

## VIEWING KING ROBERT THE BRUCE'S SWORD

By Kenneth Turnbull



*Several months ago, I read an article in Tartan Silk news referring to King Robert the Bruce's sword. Earlier this year it had been on display in Edinburgh for public viewing from 22-27th January. As a rarely seen sword, was this the very one King Robert the Bruce had awarded us with our surname? I decided to try and see it for myself?*

As a measure of gratitude, the name of Turn-e-bull had been proclaimed by the King to William 'o Rule in 1313, for his very brave deed in saving the life of the King during a forest hunt.

Being a Turnbull and, as we were to visit Scotland to do a book launch, I felt that I just had to take this opportunity to view it personally. So, with this prospect in mind, I decided to try and arrange a showing.

After a couple of communication e-mails through his secretary, we were



*Patricia Turnbull in discussion with Lord Bruce and the historical relevance.*

eventually given a time and date to meet with Lord Bruce. We were advised he was a busy person, but is always ready to show off the historical treasures in his possession. The viewing time he suggested suited us too. So, on the 22nd August, it was with much excitement and expectation that we finally met him in front of Broomhall House.

After formal introductions, I presented him with the newly published *Border Trails and Tales* book, to which he was both surprised and very grateful at this gesture.

We entered the main hall area and were shown into a room where a forensic likeness of the King was being displayed on top of a pedestal, a section of a rare marble pillar from Constantinople, now known as Istanbul.

The sword and skull were kept in another room, so we were shown into an events dining room.



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# Author's Corner

## Betty Turnbull

The fourth book in the Papa and Billy series, *Robbie the Royal Messenger*, by author Betty Turnbull, Baroness of Bedrule, is now available. In the *Papa and Billy* series, little Billy tells his Papa about a bothersome situation in his life. These remind Papa of stories that help Billy better understand and deal with the problem.



*Robbie the Royal Messenger* is about a simple act of kindness. Robbie is a young lad who collects firewood for Stirling Castle. Through Robbie, we see that kindness always leaves us better off, and sometimes it's even repaid many times over.

Turnbull sets her stories in Scotland's real past, adding to them the dimension of interesting history and a beginning of understanding heritage.

Betty earned her degree in education from Rockford College, IL, USA, in 1970. Together with her husband, Wally, she served in the mountains of Haiti as a missionary in education and self help development from 1972-2002. During her 30 years of service in Haiti, Betty developed the first rural preschool program which has expanded into hundreds of schools across the nation, following the model she established. In addition to *Robbie the Royal Messenger*, Betty is the author of *Isobel's New World*, *The Man Who Saved The King*, *Abigail And The Royal Thread*, and the award-winning children's book, *A Sergeant in the House*.

The books are available online at Amazon and other retailers. The author is offering signed copies as a new release special at <http://totallyturnbull.com/20-books-maps>.

### 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.

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*The untold true story in the life of King Robert the Bruce and the survival of the Scottish people. A documented history in his determined fight to save Scotland ... for freedom.*



Revenge tears at the soul. But it can also be a weapon. Chris Pine and David Mackenzie re-team in the up-coming 'Outlaw King'. On Netflix and selected theatres in early November. "Scotland will rise. I have 50 men to fight the strongest army in the world . . . this is how we do it . . ."

## IT'S AN ELECTION YEAR

It's time to elect TCA officers. Nominations for officers of TCA are now open for the term beginning 1st January, 2019 and ending on the 31st December 2021. Officers for the Turnbull Clan Association serve three year terms. The President may serve two consecutive 3 year terms, then must step down for at least one term. Other officers have no limits. Offices include President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Vice-President of Events, Vice-President of Communications, International Vice-President. Next month, members will be asked to vote on who fills these rolls for the next three years.

Presidential duties include scheduling and presiding at the Annual General Meetings, some social media skills for updating Turnbull news and events, and overseeing current projects. For more information on officer responsibilities, contact [communications@turnbullclan.com](mailto:communications@turnbullclan.com).

If you would like to run for office or nominate someone, please send name and office to [communications@turnbullclan.com](mailto:communications@turnbullclan.com) by 10th December, 2018. A TCA member in good standing is permitted to vote. Good standing includes lifetime membership and those members who have paid dues for 2018. If you would like to vote, but have not paid dues, please visit the website [www.turnbullclan.com](http://www.turnbullclan.com). Login and upgrade your membership to TCA Contributing Member. If you don't have a login, you may register and become a contributing member at that time.

King Robert the Bruce went hunting in the great wood of Caledon near Stirling and narrowly escaped with his own life when one of the great white bulls rushed fiercely at him. Then, a man of great spirit leapt before the King and, grappling with the bull, cast it to the earth with great force and held it there while the remaining hunters slew it with their weapons. Thereafter, the Borders man who rescued the King, William of Rule, was called Turn-e-bull.

Hector Boece, Historian, 1526

## A MONUMENTAL PLAQUE

"It's beautiful, but what's it about? This is a question that has been asked too often by visitors to the *Turning of the Bull* monument in Hawick, Scotland.

Turnbull Clan Association is excited to announce that preliminary approval has been granted to place a large descriptive bronze plaque on the monument. We are moving forward so that this can occur at the time of the June 2019 AGM (see page 5).

In order to accomplish this project, the **Monument Fund** needs replenishing. Donations to the fund will provide money needed to purchase and install the bronze plaque. Future projects include the possibility of placing artist screening boards behind the monument to showcase it better. All donations are tax deductible and will be receipted. And here's the exciting part - donate and become eligible to win one of three exciting prizes.

The Baron of Bedrule has agreed to donate three unique and valuable items from his personal collection. Because there is no cost for these items, all contributions will be applied to the Monument Fund.

**First prize** is a millennium **bottle of Turnbull whisky**, limited 2009 edition, created for the *Turning of the Bull* unveiling. The whisky was distilled at the turn of the century in 1999 and bottled in 2009. This bottle, bearing the image of the *Turning of the Bull* monument is priceless not only as a rare collectors's item but more so because Turnbull whisky is no longer available.

**Second prize** is a **Turnbull Clan Arms flag**, which was flown over the Bedrule Castle mound in Bedrule, Scotland, by the Baron of Bedrule. This special flag, which cannot be purchased anywhere, is a valuable collector's item, which may be flown to proudly display your clan heritage.

**Third prize** is an antique **Turnbull Whisky sign**. This metal 18"x12" advertising sign dates from the original Hawick Turnbull whisky. So valued is this as a decorator



Every \$50.00 donation is a chance to win one these collectible prizes, donating by the Baron of Bedrule. First prize a collectible (and drinkable!) bottle of 2009 Turnbull Whisky.

Second prize is your own Turnbull Arms flag with certificate authenticating it was flown over the Bedrule Castle Mound, Bedrule, Scotland. Third prize is an authentic metal Turnbull's Scotch Whisky sign.

and collector's item that replicas of this sign are commonly sold on Amazon and Ebay. This is your chance to own one of the rare originals.

Every \$50 contribution to the Monument Fund earns a chance to win one of these prizes. Every \$500 contribution provides 12 chances and each \$1000 contribution provides 25 chances.

Donate now to help your clan and for a chance to win: <http://www.turnbullclan.com/clan/contributions#monument>

**The fine print:** Winner of the Turnbull Whisky must be 21 or older and either have a USA mailing address or be able to pick it up in Durham, NC or in Hawick, Scotland at or after the time of the 2019 AGM. Other prizes ship worldwide. If a minimum of \$2500 is not received in contributions, prizes will not be awarded and donors will have the option of being refunded their contributions, less PayPal fees.





**Australia - Now two in a row**

Many were wondering whether this was the day the famous winning streak came to an end. Bowman the jockey later admitted it was nothing like the ride he normally produces on Winx. This was it . . . the annual Turnbull Stakes race. But Bowman kept his patience, held his breath and the gaps finally presented Winx as a winner, even though it was only by one length. The race typically attracts a full size field of around 16 runners in the \$500,000 Group I Turnbull Stakes (2000m) at Victoria's Flemington Races in September.

**USA – Plan your planting**

Cold, snow, and spring-like warmth may have an impact on your green thumb. Nursery owner Jeff Turnbull at Darby Creek said the perennial plants already growing in your yard should handle the weather just fine. "Right now, everything that's in the ground should be just fine with the weather we're having," Turnbull said. "The snow acts like a blanket and protects it from the cold and insulates it like a blanket." He also said it's too early to plant most annuals, but this is a great time to plant shrubs and trees. Being patient with starting your vegetable garden is a good suggestion. It's too cold and wet for even cold-weather crops, like broccoli, he said. You don't want to be working with wet soil because when it dries out and clots up, it's going to be darn near impossible to get a good seed bed."



by Kenneth Turnbull - International News Editor

**UK - First ever radio show for pets on fireworks night**

A Classic FM radio station has joined forces with a Dogs and Cats Home to broadcast its first ever programme dedicated to pets and their owners. To coincide with the busiest night for firework displays on Saturday 3 November, the Classic FM presenter and dog-lover Bill Turnbull will host a first ever programme to help keep pets calm and relaxed during the noise and bright lights. This follows a recent study by the Scottish SPCA and the University of Glasgow, which has discovered that "music has a calming effect on dogs and that their stress levels decreased significantly after listening to music." I've been very happily presenting to humans in the past years on Classic FM, so hosting this show will be a pleasure.

**USA - HR Technology to provide recruiting service**

Recruiting Solutions (WFX) have announced the introduction of a unique new service to help small to mid-size companies hire faster, better, cheaper and smarter. Indra Turnbull, the founder of WFX, who entered the staffing and talent acquisition space 20 years ago, introduced ApplicantAnalytics™, one of the first web-based, proprietary, position-specific matching technologies. When embarking on building the next generation of the ApplicantAnalytics™ technology, Turnbull and her team interviewed and surveyed well over 1,000 professionals to build a digital platform that meets the needs of all those involved. The technology provides subscribing companies many advantages to experienced recruiting consultants:

**USA – It's not a Grocery store, but Healthy Living**

"It's really a farmers market place, it's not a grocery store," said Lazy Acres Natural Market CEO Matt Turnbull, days before the store's official opening. "It really is not sacrificing taste in order to live healthy." The market itself features all clean products—no artificial colours, preservatives or chemicals. It includes everything from its sushi bar and salad bar to its body care products. Turnbull added that the heart and soul of Lazy Acres is the store's "Natural Living" section, which offers everything from dietary supplements to body care, including all natural makeup lines. The market also has a wine and beer department that is focused on craft beers, including local breweries products.

**USA - Artist behind iconic works**

The revered Spokane artist and nun, Sister Paula Mary Turnbull, who created the Garbage Goat and other iconic sculptures in Spokane and beyond, has died. Her health gradually had been declining for several months, he said. She was 97. Sister Paula had dedicated the last 80 years of her life to producing art and teaching others. Until her health started to fail, she lived at Spokane's Convent of the Sisters of Holy Names of Jesus and Mary. Her international fame as the "welding nun" resulted in a studio being built exclusively for her more on the convent's grounds. She pushed at the edges of what could be done.

**Australia – Golden first Title**

Jessica Turnbull's first attempt at the Golden Open has paid off handsomely — she has come away with her maiden Professional Squash Association title. The Brisbane-based Turnbull defeated Malaysia's Wen Li Lai three games to one in the PSA women's final at Kalgoorlie-Boulder's Ray Finlayson Sporting Complex in June. The 22-year-old world No.75 said she had been on the PSA circuit for six years, and she was overjoyed to have won her first tournament. "I am shocked and happy," she said. She decided to play in Kalgoorlie-Boulder this year because her friends who played in the city last year had said the Golden Open was an excellent tournament. Her aim was to break into the world's top 50 by the end of the year.

# AGM 2019 – Hawick, Scotland

## Common Riding + Turnbull Tour = Once in a lifetime event

### June 7 – 11, 2019

**Discover the Borders. Walk where your ancestors walked. Experience the Common Riding Traditions. Visit historical Turnbull and other important Borders sites. Come celebrate our great heritage together!**

Announcing our 2019 International Annual General Meeting and tour to be held in Hawick, Scotland. June 7-11. Highlights of the trip include the celebration of the *Turning of Bull Monument's* 10th birthday with the installation of a bronze plaque containing an account of Will O'Rule's act of bravery written by Hector Boece, Historian, 1526.

Join us for 5 days of touring the important Borders landmarks for the Turnbull Clan.

#### *June 7, Day 1:*

Experience the Common Riding. We'll spend the morning on the Hawick moor enjoying the fair events, horse racing, and awaiting the arrival of the riders led by the Cornet. Lunch on your own. (If you're nice, Ex-Cornet George Turnbull might offer you a taste of their specialty rum and milk.) Afternoon tour of The Borders Distillery, Hawick.

#### *June 8, Day 2:*

Join the clan for a climb to Fatlips Castle, a Turnbull stronghold, dating back to the 14th century. Lunch in Denholm, then an afternoon at the *Turning of the Bull* monument for the presentation of the plaque.

#### *June 9, Day 3:*

Service in the Bedrule Kirk and dedication of the new Turnbull stained glass window. Time after the service to see the Bedrule Cairn and Bedrule Castle Mound. Travel to Harwood farm (ancient Turnbull lands) for a pig roast and afternoon of our own mini-highland games competition hosted by Gemma and James Lubbock. We will also visit a private Turnbull/Elliott museum.



#### *June 10, Day 4:*

Bus ride to Stirling to visit Stirling Castle, the Wallace Monument, and Bannockburn Battle-ground Memorial. Lunch is on your own and not included.

#### *June 11, Day 5:*

Abbey Day with visits to Dryburgh Abbey and Melrose Abbey. Lunch in Melrose. Afternoon in Jedburgh visiting Mary, Queen of Scots' house, the Jedburgh jail and Jedburgh Abbey. Drive up to Scott's view before returning to Hawick. AGM Banquet at Mansfield House Hotel.

Participants are responsible for their own costs to and from Scotland, lodging, and meals not provided in the daily tours. Recommendations for lodging will be provided.

The tour package includes:

- 5 days of transportation to and from day tour destinations (Hawick pickup and return)
- Abbey and Castle entrance tickets
- Three lunches. (Days 2, 3, 5)
- AGM Banquet entrance and meal
- A copy of *Border Tales and Trails*
- A souvenir AGM 2019 t-shirt

Price is based on a minimum of 15 and maximum of 30 people. The cost of the five day excursion is \$450 US per person. Email [communications@turnbullclan.com](mailto:communications@turnbullclan.com) if interested.



# THE PERILS OF SECONDARY SOURCES . . .

*Extracts from a talk given by Gregory Lauder-Frost, F.S.A.Scot., to a Borders Family History Society on 25th. February 2018.*

*I would like to look at the reliance by many family historians upon secondary source materials. In doing this, I propose to use my own research experiences for examples. I was recently consulted on a new edition of a book on pre-Reformation Scottish Bishops, in particular on those of the Lauder family. Immediately we came up against problems.*

I refer briefly to the following many references:

William de Lawedre (d.1425), Bishop of Glasgow and Chancellor of Scotland was stated by numerous authorities, including George Crawford ("Lives and Characters of the Officers of State in Scotland", Edinburgh, 1726), the "Dictionary of National Biography" (1904), Spottiswoode ("Keith's Scottish Bishops" (Edinburgh, 1824), John Dowden ("The Bishops of Scotland", Glasgow, 1912), William Anderson ("The Scottish Nation", Edinburgh 1861/1867), James Young ("Historical References to the Scottish Family of Lauder", Glasgow, 1884, p.38) and others to be a son of "Sir" Alan Lauder of Haltoun.

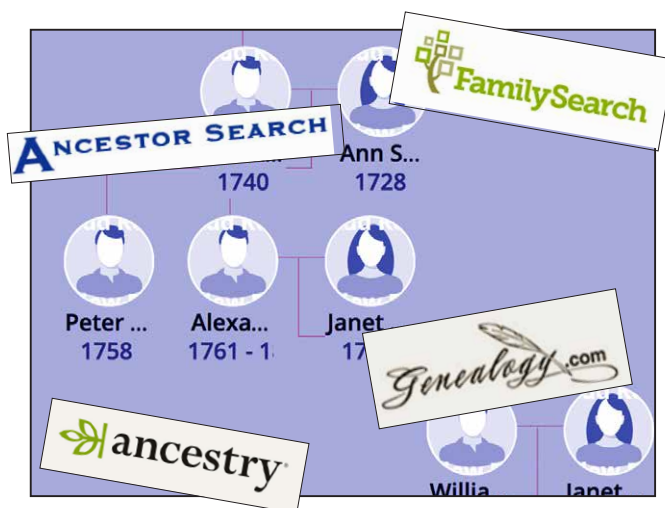
However I had some trouble tying all this together. I then by chance saw in Cosmo Innes' 1861 book "Early Scottish History" his statement that the bishop was the son of Robert de Lawedre [of the Bass] and his wife Annabella. He adds "Crawford and Keith are mistaken as to this bishop's parentage". He adds that Spottiswoode is also mistaken about the Bishop's appointment. But had a researcher not been aware of Innes' book, they would be none the wiser. If an error like this can be made with someone so famous it gives some idea how genealogists can be led astray.

Further research led me to the Glasgow Diocesan Archives, now in the National Records of Scotland, where I located the (Latin – transcribed for me by Frank Bigwood) "Registrum Glasguense" (vol.2, p.304) containing a 1414 Confirmation by Albany, Governor of Scotland, of a gift of Sir Robert de Lawedre of the Bass (eldest son of "Sir" Alan) to Glasgow Cathedral, wherein he specifically states several times that the Bishop is his eldest son. In addition it was witnessed by most of his other sons and also his wife. This one document on its own demolishes all the errors.

Also, all these authoritative books call Alan "Sir" but in fact there is no record of him ever being knighted, but there are numerous charters throughout the archives, notably in "The Great Seal", for him, where other knights are clearly designated as such. But not he.

Moving on, Sir Robert had two brothers: George Lauder of Haltoun (described as such under "The Great Seal" in 1393), Burgess and Provost of Edinburgh, and Sir Alexander, who later succeeded him at Haltoun.

George is referred to in several books as the first in the new House of Lauder of Haltoun (even though it was granted to his father, Alan, in 1377) and most writers have ignored Sir Alexander in the lineage as a result, and assumed that the next laird, Sir William Lauder of Haltoun (appears as such in 1438 in "The Acts of the Parliaments of Scotland", vol. ii, 1424-1567, London, 1814, p.53) was a son of George, ignoring or missing the fact that Alexander



was already in fee at Haltoun. George left as his co-heirs, four daughters. (National Records of Scotland: GD430/13). Had these errors not been carefully worked through, the ancestry of Sir William (d.1452) and all who came after him would have been wrong.

Coming closer to home, at Lauder in Berwickshire, we have Robert Lauder of that Ilk (d. July 1567) who married Alison, daughter of Sir William Cranstoun of that Ilk (d. 5 Aug 1515) and the sister of John Cranstoun of that Ilk (d.1552). Despite numerous original records in the archives for Robert citing her as his wife ("The Great Seal" number 1810 dated 29th. July 1538 being crucial), the quasi-Bible on this family, "The Grange of St. Giles" (1898) by J. Stewart-Smith, states that this Robert was also Lord of The Bass and died in 1561. This is of course totally wrong and there is no evidence to support this.

Robert Lauder of the Bass (c.1495 - died in June 1576 – Testament) was married twice and not to a Cranstoun. Nor was his father or grandfather. That the Lauder of that Ilk family is descended from a younger son of the Bass in the early 1400s is well established. (See a charter dated 1445 which mentions Alan Lauder of Lauder Tower (5th. son of the Bass) in Historic Manuscripts

The Manuscripts Commission – References indicate where the two separate families are clearly evident.

Stewart-Smith also gives Robert's father, Oliver Lauder of that Ilk (d. before May 1489), as having no issue, suggesting they are brothers. But for Robert to have been a brother of Oliver he would have had to have lived well beyond his century. Stewart-Smith failed here, and family history researchers need to be beware!

I was a consultant and contributing editor to the last printed edition of "Burke's Peerage and Baronetage" after pointing out to the editor countless errors in several families which had been copied from edition to edition for over a century. A glaring error was the Lauder Baronets.

The lead-in stated: "Lineage: Robert Lauder, allegedly descended from Lauder of that Ilk, married .... Inglis, of the Inglises, later Baronets of Cramond, and had, Andrew Lauder merchant in Edin-

*Continued on Page 7*

## SECONDARY SOURCE PERILS

*Continued from Page 6*

burgh, who had John Lauder, the first Baronet. It is difficult for me to comprehend how totally incorrect this is.

There is a mountain of original archival evidence to prove this ancestry, not least the preserved holograph notes on his ancestry.

Another good example of being misled are the civil registrations and censuses. Always remember that in the latter case the enumerator only wrote down what the person at the front door told them. Place of birth in particular might be incorrect. I have seen a case where three censuses in a row (30 years) had the entire family all born at the one place but in fact the mother, who had an unusual Christian name and so was all the more easily traceable, was, it was found, born elsewhere.

Death Certificates are often a headache. My own father's youngest brother did not know the name of his grandmother (who died three years before he was born) when he was the informant on his mother's death certificate.

My great-great-great grandfather John Lauder, who died in Leith Hospital in 1888, had as the informant on his death certificate his daughter Isabella. She was born nineteen years after her grandfather, George Lauder of Inverleith Mains, died, and apparently did not know his name, as she gave it as John.

The other well-known hiccup in genealogy is illegitimacy. Right up till say 1900, it was common for men to mention their illegitimate offspring in their testaments. For those reaching a brick wall in their research, don't rely on aural histories. They are more than often either wrong, embellished, or confused. Go again for what real records you can locate, notably Sheriff Court Deeds and Bonds, other court records, and especially Kirk Session Records.

I once researched a family in Smailholme with a good Borders surname, but suddenly the Civil Registrations went dead. Obviously someone had broken the law and not registered a child (despite the risk of a fine). A considerable amount of research was needed.

The baptism was found - an illegitimate son. The Kirk Session Book gave the father's name (from Kelso) but he had declined to marry the girl. Five years later she married and her new husband gladly took in the lad and promptly changed his name.

It became a secret. So the family today, who thought their surname was one thing (as it appears on all subsequent Civil Registrations) found that in fact that their paternal blood line is from that natural father who declined to marry. (It is interesting to note that this chap was later highly regarded as a Borders Police official!)

The worst place for genealogical disinformation today is the internet. People get hold of secondary sources, internet or books, and without researching further the skeleton information they have found in these take them as absolute.

I hope the examples I have given here demonstrate that even very competent and authoritative writers get things wrong and that original primary sources, if they can be found, are best.

So, do your research, but be prepared to cross-check the results.

## KING ROBERT'S SWORD . . .

*From Page 1 . . .*

Lord Bruce (Charles) was very friendly, informative and above all, willing and able to share his knowledge of family history.

King Robert's sword was brought out and displayed on the large table. For comparison of size, he placed the newly published book beside it. After a few pictures were taken we were shown a cast of King Robert's skull, which was one of only eight in existence.



We spoke at length and were ushered into yet another room which

was a former school room. He mentioned that he had also had his schooling in this very same room. The former lady teacher who had been tutoring them, was eventually poached and given a position educating Royalty siblings.

There was a picture in the room of one of his relatives from the 1800's, whose name was Victor Bruce and was the Viceroy of India. Another casting adorned the wall of Victor's father. His name was James Bruce.



*The school room displaying his many family heirlooms*



*An unforgettable heritage experience at Broomhall House*



# SIR WALTER SCOTT AND THE SMAILHOLM TOWER

*For many generations, the traditions of Scottish Border legends were passed on to their children. Stories of wee Fairies, elves and spirits who had the same stature of mortals when they returned to their earthly haunts, were all a part of these legends. Until late into the eighteenth century, it was thought that the lochs near the Ettrick Valley peaks of the higher Border hills, were the entrances to their worlds.*

*The following tableaux depict some of these characters in Walter Scott's stories and legends on display at the first and second floors of the Smailholm Tower. NB. Smailholm Tower is depicted on the cover of 'Border Tales and Trails'.*



*From left: Jamie Telfer of the Fair Dodhead - The Queen o'Fairies - Mrs Hogg chants a Ballad to Walter Scott, Willie Laidlaw and James Hogg - Thomas the Rhymer - The Douglas from the Battle of Otterbourne*

*where do you live and what do you do?*

*Just e-mail it to; [editor@turnbullclan.com](mailto:editor@turnbullclan.com)*

*So, how did you celebrate Halloween?*

*Just e-mail your photos to; [editor@turnbullclan.com](mailto:editor@turnbullclan.com)*

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