

## Great Scots: Robert Louis Stevenson

by Kim Trimble, Features Editor

Scottish author Robert Louis Balfour Stevenson was born in Edinburgh, Scotland on the 13th day of November in the year 1850. He was the only child of Margaret Isabella Balfour and Thomas Stevenson. His father was a well-known lighthouse engineer, which was the family business for several generations. His mother descended from gentry and could trace her lineage back to a man named Alexander Balfour, who in the fifteenth century held the lands of Inchrye in Fife.

As a boy, young Robert spent most of his holidays in his maternal grandfather's house in nearby Colinton. His grandfather, Lewis Balfour, was a minister in the Church of Scotland. Stevenson once wrote "Now I often wonder what I inherited from this old minister. I must suppose, indeed, that he was fond of preaching sermons, and so am I, though I never heard it maintained that either of us love to hear them."

Unfortunately, Stevenson inherited his grandfather's, and his mother's, weak respiratory system and tendency toward illness. This inherited poor health called for a warmer, dryer climate so when his family relocated in 1851 to a cold damp home at 1 Inverleith Terrace young Robert's illness worsened. When Robert was six years old the Stevensons moved again, this time to a sunnier home at 17 Heriot Row. The boy's illnesses in the cold winters stayed with him however until he reached the age of eleven. At the time it was believed that Robert suffered from tuberculosis, but more recent opinions are that he in actuality had either brochiectasis \*1 or sarcoidosis \*2. Whatever disease Stevenson suffered from, he was left extraordinarily thin as a result.

Robert Louis Stevenson was brought up in the Presbyterian faith and although his parents were devoted to their religion the household in general did not strictly adhere to the Calvinist teachings. The boy's nurse, Alison Cunningham, who he called Cummy, and who lovingly cared for him during his illnesses, was much more zealous in her religion. Her strict adherence to the Calvinist Church along with her folk beliefs gave the young boy nightmares. During his illnesses Cummy would read to him from the Bible and from John Bunyan's writings. Later, in his book *A Child's Garden of Verses* (1885) he called this time in his life "The land



of Counterpane" and dedicated the book to his nurse. Her presence in his young life left gave him a "precocious concern for religion."

Stevenson's education began much like the children of today, when he was six years old. He was sent to the nearby school but had problems there and had difficulty fitting into the new environment. This problem was repeated at age eleven when Robert entered the Edinburgh Academy. This could be attributed to his strange emaciated ap-

pearance and frequent illnesses. He spent long periods at home being tutored by private teachers. Childhood wasn't completely dismal for Master Stevenson though; he got along well with his cousins and played outdoor games with them during the summer holidays at Colinton.

Reading came late to the boy, at age seven or eight, although this does not reflect on his intelligence. Even before he could read Robert would dictate stories to his mother and Cummy and wrote stories throughout his childhood. Thomas Stevenson had written stories, too, in his youth until being discouraged by his own father who instructed Thomas to "give up such nonsense and mind your business." Nonetheless, Mr. Stevenson was proud of his son's interest in writing and paid for the printing of Robert's first publication when the boy was but sixteen years old. The *Pentland Rising: A Page of History*, 1666 (1866).

Following this publication, in 1867, Stevenson registered at the University of Edinburgh in order to study engineering. Success in this avenue of study proved elusive for Stevenson though, he simply was not enthusiastic about the subject and purposely was absent from many lectures. Instead, he spent much of his time with his newfound friends in the Speculative Society, which was an exclusive debating club. One man in particular became a close friend and would become Stevenson's financial advisor as well. He also spent time with Professor Fleeming Jenkin with whom he participated in amateur drama and later would write a biography about.

Early in the year 1871 the twenty year old Stevenson informed his father of his decision to "pursue a life of letters" instead of

(continued on page 3)



## From the President

by Rhet Turnbull

As I sat down to write this, I reflected on what thoughts I wanted to share with my Turnbull Clan family in my last President's column. Next week, we will celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday here in the United States and it seems fitting that my final message is one of thanks. I am thankful for the trust you have placed in me to guide TCA over the last three years. I am thankful for each of you, my TCA family members, for it is you who make TCA the great organization that it is. I am thankful for my fellow TCA officers, our tent hosts, and the many other volunteers who give of their time in order to help our members connect with each other and with our roots.

It is our roots that bind us together as a family – roots that grow deep in the Borders of Scotland. We come from all walks of life, from many different cultures & backgrounds, and we have many different names – Turnbull, Trimble, Rule, & others – but in the end, when all else is stripped away, we share the ties of family, a family that spans the ages & the continents. As you walk life's journey, I urge you to remember the ties of the Clan and to give thanks for your fellow TCA family members.

As I mentioned to you a few months ago, I am not able to continue serving TCA in the capacity that the office demands and so I will step aside at the end of my term and make room for someone else to take the helm of our worthy association. But I will not go far and I look forward to continued involvement with TCA and with each of you. Perhaps we'll meet at a Highland Game or the next AGM. Thank-you for allowing me to serve Turnbull Clan Association.

Yours Aye,  
Rhet Turnbull



## Central Virginia Celtic & Highland Games

by Bill and Claudia Trimble

The paths set before us in our lives are not always those we have previously chosen, but we believe they may be given to us for the better good. Almost four years ago two of our children and their families were relocated to Virginia. The younger daughter called us and said "you won't believe this, but there is a Trimble family living next door to us." They have since developed a bond of friendship, but didn't know the connection to my Trimble family. Now, three years later, Claudia and I decided to move to Virginia to be closer to the families and grandchildren.

As previous Turnbull Clan tent hosts in Arizona, we decided to join the festivities at the Central Virginia Celtic and Highland Games in Richmond. We set our expectations low to start with as we do not know many people in the area. We began to share our plans with the other Trimble family and



excitement began to grow. They invited another Trimble brother, who then shared the plan with another brother. That brother then invited another Trimble from Washington D.C.

The reunion at the Turnbull Clan tent resulted in



Bill and Claudia with Bill's cousins Michael Sr. and Kelly Good, Michael Jr. and Alyssa Good.

the reconnection and reconciliation of those brothers. We also had a visit with my first cousin from Virginia Beach. Until this year, we had not seen each other since we were boys.

Hosting a Clan tent is certainly a lot of work and can be a bit costly, but we have found the rewards to be worth the



The Trimble men; Bill, Joe, John, Patrick, and Bradley.

investment. Many people stopped by our tent to see who we were. Some came by to look at the maps and sept boards. They wanted to find out where they belonged. I think a lot of people come to the Games because they want to find their people. They want to belong to something greater and perhaps reconnect with the family. Scottish culture has a strong history of family. This weekend we were rewarded with the reconnection of one such family.

### BULLSEYE

The Bullseye, a Turnbull Clan Association Worldwide (TCA) newsletter is published six times a year at: 5216 Tahoe Dr. Durham, NC 27713 U.S.A.

Editor: Betty Turnbull editor@turnbullclan.com, Features Editor: Kim Trimble. International News Editor: Kenneth Turnbull, Children's Editor: Sarah Turnbull

### Turnbull Clan Association Worldwide

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

# Great Scots ... (continued from page 1)

following the elder into the family business. Though Robert's father was disappointed in his son's decision, the man accepted it and convinced the younger to read the law and join the Scottish bar in order to have an income. The boy had nonetheless declared his independence.

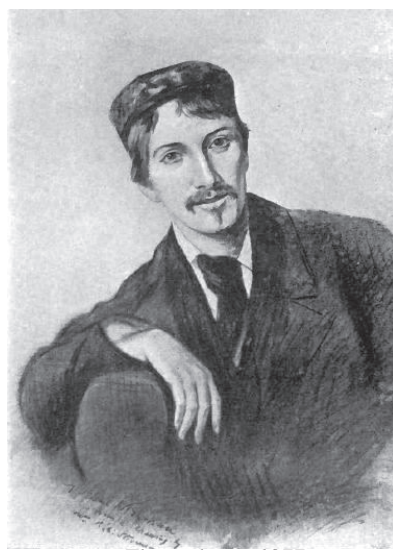
Much like the youth of today, and I suppose, each generation, Robert Louis Stevenson rebelled against the accepted lifestyle of the day. Along with his already long hair, he started dressing in the Bohemian fashion and even went so far as to wear a velvet jacket. Shocking! He rejected Christianity and visited drinking establishment and certain ladies... Along with his favorite cousin Bob, Robert Alan Mowbray Stevenson, Robert Louis Stevenson joined the LJR (Liberty, Justice, Reverence) Club. The opening lines of the club's constitution read "Disregard everything our parents have taught us..." Robert's membership in this club, along with his new lifestyle led to a period of bitter dissension with his parents. He wrote: "What a damned curse I am to my parents! As my father said 'You have rendered my whole life a failure.' As my mother said 'This is the heaviest affliction that has ever befallen me.' O Lord, what a pleasant thing it is to have damned the happiness of (probably) the only two people who care a damn about you in the world."

On a trip to England in the summer of 1873, Stevenson met and befriended one Sidney Colvin. Colvin became the young, and as yet commercially unpublished, author's literary advisor. Shortly after their meeting Colvin was able to place one of Stevenson's essays *Roads* in *The Portfolio*. It was Stevenson's first paid publication. Colvin would become the first to edit Stevenson's letters following the latter's death.

Fanny (Frances Jane Sitwell) was another person of importance to Stevenson. On the aforementioned trip to England, Robert met the 34 year old woman. He was attracted to her even though she was separated from her husband and had a son. The two corresponded for several years with Stevenson vacillating between pseudo son and paramour, eventually calling her Madonna. In 1901, however, he married Colvin.

It wasn't long after these meetings that Robert became active in the literary life of London. He met many of his contemporaries during this time. Some of these writers were: Andrew Lang, Edmund Gosse, and Leslie Stephen, the editor of the *Cornhill Magazine*. Stephen introduced Robert to William Ernest Henley who became a close friend and sometime literary collaborator. In 1888 that friendship ended after an argument. Henley, who had a wooden leg is often thought of as the model for Long John Silver of *Treasure Island* fame.

Unfortunately, Stevenson's health was still weak from childhood. He became ill once again in November of 1873 and traveled to Menton on the French Riviera for recuperation. After five months in the warmth of Menton he returned to Scotland and his studies at the University of Edinburgh. Much of his future time was spend in France, though he often visited the area around



The author, c 1877

the Forest of Fontainebleau where he joined artist colonies. He also went to Paris to see the galleries and visit the theaters.

In 1875 Robert Louis Balfour Stevenson passed the Scottish bar, but even though his father proudly attached the brass plate reading "R. L. Stevenson, Advocate" to the house on Heriot Row, Robert never practiced law. Instead, although his education in law influenced his later work, the young man put his energy

into his writing and exploring his world. His first "real" book *An Island Voyage* (1878) was based on a canoe trip which he took in 1876 with Sir Walter Simpson through Belgium and France.

It was while on the above trip, the young Mr. Stevenson first met Fanny Van de Grift Osbourne. Osbourne was an American who had married at seventeen, borne three children and separated from her philandering husband. She was in France with her children studying art at the time of her meeting with Stevenson. He returned home but she remained in his mind and apparently in his heart; he wrote an essay, "On falling in love," for the *Cornhill Magazine*. The following year (1877) Stevenson and Osbourne came together again and this time spent most of a year together as lovers. She left Europe in August of 1878, returning to America, specifically, San Francisco.

Stevenson stayed in Europe for a time, walking and gathering information that would be the basis for *Travels with a Donkey in the Cévennes* (1879). He finally followed his lover to America in 1879 and nearly died along the way. Though his friends advised against the trip, Stevenson was determined and left Europe without informing his parents and journeyed to the United States. As a way to learn how the other half travel and to conserve funds, the writer booked second class passage on the steamship *Devonia*. Traveling by rail to California, Stevenson arrived in Monterey near death. Fortunately for him some local ranchers took him in and nursed him back to health. By December 1879 the author was recovered sufficiently to continue his journey to San Francisco where he struggled to survive on nearly nothing for several months while trying to support his writing. Once again death hovered over him as the cold San Francisco winter passed into spring. This time it was the now divorced Fanny that came to his aid and nursed him back to health. Ironically, Fanny herself had just recovered from a life threatening illness.

The couple, now healthy, married in the spring of 1880 and

(continued on page 8)



## UK - A surface to build on



Tablets are the new PC. Tiny touchscreen computers with all-day battery life are invading our homes,

our trains and our workplaces. Building for the web is changing all over again, says Giles Turnbull. But either way you look at it, the tablet computer is fast becoming the best investment value computing device for the majority of people. Tablets - not just iPads, but tablets of all kinds - are selling in huge numbers. They are what people want to buy. They are where there's money to be made. Take a fond look at your mouse now. Its days are numbered.

## New Zealand - Climb sketches



The 1949 film 'The Ascent of Aspiring' - a joint project by some of New Zealand's top names in their respective artistic fields - was scuttled by the death of climber and bad weather. Now the Alexander Turnbull Library has been gifted an album of 45 watercolour and pastel drawings containing Drawbridge's storyboard. Turnbull drawings, paintings and prints curator Marian Minson said the album, gifted by Drawbridge's widow, sculptor Tanya Ashken, had never been seen publicly in their entirety. The Library is part of the National Library of New Zealand.

## Canada - Inventors from Nova Scotia



Colton White (left) and Matt Turnbull of Antigonish, have a deck of monsters and gnarly adventures they want to share with the world. Their invention is a deck of 54 brightly coloured cards drawn by Turnbull, that allow up to four players to try to connive their way to treasure in games that last from 10 to 30 minutes.



by Kenneth Turnbull - International News Editor

## UK - Neptune China's Turnbull triples their weighting



Neptune China fund manager Douglas Turnbull has tripled his exposure to financials since the start of the year in response to what he sees as China's increased focus on pro-growth policies. Financials were increased to 21% in the third quarter from 7% at the end of last year. This led him to take advantage of depressed prices to add Bank of China, which he says is the only Chinese bank to carry out its overseas business transactions in US dollars. He is also looking to take advantage of China's shift towards urbanisation and industrialisation in the less developed parts of the country.

## USA - Environment prepares for virus outbreaks



Environmental Supervisor, Doug Turnbull says "In less than thirty seconds your body could be spared from the fever, chills and nausea that can come along with the flu. What happens is people will take a flu shot and get sick, but they might have already been sick before they actually got the flu shot. Surrounding counties have had cases of West Nile virus in humans, but officials say there are ways to prevent that." Mr. Turnbull adds "Anything that will hold water, drain it. Your bird baths, empty them at least twice a week. So far there haven't been any positive cases of West Nile virus in Houston County and I'm not aware of any positives of West Nile in any humans so far. But whether it's the flu or West Nile, prevention is by far your best policy."

## UK - Rugby - Turnbull's new role

Captain of the Wales Rugby team, Sam Warburton believes Josh Turnbull's appetite for tackling makes him the natural replacement for Wales blindside Dan Lydiate. Warburton, who will be under close scrutiny, given Tipuric is among the replacements, believes Turnbull will help form a formidable back row combination.



## USA - Boys Choir of Harlem back

Five years ago, the Boys Choir of Harlem closed after a series of scandals. Now holding auditions, its new



directors are determined to restore its once world-renowned image. George Reyes, chief operational officer, and Horace Trumbull, president, celebrate the Harlem Boys Choir's reopening. The auditions are the first operation since 2007 for the choir, which was founded in 1968 by Walter Turnbull and was known internationally for its Grammy Award-winning music and its academic and personal support services for underprivileged Harlem children.

## Australia - Turnbull Stakes



The Turnbull Stakes is a prestigious Group 1 horse race held in Melbourne during the spring racing carnival. This 2000 metre (1.24 miles) event is held under set weight and penalty conditions, for horses four years old and over. With a history that stretches back to 1865, the Turnbull Stakes is one of the longest standing horse races in Australia. So, this year, Australian owned European import, Green Moon, (above) was the winner of the Turnbull Stakes.

## UK - Snainton targets World Blind Bowls crown

Snainton bowler, Chris Turnbull has been selected for the England team to compete at next year's World Blind Bowls Championships in Worthing. Turnbull,



Yorkshire's sole representative, will compete for the mixed pairs title with partner Christine Linegar of Somerset. He earned his place at the World Championships thanks to his outstanding domestic form since the last competition in 2009, held in Australia, where he finished fifth in the singles competition and receives a grant from Scarborough District & Sports Council to help in his Championships glory bid.

Issue 12

# Bitty Bulls



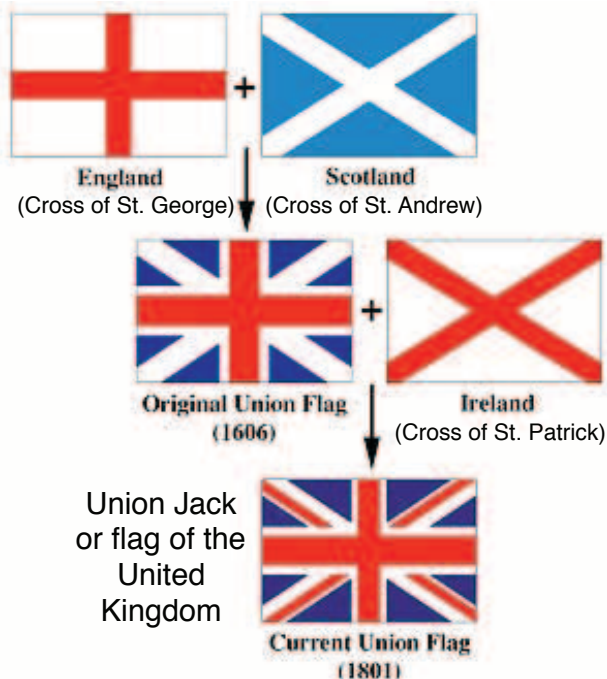
Bitty Bull wants to wish each of you a happy St. Andrew's Day, Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!  
Any pictures, stories, jokes, or photos can be sent to [bittybulls@turnbullclan.com](mailto:bittybulls@turnbullclan.com)

## St. Andrew, Patron Saint of Scotland



In the New Testament of the Bible, Andrew, a disciple or follower of Jesus Christ, is described as a fisherman and the brother of Simon Peter. In the book of John (6:8) Andrew is the one that told Jesus about a little boy who was willing to share his small lunch of two fish and five little loaves of bread. Jesus then took the lunch, thanked God for it, and multiplied the lunch to feed a crowd of more than five thousand people. After the death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus into Heaven, Andrew and the other disciples traveled and preached. In later years, Andrew was martyred (killed for his beliefs) by crucifixion. Other sources say that he was crucified on a cross shaped like an X.

Over a thousand years ago, legends say that a Scottish king, almost defeated in battle, looked into the blue sky and saw the cross of Andrew. After winning the battle, Saint Andrew and his cross (Saltire) became the symbol of Scotland. Other stories say that the bones of Andrew were carried to Scotland and a tiny piece of one is in St. Mary's Cathedral in Edinburgh. Today, the flag of Scotland is blue like the sky with a white X to represent the cross of Andrew. St. Andrew's Day is celebrated with feasting on **November 30th**. Flags are flown from many buildings and many businesses are closed.



### What does it mean?

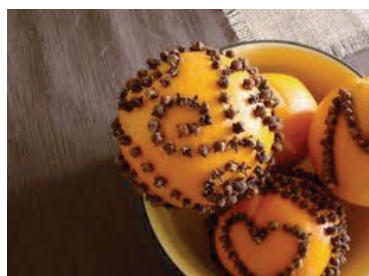
During the holiday season many Scottish children "**cry up the lum**" or shout their wishes up the chimney for Santa to hear. In other places, children mail a letter to Santa or write a wish list and then burn it, sending the ashes up the chimney to Santa.



Help Santa read his Christmas wish list by unscrambling each toy.

baby doll  
skateboard  
radio  
teddy bear  
blocks  
puzzle  
guitar  
dollhouse





# Christmas Pomander Ball

Capture the wonderful smell of Christmas! These balls are easy to make and can be used as decorations in a bowl, ornaments on a tree, or a gift to give to someone special.

## Ingredients:

- orange or any type of citrus fruit
- whole cloves (can be purchased in bulk)
- sharp object for poking small holes into skin of fruit (pin, ice pick, straightened paper clip, etc)
- pen for drawing pattern onto fruit
- tray or mat for catching fruit juice

## Optional items:

- ribbon
- spices like cloves, cinnamon, and ginger
- plastic bag large enough to shake spices onto fruit

1. Dot a pattern or design onto the fruit with your pen.
2. Poke holes into each dot (about 1/4" into the skin of the orange).
3. Push a whole clove into each hole.
4. As fruit dries out the fragrance will be released. These balls can be enjoyed for a long time.



## Additional Steps:

1. Pour a couple of tablespoons of spices into a bag. Shake the orange around in the bag to cover the bare spots of the fruit with the spice. The ball will look brown all over. The added spice will intensify the fragrance.
2. If you want to wrap the orange in ribbon to hang on a tree or to have just as decoration, then leave a path around the orange with no cloves.

These two photos are taken from <http://www.instructables.com/id/Pomander-ball-Christmas-gift>



Make your own gift tags to tie to your pomander balls. You can copy these tags onto card stock, decorate, and cut out.

<p>To:</p> <p>From:</p>	<p>To:</p> <p>From:</p>	<p>To:</p> <p>From:</p>
<p>To:</p> <p>From:</p>	<p>To:</p> <p>From:</p>	<p>To:</p> <p>From:</p>



# Meet The Candidates



## President: Wally Turnbull

Wally served as President of TCA for six years, ending in 2009. In addition, he holds the honor of being TCA Honorary Chief. Wally lives in Durham, NC.



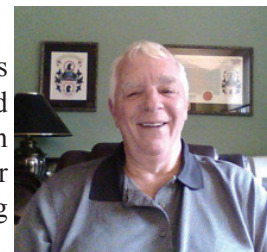
## Secretary: Chris Nelson

Chris is from Tonawanda, New York. Chris is the current secretary of TCA. She also is an active TCA Tent Host. The secretary maintains membership records.



## Treasurer: Brian Turnbull

Brian is from Ottawa, Canada. He has served as Vice-President of TCA and is currently serving as Treasurer. In addition, Brian is the TCA webmaster and is also responsible for updating the genealogy records.



## Vice President of Events: William (Bill) Trimble



Bill is from West Richland, WA. He is a very active TCA tent host. Bill has also served TCA as treasurer. Bill was *Clan Member of the Year* in 2005.

The Vice President of Events plans, organizes and executes major Turnbull events, including games and the AGM.

He also trains and coordinates other TCA representatives, including tent hosts, to do the same.

## Vice President - Archivist: Mark Turnbull

Mark lives in Auburn, New Hampshire. He is one of TCA's most active TCA Tent Hosts and was *Clan Member of the Year* in 2004.

The Archivist collects and catalogs items and information pertaining to Clan and TCA history.



## Vice President of Communications: Betty Turnbull



Betty has been editor of the Bullseye since 2005. She was awarded the *John F. Turnbull Lifetime Achievement Award* in 2012.

The Vice President of Communications communicates TCA news and reports to members.

Officers terms are for a period of three (3) years. Terms will begin January 1, 2013 and end December 31, 2015.

A TCA member in good standing is permitted to vote for all candidates. Good standing includes lifetime members and those members whose 2012 dues have been paid.

Voting ends December 15. You may vote by email to [secretary@turnbullclan.com](mailto:secretary@turnbullclan.com) or via mail. If voting by mail, end your ballot to:

Chris Nelson  
29 Fremont St  
Tonawanda, NY 14150-2305

## Vice President of Social Media: Brian Turnbull



Brian hales from Kelso, Scotland. He has been an active member of TCA Scotland, helping with fundraising and events.

The Vice President of Social Media promotes global interaction among Turnbolls via social media.

## Vice President of International News: Kenneth Turnbull



Kenneth comes to TCA from Queensland, Australia. He currently serves TCA in the role of International Editor for the Bullseye.

The Vice President of International News informs members of Turnbull news and events from around the world.

## Vice President of Development: Karen Torrey

Karen is from Sugar Hill, New Hampshire. Karen has been very active in the New Hampshire Highland games, including hosting the Turnbull Tent this year and winning the Best Clan Tent Award.

The Vice President of Development develops support for the Clan, its activities and programs.





# Great Scots ... (continued from page 3)



Fanny Van de Grift Osbourne

spent the summer honeymooning at an old mining camp of Mt St Helena in the Napa Valley. This trip provided background for *The Silverado Squatters*. While in the Napa Valley Stevenson met Charles Warren Stoddard, author of *South Sea Idylls* and co-editor of *Overland Monthly*. Stoddard planted within Stevenson the idea of traveling to the South Pacific. They went to England instead where Fanny successfully negotiated peace between Robert and his father.

The years from 1880 and 1887, the Stevensons tried to find a home in a climate that would be compatible with Robert's health needs. Summers were spent on Britain and winters passed in France near Hyeres on the Mediterranean Coast. It was during this period in spite of his poor health that Stevenson wrote most of his best known work including; *Treasure Island*, *Kidnapped*, *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* and two books of poetry.

After his father's death in 1887, Robert was able to follow his doctor's advice to move to a place where the climate would be more conducive to his health issues. With his mother and family in tow he set out for Colorado. They made it as far as New York before plans changed. They decided to winter at a "cure cottage" at Saranac Lake in the Adirondack Mountains. Here Robert wrote his essay *Pulvis et Umbra*, and started work on *The Master of Ballantrae*. He also thought about the South Pacific and started planning a trip for the following summer.

The following June found the Stevensons ocean bound on the chartered yacht *Casco*. They set out from San Francisco headed for the South Seas with a great sense of adventure. Stevenson wrote about the yacht that she; "plowed her path of snow across the empty deep, far from all track of commerce, far from any hand of help." The sea agreed with Robert, he regained his health and the next three years were spent exploring the islands of the eastern and central Pacific Ocean. The author became close friends with King Kalākaua of Hawaii where the family spend a great deal of time.

Other islands were visited as well; Tahiti, New Zealand, the Gilbert Islands and Samoa were just a few of his stops. It was during this period that *The Master of Ballantrae* was completed, along with *The Bottle Imp*, two ballads various letters and other essays. He also witnessed the Samoan Crisis of 1889. Robert's thoughts and feelings during this time were expressed in the many letters he wrote and in *In the South Seas* (which was published posthumously).

The Stevensons finally planted their roots in 1890 when they purchased approximately 400 acres (1.6 km<sup>2</sup>) in Upolu, an island in Samoa. Here Robert Louis Stevenson cleared his land,

built his house and settled down to rest at last. The name Tusitala (Samoan for Teller of Tales) was bestowed upon him here. He frequently consulted with the Samoan people, offering them his advice and earning their adoration. He also became involved in the local politics of his adopted home. After numerous, fruitless, attempts to deal with the European appointed government, which he considered incompetent, Stevenson published *A Footnote to History*. The results of this harsh report were that two of these officials were recalled and Stevenson himself feared deportation. He was not deported and the situation passed. The Stevensons were on cordial if not friendly terms with some of the colonial leaders and their families. Robert went so far and to legally donate his birthday to the daughter of the American Land Commissioner Henry Clay Ide, her birthday being on December 25th. While accomplishing all of this, Stevenson managed to keep writing and turned out *The Beach of Falesa*, *Catriona* (titled *David Balfour* in the US, *The Ebb-Tide*, and the *Vailima Letters*.

Depression stuck our hero, he felt as though he might have used up his precious talent. He stated that he had "overworked bitterly" and that every new start of writing was, at best, mere "ditch water." He feared, too, that he may become a "helpless invalid." Robert fought back, stated: "I wish to die in my boots; no more Land of Counterpane for me. To be drowned, to be shot, to be thrown from a horse — ay, to be hanged, rather than pass again through that slow dissolution." Recovery was soon achieved, however, and Robert returned to his writing with a passion. *Weir of Hermiston* was begun, a work that Mr. Stevenson



Stevenson's home, Vailima, Samoa, c. 1893

considered his best work. He proclaimed; "sick and well, I have had splendid life of it, grudge nothing, regret very little ... take it all over, damnation and all, would hardly change with any man of my time." It was a prophetic statement.

Monday morning, December 3, 1894, as usual the man is hard at work on his current book *Weir of Hermiston*. Things are progressing well now that the melancholy has passed. The book should be finished soon, maybe before Christmas. The day passes, the man is done for the day. He goes to the kitchen, greets his wife, selects a bottle of wine for them to enjoy before the evening meal. He has trouble uncorking it. He stops, looks at his wife and asks "What's that?" then "Does my face look strange?", and collapses. Within a few hours Robert Louis Balfour Stevenson is dead at forty-four, most likely of a cerebral hemorrhage.

(continued on page 9)



# Great Scots ...

(continued from page 8)

The Samoans, ever faithful to their friend, set a watch-guard around his body that night then carried him to his resting place on Mount Vaea overlooking the sea. On his tomb is the requiem that he had always wished place there.

Under the wide and starry sky,  
Dig the grave and let me lie.  
Glad did I live and gladly die,  
And I laid me down with a will.  
This be the verse you grave for me:  
Here he lies where he longed to be;  
Home is the sailor, home from sea,  
And the hunter home from the hill.

Stevenson truly was a legend in his own time, but alas, modern times overcame the man's popularity with advent of modern literature along with the influx of the new generation of novelists. Following the Great War, with the new writers pouring out new up-to-date literature, Ste-

venson was relegated to second class status where he remained for much of the twentieth century, a writer of horror novels and children's stories. He was excluded from school curriculum and dismissed by literary icons of the day. In 1973, this condemnation reached its pinnacle with the publication of the Oxford Anthology of English Literature in which of 2,000 pages his name did not appear once. The first to seventh editions of The Norton Anthology of English Literature he was ignored for thirty two years. Except for the people of Samoa, he was largely forgotten by the world. It wasn't until 2006 that he was included in the anthology. Now, in 2012, Robert Louis Stevenson is recognized for the world treasure that he was: author, composer, politician, and diplomat. He is once again beloved among the story tellers of the human race. He is one of the 26 most translated authors worldwide.



*The author - 1885*

1. Bronchiectasis is a disease state defined by localized, irreversible dilation of part of the bronchial tree caused by destruction of the muscle and elastic tissue.
2. Sarcoidosis is a disease in which inflammation occurs in the lymph nodes, lungs, liver, eyes, skin, or other tissues.
3. John Bunyan (28 November 1628 – 31 August 1688) was an English Christian writer and preacher, who is well known for his book *The Pilgrim's Progress*.
4. The Samoan Crisis was a confrontation between the United States, Germany and Great Britain from 1887–1889 over control of the Samoan Islands during the Samoan Civil War.

# FATLIPS UPDATE



Gemma (Hon Turnbull) Bernard reports that restoration is once again continuing on Fatlips Castle. After replacing the shingles and roof, the project was put on hold while waiting for a special team of stone cutters to arrive. The stones have been cut for the parapet to match the original stone and are ready to be put in place. This is a tedious job as each stone has to be carried up by a small tractor, one stone at a time.

The contractor is once again on site and is beginning to restore the parapet, but, of course, this is weather dependent.

Donations from TCA for the restoration are being put toward the purchasing of the needed solar powered Closed Caption Television. In the past, Fatlips suffered various acts of vandalism. The CCTV is being installed in an effort to prevent that from happening again, and making the castle available to all to visit.



# Congratulations!

Congratulations to Amy Trimble and Patrick Lium on their recent engagement. Amy comes from Buckley, Washington and is the Display Coordinator at Fred Meyer. Patrick is from Bonney Lake, Washington and works on the Geek Squad at Best Buy.



The couple plan to be married August 23, 2013 in Issaquah, Washington.

## Sharing and Caring

Mark Turnbull appreciates your prayers for upcoming surgery. Your thoughts and prayers are sought for Beth Gay, who is experiencing health issues.

Condolences and prayers extended to Bonnie Nipar with the loss of her sister.

## La Breith Sona! Happy Birthday! November/December



Samuel J. Turnbull, Noel R. Turnbull, Joseph P. Bell, Dale R. Hilding, Robert A. Trimble, Nancy J. Turnbull, Kevin H. B. Turnbull, Dawn Day, Mary Kay Hilding, Dorothea Turnbull, Allison O'Connor-Fenton, Kenneth G. Turnbull, Jose Angel Cosme, Anthony P. Turnbull, Ned Dairiki, Vivian E. Turnbull, James R. Trimble, Brian Turnbull, Mary C. Turnbull, Timothy Nelson, Walter S. Turnbull Jr.

# TOTALLY TURNBULL

*Like  
TotallyTurnbull  
on facebook  
and keep up  
with the latest  
additions.*

New Items in Time for Christmas! Proudly display your name!

*Check out [TotallyTurnbull.com](http://TotallyTurnbull.com) for your personalized Turnbull products. Household items to Turnbull Tartan clothing. It's not too early to start planning for those special Christmas gifts. Remember tartan items take 6-8 weeks. [www.totallyturnbull.com](http://www.totallyturnbull.com)*



Totally Turnbull offers great personalized gifts for family, friends and yourself. Having a reunion or need items in quantity? Contact us for special pricing. Have an item you would like to see, let us know. email [editor@turnbullclan.com](mailto:editor@turnbullclan.com)

*Editor's Note:* Have a special occasion to announce? A special birthday, new baby, new grandchild, anniversary, a once in a lifetime trip? We'd love to hear about it.

Email [editor@turnbullclan.com](mailto:editor@turnbullclan.com)

## Dae ye ken? (Do you know?)

**Clip-cloot = a Gossip**

**Drouthy = Thirsty**

**Bide = Stay**

Turnbull Clan Association  
5216 Tahoe Dr.  
Durham, NC 27713



**Time to Vote for TCA Officers  
Your Ballot is Inside**