

## REMEMBERING – THE HANGING TREE

By Kim Trimble, Staff Writer

The middle ages were at best a brutal time and even though 1510 was technically in the renaissance era things were still rather harsh. Capital punishment was used to punish offenders for what would be in today's terms a misdemeanor. Torture was a common practice in getting confessions of all sorts of crimes whether the accused was guilty or not. Superstition was rampant and people were burned alive for supposed witchcraft and other misunderstood activities, such as herbal medicine. This was a time of leaches and bleeding as cures to disease.

Reiving was a way of life for many families along the border between Scotland and England. It wasn't thought of as thievery by the reivers but a simple way of surviving the harsh times. If you had something that I needed, or wanted, I would simply raid your home or farm and take it whether it was sheep, grain, cattle or women.

The practice of reiving was frowned on by the aristocracy who tried to stop it for many years. Laws were implemented and ignored. People were imprisoned, tortured, hung and exiled from their homes. But reiving continued to cause unrest among the population of the border area of the island of Britain.

The Turnbulls were notorious reivers who ignored the edicts of the King. We were indeed a rowdy bunch of folks who did not have much respect for the laws meant to keep the lower class down. Reiving was not only a way of life but also a way to thumb our noses at the authorities that tried to control the clan. Telling a Turnbull not to do something was not the most diplomatic method of solving a problem.



*The Capon "Hanging" Tree near Jedburgh is one of the few original trees left standing of Jedburgh forest.*

Five hundred years ago King James IV of Scotland tried to solve the problem of reiving. The story is that King James IV hung every tenth Turnbull in an attempt to halt the practice of border reiving. In 1510 the Turnbulls had built a reputation of, to put it mildly, unruliness. Their disrespect for authority along with their habitual raids across the border to England became such a problem to the king that he had two hundred clansmen arrested. They were commanded



**James IV of Scotland**

to stand before the king wearing sheets; they had their swords in their hands and had halters around their necks. Out of these two hundred some were imprisoned while others were hanged. This action by the king caused many clans to flee Scotland, completely, with some of the clans traveling to Europe where they joined mercenary bands. Others traveled farther north to escape the persecution of their lifestyle.

Another version of this story has it that the Turnbulls had earned themselves a reputation of unscrupulousness in their thievery. Their territory neighbored that of Liddesdale and the Turnbulls were every bit as ruthless as the "moss-troopers" of that thieving district. Clan Turnbull became known for defying the sheriff of the borders, raiding and thieving at will. When James IV was made aware of the activities of the Turnbulls he raised an army and marched to the water of Rule in November of 1510. In was then, while the court was sitting at Jedburgh that the king brought his justice down on the clan. Two hundred Turnbulls met the king at Rulewater, again wearing sheets and halters and with their swords bared in their hands. This version too has some executed, others imprisoned, and still others release after giving hostages to insure their behavior in the future. The story goes on to say that there was a time of peace that lasted several years, but by 1530 the Turnbulls had resumed the old habit of reiving.

Whichever version you adhere to, the history of the hangings has been passed down from generation to generation and is still talked about today. Many a Turnbull wife was left a widow and many children left fatherless on that fateful day. This November marks the 500th anniversary of the loss of Turnbull lives. So, this November take a moment to remember those who died at the hands of James IV on that cold wintry day.

## From the Editor

The Turnbull Clan has never been so active with so many positive things happening. Members come from over sixteen countries worldwide. There is more representation at Highland Games than ever before. Regional groups are gaining more and more attention, expanding Clan interest.

The *Turning of the Bull* monument is a permanent fixture in the Borders. TCA's Norman Turnbull is leading the path for an archeological dig to retrace the original floor plan of Bedrule Castle. Plans to restore Fatlips Castle with a new roof are making headway.

And now this is my reminder that it's that time of year again. Yes, you remember, **time to renew your membership.**

Why should I renew, you say? That's simple. By maintaining an active membership:

1. You belong - you are a part of an active group of people with a common past and similar interests.
2. You stay up to date on current activities.
3. Your younger family members - children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews - benefit by becoming interested in their family ancestry and history.
4. You support your heritage by supporting your clan association.
5. You receive the *Bullseye* which provides an opportunity to read exciting stories about Turnbells worldwide.
6. You get all this for only \$24.00 a year.

Here's a sneak peak into something we are planning for next year's Bullseyes:

**Bitty Bulls** - Several times a year we plan to include a page for our younger audience. You will enjoy the fun games and activities, "did you know" information, recipes and more with the little Turnbells in your life.

Don't risk missing a Bullseye issue - renew now and support your Clan. Use the form on page 8 or send that information to Chris Nelson (29 Fremont St., Tonawanda, NY 14150) along with your payment to TCA of \$24 primary member, \$12 students, \$12 spouse.

**Or renew online now at [www.turnbullclan.com](http://www.turnbullclan.com)**

### 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.

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### Turnbull Clan Association Worldwide

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

## CLAN MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Each year the officers of Turnbull Clan Association use the Annual General Meeting as a time to name the Clan Member of the Year.

This year's AGM was held in the beautiful mountains of New Hampshire which meant that this year's recipient of the award was close to home. TCA president, Rhet Turnbull, was pleased to present the *Clan Member of the Year Award* to Lee Turnbull of Merrimack, New Hampshire.

Lee is a descendent of the Turnbells of Rossie, NY ([www.rossie.nhturnbells.org](http://www.rossie.nhturnbells.org) for more). He is a very active member of his church and volunteers at the Shiloh Retreat Center. He has lived a life of community service, much of which has been devoted to Turnbull Clan Association.

Lee has assisted with tent hosting at the New Hampshire Highland Games for as long as he can remember. It was a great privilege for TCA President, Rhet Turnbull, to present Lee Francis Turnbull with the *Clan Member of the Year Award*.



*Lee F. Turnbull proudly accepts the 2010 Clan Member of the Year Award from Turnbull Clan Association President, Rhet Turnbull. Lee of Merrimack, NH, received the award for his continued dedication to the Turnbull Clan and his life time of service not only to TCA but to his community.*



# TURNBULL TRAILS

A HISTORY OF THE BORDER CLAN TURNBULL

## BORDER BATTLES AND CONFLICTS

by Norman Turnbull

Turnbull Clan High Shenachie

Very few Border Battles have been recorded without one or more of the Turnbull's being implicated and, indeed, when the occasion arose, the whole of the Turnbull Clan rallied to the Douglases, and their neighbours, in defending their country and their homeland, besides relishing any opportunity in battling with the "auld enemy" over the Border.



*Today a memorial sign commemorates the Battle of Otterburn between the Percies and Douglases.*

The battle of Otterburn on 19 August 1388 was one of the classic conflicts in the long feud between two of the most powerful of the Border families; the Percies on the English side and the Douglases on the Scottish side. Taking advantage of the fact that the English king Richard II was a minor, James, 2nd Earl of Douglas, led a raiding party into England in 1388.

The Scots reached Durham, which they burned and pillaged, but were held by an English army led by the Percies - Henry (nicknamed Hotspur) and his brother Ralph - in a skirmish outside Newcastle. During the skirmish, Douglas captured Hotspur's lance pennon, his personal flag, and allegedly taunted him to recover it. For medieval knights this was regarded as a grave matter of honour and it was a challenge that Hotspur could not disregard.

Douglas left to return to Scotland, with the Percies in pursuit, and on his way back made an attempt to capture Otterburn Castle in Redesdale.

Douglas set up camp just to the West at Otterburn and waited for the Percies, thus virtually issuing an open invitation to Hotspur to attempt to recover his pennon. The English army arrived there in the evening of the 19th of August and Hotspur decided

to surprise the Scots with a night attack. It was a risky strategy. The English army was inevitably tired after a long march while the Scots had been resting in camp for most of the day. In addition, the feared English archers, whose deadly longbow attacks were often the main reason for victory against the Scots, would be largely ineffective in night fighting.

Hotspur planned a two-pronged assault. While he advanced on Douglas's men from the front, Sir Thomas Umfraville was sent on an outflank maneuver to the East and North of the Scots to attack them from the rear.

The strategy did not work. The Scots took the initiative and, superbly led by Douglas, charged at the main English army. The fighting was fierce but the Scots were successful and both Hotspur and Ralph Percy were captured. Even the death of Douglas during the confused hand-to-hand fighting did not weaken the Scottish resolve, as the Earl of Dunbar proved to be a more than adequate replacement. By morning, the battle was over and the Scots had gained a decisive victory.

Umfraville, who had taken virtually no part in the conflict, led the defeated English army back to Newcastle and the Scots, led by Dunbar, returned back over the Border. The Percies that were taken prisoners were later released.

The great siege of Berwick between the months of May to July in 1333 was probably the longest conflict the Turnbull clansmen found themselves involved in.



*Berwick-upon-Tweed remains as the northern most border of England, but when asked, 80% of the residents said they would rather be part of Scotland*

Berwick-upon-Tweed has seen many sieges throughout its history and the town changed hands between England and Scotland more than any other in the country - 14 times - until finally remaining English in 1482. *(continued on page 7)*



# PERFECT WEATHER, GREAT TURNOUT, SPECIAL GUESTS



Left: Karen Torrey and Mark Turnbull catch up on family news. Above center: The Turnbull Tent provided the perfect backdrop for visiting clan members. Above right: President Rhet Turnbull represents the clan at the Kirkin' o' the Tartans.



Rhet and Norman lead the Turnbull delegation in the Parade of Tartans, followed by Mark Turnbull and Bill Trimble



Turnbull tartan was proudly worn by all - including mascot Wally as seen with owner Bill Trimble.

Above: Wally and Norman watch as Turnbells carry the banner.



Above: Wally & Betty Turnbull, Claudia & Bill Trimble, Norman Turnbull, Mark Turnbull, Diane Brunt, Kinglman Wylie, Tao Blake, Karen Torrey and Rhet Turnbull.

Left: Rhet greets guests at the AGM dinner. Right: President Rhet Turnbull, VP Bill Trimble, Lee Turnbull, Norman Turnbull and host Mark Turnbull



Above: Claudia Trimble, Betty Turnbull & Karen Torrey take time out from visiting to pose for a photo.





## A MEMORABLE 2010 AGM - LOON MOUNTAIN, NH

This year's TCA Annual General Meeting took place at Loon Mountain part of the beautiful White Mountains of New Hampshire. Perfect fall weather contributed to the fun atmosphere and wonderful success of the games.

Tent Hosts Mark Turnbull and Lee Turnbull were assisted by TCA members Karen Torrey (NH), Bill and Claudia Trimble (AZ). Special guests included, Turnbull Clan High Shenachie, Norman Turnbull (Hawick, Scotland), President Rhet Turnbull (NE), TCA Honorary Chief, Wally Turnbull (NC), Bullseye editor Betty Turnbull (NC), and historian Tao Blake (VA).

The AGM was held at Fratello's Restaurant in Lincoln, NH. Presiding over the meeting was President Rhet Turnbull, assisted by Vice-President Bill Trimble. Orders of business included a discussion on membership numbers. It was noted that while membership is down from 2009, interest in the Clan continues to increase. Rhet pointed out that social networking is on the rise with close to 1000 members participating in the facebook Turnbull Clan forum and the Bullpen. The officers are looking for ways to encourage participation in TCA through these groups.

Rhet gave a financial report from Brian Turnbull, who was unable to attend. TCA has a balance of \$3,509.51 in the bank. The Monument Fund Balance (remainder of loan acquired for installing the monument) was decreased from **\$35,568.68** to **\$28,900.88** in 2010 (this was a combination of donations and sales from TotallyTurnbull.) A more detailed financial report will appear in the December issue of the Bullseye.

Norman updated the group on events happening in the Borders concerning the Turnbull Clan. He was happy to report that with the continued help of Gemma Honorary Turnbull Barnard progress is being made with Fatlips Castle. The immediate desire is to put a roof back on the castle in order to preserve the building from more disrepair. He also reported that he and others are in conversation with archeologists concerning Bedrule Castle. Located behind Bedrule Kirk, a castle mound is all that exists today of this once Turnbull stronghold. Norman is stirring up interest to have the mound excavated and replace the outline of the original foundation. He does have the original floor plan.

Schenachie Norman Turnbull was also the guest speaker for the evening. Norman spoke about how he became interested in his Turnbull heritage when invited to attend the 2007 AGM in Hawick, Scotland. He realized that he had a rich family history and made it his journey in life to discover more and record this history for others.



Norman shared with us his research on the origin of the Rule family in the Borders. He believes that the family descended from Richard De Rollo, also known as Richard De Rule who came to the British isles around the time of William the Conqueror. This individual came from Normandy and is said to be a descendant of King Rollo

of Norway who ruled (860 – 932). He was given extensive grants of lands in Scotland. The first authentic records of the name appear about 1128 when persons named Adam, Richard, William, Hugo and John Roule are noted in the Scottish Border county of Roxburgh.

Among the highlights of the evening were the presentations of awards. This year's recipient of the *Turnbull Clan Member of the Year Award* is Lee F. Turnbull (see page 2) for his life of community service and his long time dedication to the Turnbull Clan Association.

Rhet and Mark Turnbull also presented Wally Turnbull with a Claymore inscribed with "Honorary Chief - Turnbull Clan Association." One of Wally's current roles as Honorary Chief is that of Ambassador for the Clan.

Norman Turnbull and Betty Turnbull were accorded life memberships in TCA. Norman for his role as Clan High Shenachie and his dedication to recording

clan history for the next generation. He also received a Turnbull Crest flag flown over Bedrule Castle. Betty's was for her role as editor of the Bullseye. Rhet said that the newsletter is of award winning quality and the officers wanted to thank Betty for her role as editor.



Wally accepts his Claymore and thanks Mark and TCA for the honor.



Among the tent displays were tributes to Dorothy Berk Turnbull (above left), founder TCA USA and Myra Turnbull (above right), co-founder with husband John of TCA.



# Turnbull Clan Representation - Northwest, USA

## Enumclaw, Washington

by Bill and Pat Trimble

On July 31st, as the fog lifted around the Enumclaw Expo Center and the sound of bagpipes filled the air, the 64th Annual Seattle Scottish Highland Games began.

The hosts of the Turnbull Clan tent were Bill & Pat Trimble, Kim Trimble, and Dale and Mary Kay Hilding. Our special guest was Robert Harris of Rochester, New York, who we met in July 2009--when we were in Hawick, Scotland for the Turnbull Monument Dedication. Bob had never been to Washington State, so Bill and Dale invited him to come out for a visit and join us at our Turnbull tent at the Seattle Games! He did, and we made sure he had a great time!

Several people stopped by the TCA tent to look at and take pictures of our unique "guardian": a tall, good-looking mannequin named Angus Turnbull. who came with Dale and Mary Kay. People wanted to know about him, his costume and his armor! In fact, several thought Angus was a Mime!

The weekend weather was perfect: slightly overcast in the morning, then sunny and warm in the afternoon! We had a great time talking to dozens of visitors, as well as relatives, friends, other Clan tent hosts, and several vendors and performers. Since our tent was directly across from the south stage, we enjoyed performances by the Wicked Tinkers (from California) and Need-fire (from Texas).

Following the Massing of the Bands (30 bands participated this year) on Saturday, the youngest Turnbells--Dylan and Kasey Drettwan (Pat and Bill's grandsons) and Emma Lenz (Kim's grand-daughter) proudly carried the Turnbull Clan banner as we marched in the Parade of Clans.

Sunday afternoon, we were visited by Rick Van Meeter, a member of The Seattle Knights (a medieval reenactment company).

Rick was wearing his costume--a breacan an fheilidh (a Great Kilt)--yards and yards of Turnbull Hunting Tartan. The kilt was a Birthday gift from his Grandmother whose maiden name was Turnbull. Because of that family connection, he spent several minutes talking to Bill about Turnbull Clan's history, the Clan Association, and what we do at the Scottish Games we attend. He was fascinated with everything and took several pamphlets for himself, his family, and Grandmother!



Bob Harris, Rochester, NY poses with TCA Tent hosts, Dale Hilding, "Angus Turnbull," Mary Kay Hilding, Kim Trimble, Pat & Bill Trimble, and Kim's daughter & granddaughter, Lynn & Emma Lenz.

Bill and Pat Trimble's grandsons Dylan and Kasey Drettwan and Kim Trimble's grand-daughter, Emma Lenz carry the Turnbull banner and lead the Turnbull Coalition in the Parade of Clans!



## Athena, Oregon

Bill Trimble, with his wife, Pat, and brother, Kim, traveled to Athena, Oregon, to spend the day with Dale and Mary Kay Hilding, tent hosts at the Caledonian Games.

People of all ages stopped by the tent throughout the day. They loved the interesting items displayed including Dale's chain mail, hauberk, helmet and gloves. (And, yes, he does wear them!) Many enjoyed "Angus Turnbull," the official life-size greeter to the tent.

Congratulations to Dale and Mary Kay for the second place received for Best Tent! Well done!



Dale Hilding and Bill Trimble, along with "Angus Turnbull" mannequin, displaying the award winning tent at the Athena, Oregon, Caledonian Games. Above left: "Angus" proudly displays the 2nd place ribbon for Best Tent. Congratulations!



# BORDER BATTLES...

(continued from page 1) The Great Siege of 1333 was one of the longest, lasting three months.

After Robert the Bruce's decisive victory over Edward II of England at Bannockburn in 1314, Scottish independence was safe for the time being and was officially recognised by Edward III at the treaty of Northampton in 1328. However, with the death of Robert the Bruce in 1329, the familiar problems reappeared. His successor, David II was only 5 years old and Edward Balliol, son of John Balliol, an English puppet who had ruled Scotland during the 1290s, returned from exile with an army. He was crowned king in 1332 but was soon ousted by Sir Archibald Douglas and the Earl of Moray. Balliol withdrew to the Borders where he sought help from Edward III. Naturally, the English king was only too delighted to assist.



King Edward III

In March 1333, Balliol laid siege to Berwick, which, at that time, was in Scottish hands. After about two months, Edward III and an English army joined him and in May the siege of Berwick began in earnest. Among the techniques used by the besiegers was an early form of biological warfare that comprised catapulting the severed heads of dead soldiers into the town in order to cause disease.

After nearly two months, Berwick's defenses were crumbling and both besiegers and defenders were becoming frustrated. Eventually an agreement was made that there would be a truce and that if Berwick was not relieved within 15 days - by 11th July - the town would surrender to the English. This truce was guaranteed by 12 hostages and among these were the two young sons of Sir Alexander Seton, the deputy commander of the town. Scottish hopes depended on the arrival of reinforcements led by Sir Archibald Douglas. Douglas managed to send some supplies into the town but Edward III did not consider this sufficient to qualify as relieving it. In order to lure the besiegers away, Douglas then threatened to march south and pillage northern England.

Edward called his bluff. Gallows were erected as close to the walls of Berwick as possible and some of the hostages, including the two young boys, were hanged. A new and somewhat confusing agreement followed: There would be a further truce until 20th July and Berwick would surrender to the English if not relieved by then. The failure of Douglas

to draw the English king away from Berwick by attacking Bamburgh and his crushing defeat at the Battle of Halidon Hill on the 19th of July sealed the town's fate. On the following day, Berwick surrendered to the two Edwards, Edward III of England and Edward Balliol, the latter soon to be reinstated as King of Scotland.

After Douglas's unsuccessful attack at Bamburgh, Douglas returned to Scotland and camped at Duns.

Meanwhile Edward III and the English army moved a short distance to the north and established themselves in a strong position on top of Halidon Hill.

Although the English had the better position, the Scots had the larger numbers as the English army had been weakened by desertions. Edward divided his army into three divisions; he commanded the centre, Sir Edward Bohun led the right wing and Edward Balliol led the left wing. The Scots were also organised into three divisions, led by the Earl of Moray, Robert the Steward and Sir Archibald Douglas.

As the Scots advanced across the very marshy ground at the base of the hill, their horses became bogged down, the cavalry troops had to dismount and they became sitting targets for the English and Welsh archers.

Wave after wave of arrows descended on the slow moving Scottish soldiers and the subsequent English cavalry charge swept them from the field of battle and led to wholesale slaughter. One of the casualties was Douglas himself.

It was a crushing defeat for the Scots but for Edward III it was sweet revenge for his father's humiliating defeat at Bannockburn.

Berwick duly surrendered to the English, Edward Balliol was reinstated as king of Scotland and David II went into exile in France.

As an English puppet ruler, Balliol did his masters bidding and ceded Scottish territory to England, which hardly endeared him to his subjects. The Clan Turnbull bore heavy losses as did other Border Clans.

David II was to return later, seeking revenge.

## La Breith Sona! Happy Birthday!

September  
& October

Norma Cumm, Marilyn Jennings, Mavis Lockwood, Meredith Milner, Silvia Turnbull, Maxwell Day, Bly Schwierking Jr, Mary Tappan, Tao Blake, Catharine McKenty, Dorinda Wolentarski, Margaret Trimble, Keith Turnbull, Martin Cohen, Betty Turnbull, Miguel Costa Pinto Turnbull, J.N. Trimble, Sherron Trimble, James



N.R. Turnbull, Dennis Hagerman, Gordon Turnbull Jr, Carolyn Turnbull, James Olson, Glenn McConkey, Agnes Turnbull Corns, Wilma Ledgerwood, Roland Bonewitz, William C. Turnbull



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**Visit [www.totallyturnbull.com](http://www.totallyturnbull.com) today.** All orders received by November 10, 2010 will receive a free "I Saved the King" pin from Dorothy Turnbull Berk's collection. Proceeds go toward the *Turning of the Bull* monument fund.

Avoid the Christmas rush - Order Now.



## Notes from Around the World

**Edinburgh, Scotland** UK's Oldest Woman dies at aged 111. Annie Turnbull, born in Lanarkshire on 21 September 1898, when Queen Victoria was on the throne passed away two weeks short of her 112th birthday. She attributed "keeping calm" as her secret to longevity.

**Tortola, British Virgin Islands** Eliza Turnbull died at Peebles Hospital just 11 days after her 110th birthday. Eliza was BVI's oldest resident. Eliza loved to sing hymns. Among her favorite was "Lean on the Everlasting Love."

**Estevan, Saskatchewan** Estevan Motor Speedway presented Tyson Turnbull with a trophy for his 2010 winning season championship.

**Winnipeg, Manitoba** The Granite Curling Club honored curling legend Ray Turnbull for 50 years in the sport of curling.

## Please renew my membership for 2011

Primary member name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse name \_\_\_\_\_

Child/Student names \_\_\_\_\_

email address(es): \_\_\_\_\_

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