and historic past. It still reflects the atmosphere of the early days of territory settlement.



*Native American animals: Mountain Lion and Black Bear*



*Denver socialite, Molly Brown and her mansion; Colorado*

The photo bottom right, shows the legends of the west; Bill Cody 'Buffalo' Bill, Texas Jack and James Hickok 'Wild Bill' Hickok.

In the gold rush days of the 1860's, Deadwood was a wild town. In fact, everything about the town seemed lawless! 'Wild Bill', a gambler who had previously killed seven men, was himself shot in this saloon, playing card poker.

Crossing State borders by now, had become the norm, from Wyoming through to Wisconsin; the latter being our destination for several weeks. Next, a five week breather stay at our daughter's home at a rural town known as Shell Lake.



*Saloon No 10 at Deadwood. Instrumental in shaping the 'Wild' West*

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