

THE "SCOTTISH POMPEII" ON ORKNEY ISLANDS

By Kenneth Turnbull

Photos courtesy of Joanne Baker

The Orkney Islands on the northern mainland of Scotland have been occupied by early Mesolithic dwellers and over time, followed by the Neolithic tribes. One of these settlements, known as Skara Brae, was, until recently, an unknown and long lost secret, older than Stonehenge and the Great Pyramids of Egypt. These were the Neolithic people who lived in the area before the Picts inhabited the islands. Moreover, there are three similar sites that exist in the Orkney Islands.

Skara Brae is an ancient Neolithic 5000 year old settlement, a perfectly preserved and long forgotten village, where initially three buildings were discovered in 1850 on the west coast in the Bay of Skaill. Five more buildings were uncovered after another wild storm in 1926 with further excavations undertaken to reveal the whole settlement consisting of ten buildings. The location is now regarded as one of the oldest agricultural villages in all of Europe and recognised as a unique UNESCO world heritage site. It has now become a major tourist attraction.



The buildings and their contents have been remarkably preserved throughout the millennia. Quite surprisingly, the village also had a sewage system, each with its own toilet.

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These stone midden houses, were likely inhabited by 'Old Norse' dwellers from the New Hebrides estimated around 3180 - 2500 B.C.

The middens consist of sand and peat ash stiffened with refuse from Stone Age dwellers, had interconnecting tunnels roofed with stone slabs. The surrounding sand also sheltered the underground architecture, insulating it well against the harsh winter climate. The village buildings and their contents remained remarkably preserved throughout the millennia. Archaeologists have estimated that 50-100 people at one time lived in the village for a period of around 600 years.

When the settlement was originally built, the houses were 1,500 metres from the sea. However, over time, the sea eventually eroded the land closer to the village. Where there were pastures, the sea has taken over.

The buildings stood around 8 feet (2.4 metres) high, with one room, each one as a rectangle with rounded corners and could be entered through a low, narrow doorway and closed by a stone slab from the outside influences.

Their way of life consisted of stone built furniture, including beds, storage cupboards, hearths and seats and each house could be accessed through a link connection.

In every room, one bed was always bigger than the other. Each also contained cabinets, dressers, seats, and storage boxes. These boxes were built to be waterproof, suggesting that they might have stored live seafood for later consumption.

HOW WILL YOU BE CELEBRATING (HALLOWE 'EN') THIS YEAR?



With all the current COVID-19 restrictions set upon us this year, world Halloween celebrations will certainly be restricted.

However, many Turnbulls' out there . . . and undaunted, will still be showing off their talents on how they celebrated the occasion.

So, if you are one who would like to share your pictures with the 2,500+ Turnbull Clan readers, please let us know. Send photos and brief information to the editor@turnbullclan.com

Authors Corner

Aneika Turnbull



This edition of Authors Corner has focussed on Aneika Turnbull, a 22 year-old Jamaican, who wrote and has just had published 'A Little Girl's Dream' . . . an easy-read story.

Commenting on her new release, Aneika said she aimed to " . . . motivate others, especially children with a disability. Growing up I didn't really see many children or adults with disabilities until I migrated to the United States of America and attended school."



She added, "The purpose of my book is to highlight to all children that they are valued, and their circumstances do not define them."

Aneika is from St. Catherine parish in Jamaica and is a recent graduate of Bethune-Cookman University. She wrote the manuscript for A Little Girl's Dream in 2015, but it was not until 2019 that she attracted a publisher.

The story centres on Ayana, the little black girl who wants to be a professional singer, but she has her limitations with Cerebral Palsy, a symptomatic congenital disorder of movement and muscle tone, restricting her goals. Moreover, it seems that black children in particular, are more prone to Cerebral Palsy than with their white counterparts.



Aneika Turnbull, who now lives in South Florida, aims to become a Physician's Assistant, specialising in Family Medicine or Pediatrics.

This publication is now available through Goodreads books: <https://www.goodreads.com/book> or via Amazon.

Rated: ★★★★★

BULLSEYE

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

Editor: Kenneth Turnbull, Contributing Editor: Betty Turnbull, Children's Editor: Sarah Turnbull - contact: editor@turnbullclan.com

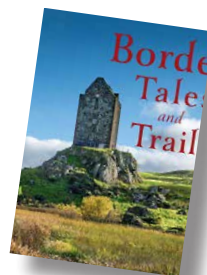
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Borders Tales and Trails

Rated: ★★★★★

Illustrated with colour photographs and maps



Available in paperback, the book is divided into two sections.

The first, Tales, tackles the early history and stories of Scotland and the Borders.

The second section, Trails, outlines places to visit in the Borders, with a particular influence of notable Turnbull sights, battlegrounds, and castles. Included with the description are directions and what's there.

It is not intended to be a complete history or guide book, but a book about the Borders as seen through the eyes of one clan.

Amazon USA: <http://a.co/d/5S3dI3I>

Amazon UK: <http://amzn.eu/d/6sdBPsp>

Amazon AU: <https://amzn.to/2oSLsVo>

Children's stories . . .

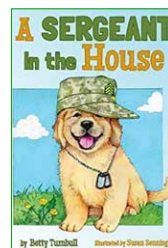
by Betty Turnbull

Rated: ★★★★★

The author of several Scotland-themed children's books. Her stories set in the real past of Scotland, adds a dimension of interesting history and a beginning understanding of heritage.

In addition each book has a positive impact of self-worth through her characters and lessons learned.

Available: TotallyTurnbull.com and Amazon.com



It's your Newsletter, so . . .

If you have a birth announcement, or any specific family event that you'd like to share with the 2,500+ Turnbull Clan readers, please let us know. We'd love to share. Send photos and information or stories of your adventures to the editor@turnbullclan.com



ORKNEY'S 'SCOTTISH POMPEII'

Continued from Page 1 . .



Left: One of the link connections between the houses.

Above: Well designed interior stone built shelving.

The inhabitants of the village likely dressed in skins, lived mainly on the flesh and presumably the milk of their herds of tame cattle and sheep and on limpets and other shellfish.

The villagers relied entirely on local materials—stone, beach pebbles, and animal bones. They were a largely self-sufficient community who fished, kept cattle and pigs, and were pastoralists who grew crops on a small scale, mainly barley and some wheat.

Their vessels were made of pottery, although the technique was poor, but most vessels had elaborate decoration. The villagers wore pendants and coloured beads made from the marrow bones of sheep, the roots of cows' teeth or the teeth of killer whales and boars' tusks. Knucklebones and evidence of other games were apparently played with dice of walrus ivory.

Archaeologists concluded that this society was a fairly equal one and without any authoritative leadership. However, for an unknown reason, the village was abruptly deserted.

Perhaps it was the gradual covering of drifting sand and the unrelenting harsh conditions that prevailed there. Village life appears to have ended around 2,500 BC.

FLAMINGOS RAISING MONEY FOR RONALD McDONALD HOUSE

By Jessica R. Durling, Humbolt Journal, 7th September with kind permission granted to reprint sections of the article.



Despite these challenging times with the COVID-19 virus running wild, the people of Tisdale in Canada could expect a flock of two dozen plastic flamingos that may show up on their lawn as part of an effort to raise funds for Ronald McDonald House in Saskatchewan.

Sarah Turnbull, as well as 'Janke LLP' and 'Bespoke Interior Design', offered residents the chance to direct a flock of two dozen flamingos to a yard of their choice.

For the fund-raiser, throughout the month of September, with a minimum donation of \$50, residents could direct the flock to any yard in the town.

Their aim is to provide accommodation funds for the families of sick children who need to travel to Saskatoon for Medical treatment. These are uncertain times resulting with many charities that have been unable to run their fund-raising events, commented Sarah Turnbull.

"Our daughter had two brain surgeries last year and both times we were able to utilize the Ronald McDonald House."

So, for the fund-raiser, throughout the month of September, with a minimum donation of \$50, residents could direct the flock to any yard in the town. However, the Flamingos would flee the scene with a matching donation, otherwise they stayed there for a day.

We have a lot of gratitude to the community for being there for us and felt we really wanted to give something back to this generous cause.

"When I was little you used to put something on people's lawns for their birthdays, and that's kind of what you did in the '80s or '90s, and flamingos are easily available and affordable." In this case, Pink Flamingos were the choice. "It's pretty easy to get 50 flamingos." Sarah commented.

WEATHERING THE STORM

With the continued presence of the infectious COVID-19 virus, remain positive and strong. As Turnbolls' bear with the many changes and restrictions that are confronting us and . . .

Don't quit !!

*When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,
When funds are low, and the debts are high,
And you want to smile, but have to sigh,
When care is pressing you down a bit,
Rest if you must,
But don't you quit!!!*

Billy Millar, Aust., formally from Kilmarnock, Scotland.

Your stories during these times are worth sharing in the next edition.

Just send to: editor@turnbullclan.com



USA – Scientist fusion Award



Scientist David Turnbull, working at the laboratory for Laser Electronics at Rochester University, has recently been selected as a recipient of the 2020 Excellence in Fusion Engineering Award from Fusion Power Associates. Apart from his leadership abilities, he has been recognised for his contributions and experiments involving plasma photonics and laser-plasma instability research. Turnbull's large number of high-impact publications, reflect both theoretical and experimental skills."

British Virgin Islands – Voucher



Melvin 'Mitch' Turnbull, is a representative for the Second District is organising a food voucher initiative which is geared towards assisting his constituents who cannot afford basic food items. He said a number of local supermarkets within his district now have the vouchers which are worth up to \$200 and are available to residents on a case-by-case basis. "It is something that I am doing because in this uncertain time with COVID, people's needs still do exist and I am going to try to do my part to help as many people as possible."

UK - Daughter helping her dad's memory live on



Solicitor Jennifer Turnbull, the daughter of Robert Turnbull a Newcastle businessman, has set up 'The Bobby Dazzler' a charitable trust in memory of her father who died in 2015 of prostate cancer. Jennifer aged 37 said "My dad was always helping people as it was something he felt very passionately about." Dad was a Television Engineer and would often donate the family TV to families while he was carrying out repairs. "When I was a kid, I would often come home from school and find the TV was missing and you knew he had given it to another family who needed it." Through charitable quiz nights and physical challenges, she hopes to raise £3,600 to buy a virtual reality headset for St Oswald's Hospice in time for Christmas.



by Kenneth Turnbull - International News Editor

Australia - Business owners fear the drop in assistance



The COVID-19 pandemic, has more than 3.5 million people receiving the Federal Government subsidised 'Job Keeper', a fortnightly payment for full-time employees. Emily Turnbull and her partner run Magical Princess Entertainment in Melbourne and like so many sole traders, rely on the subsidy wage to survive. The 28-year-old said the social distancing rules forced the business to shut down in March. "This 1.5 metre rule is just not possible when you arrive as a fairy," she said. "The first thing that a child wants is run up and hug you. That's because they really believe that you are a real princess." Ms Turnbull is determined her business will survive, and princesses will once again be visiting kids, but the question is when. "I just want to get back to doing what I love."

Scotland - Virus causes part closures of Cottage service

Borders worker Gary Turnbull, of Selkirk who was recently made redundant by his company, with colleagues also laying bare the high emotional toll. – He said: "I felt shafted, especially considering how much work we'd been doing from home." Mr Turnbull, 37, says employees were told their final day of work would be on 28th August. A few weeks earlier, they were told Sykes was planning to cut approximately 30 jobs across its sites, including in Wales and Edinburgh. They then learned that every employee in the Galashiels call centre would lose their job, because the Nether Road facility is closing permanently.



New Zealand - Festival to go ahead

Wanaka's economy was likely to be dealt another blow as two music festivals have had to be downsized or cancelled due to the



Covid-19 pandemic. However, the Rhythm & Alps founder and director Alex Turnbull has scheduled the Festival to run from 29 to 31 December at Cardrona Valley in Wanaka. He said the idea was to celebrate a New Zealand festival with intent to use only New Zealand acts. "We're celebrating a 10 year anniversary."

USA - Worrisome virus increase

Durham County health officials in North Carolina are concerned after seeing a rising in the number of restaurant workers testing positive for coronavirus. Restaurant owners in Durham are worried about their businesses, because if even just one employee tests positive, it's likely that the whole restaurant will have to shut down. Elizabeth Turnbull, co-owner of the restaurant Copa on West Main Street in Durham, said test results are a problem (taking up to two weeks) and need to come in faster for those in public service.



Australia - New Training Academy



Physical Education teacher Ryan Turnbull, qualified as a teacher in 1991, is finally back into teaching. His reason, "Football got in the way". He is a life member of the West Coast Eagles Football Club, except now his classroom is a football oval and his school is the West Australian Female Football Academy. With his teammate Chad Morrison, the pair decided to fill a void in the market for females to develop a full knowledge of football to the potential players at all levels of the game.

WALES - Talks on player pay cuts

Talks over player pay cuts have provided some tough times according to Cardiff Blues forward Josh Turnbull. With the mostly cancelled games and restrictions on the clubs, the money just isn't there anymore. The Professional Rugby Board (PRB) in April reached an agreement with the Welsh Rugby Players' Association (WRPA) over a three-month 25% salary cut. Most could see the reasons for these cuts "I took it personally as well" Turnbull said. He has revealed how much his life was taken over during the lockdown by the salary cut talks.



CAMPAIGN FOR A SCOTTISH BORDERS NATIONAL PARK - UPDATE ON THE TWELVE TOWERS OF RULE

Report by Professor Jane Bower FRSE

One day in September of 1545, the Earl of Hertford with an army of 12000 foot soldiers and 4000 horsemen, devastated the Valley of Rule Water, burning the 12 towers and much else. However, it is not clear which of the more than 12 in the Valley were burnt.

A Campaign has begun for a Scottish Borders National Park (www.borders-national-park.scot and Facebook @scot-bordersNP) and has initiated a new research project on 'The Twelve Towers of Rule', in partnership with Archaeology Scotland and the local community.

The aim is to understand each of the sites better. Already there have been five identified to look at so far.

Current activities with the project continue and are managing to keep interest going in spite of repeated postponements due to sudden changes of Government rules this year, including the COVID-19 virus.

We have a keen team including Richard Strathie and Roger Curtis (a local expert who works for HES, where they are allowing him time on the project) who are working away and communicating by e-mail and Zoom media meetings. A growing number of organisations are also getting involved, which is great.

The project is also on-going with recording and video construction with later public viewing as an Archaeology Scotland production. Filming has started and will continue to record the findings as the project progresses. The project will eventually be shared through the Scottish Archaeology Month channels.

One of the project's number has been doing drone surveys of some of the towers as well as some sites just outside the valley. Another keen antiquarian is looking at the aerial and land photographs and doing some reconstructions of sites, using some of the amazing software that is available nowadays.



Fulton Tower ruins. Raided by the Earl of Hartford in 1545 during the 'Rough Wooing' between Scotland and England.

However we are still struggling to get information from the Scots side. We would love to have any input from the Turnbull families, not only about the 1545 event, but the periods before and after, to get a better understanding of their experience.

The Scottish Battlefields Trust are planning a re-enactment of the burning of Fulton Tower, hopefully next March. The project aims to make 2D and 3D videos of this to incorporate into a filmed episode - the Director of the SBT is keen to do a series on the Rough Wooing, and is working closely with the project.

About half a dozen of the more experienced historical researchers in the area are currently studying the extensive on-line Scottish and UK historical archives. The project continues.

It is hoped to develop some good walks, drives and rides around the area with accompanying information about these and other important events.

So, if any members out there have any or more information, please contact the following: editor@turnbullclan.com

Readers can copy & paste two preview video project clips:

<https://youtu.be/WcGEpJcm5fQ> <https://youtu.be/BfPLJLVYuMw>



Bedrule Castle site viewed from above

Bedrule Castle site. A complex Medieval site now with a lot of history, was built in the 12-13th century. Originally part of the Comyn family holdings. The castle was of oval design with towers around it including a large square tower in the centre or set to one side. The powerful Turnbills gained possession and held the Castle until the late 18th century. Since then, it has been robbed of the stone from the late 1750's.

REFLECTIONS FROM OUR PAST . . .

By Alistair Redpath with permission granted to re-print this article.

Pairt yin o' threi

BEDRULE NOSTALGIA – SPITAL ON RULE

From quarantined lepers to Turnbull martyrs

Spittal-on-Rule is a former village in the easternmost part of Cavers Parish, on a wedge of land at the confluence of the River Teviot and the Rule Water, between Denholm and Bedrule. Rich in history, it is now little more than a farm.

Often just called Spittal, the origin of the name is 'hospital by the river Rule', with 'spital' being a Middle Scots word for a place of refuge for the sick and destitute, usually connected with a church or a monastery.

The name first occurs as a 'Spittale de Roull' in 1493, then variously as 'Eccl sia de Spittale' in 1511, 'Rewle Spittel' in 1545, 'the Spytill, Roull' in 1548/59, 'Rowll Spittel' in 1605, and is marked on Blaeu's 1654 map as 'Spittell'.

It is recorded "at Reulhauch, A.D. 1395, that a Thomas Struthers an English knight challenged a Sir William Inglis a Scotchman to fight him in single combat". This haugh once lay alongside the mouth of the Rule; Black Archibald of Douglas and Sir Henry Percy, Earl of Northumberland, were the judges, although the result is not given. The courses of both the Teviot and the Rule have been much altered through time, most dramatically at the nearby site of Hassendean Kirk (see The Hawick Paper, March 16, 2018).

The remains of old fortified camps are evident in the area, Spittal providing easy access to the nearby Ale, Rule, and Teviot valleys. One nod to this is the Camping Hole field, where stone troughs with stone covers have been unearthed.

A leper hospital was established at Spittal sometime prior to 1425, with an attached chapel possibly dedicated to Saint Mary. This hospital gave its name to the location, and was likely maintained by monks from one of the Border abbeys. The Douglasses of Cavers held patronage of the lands and chapel from 1508 until the Reformation.

In the chapel on March 5, 1425/26, there was a meeting of Turnbells, Scotts and others to investigate the leprosy and legacy of John Turnbull of Minto (see The Hawick Paper, August 17, 2018) – since lepers were legally forbidden from holding lands.

It is not too difficult to imagine the hysteria and stigma that surrounded leprosy in those days, not unlike the initial reaction we have seen to the coronavirus today. According to the customs and laws of the four burghs of Berwick, Roxburgh, Edinburgh, and Stirling, 'lepyrs' (otherwise known as 'mysals') were to be removed from the 'kyngis burgh' and quarantined in the local 'spittal' if he had goods and clothes to sustain him.

As with the fever hospitals of later centuries, the spittal was located out with the boundaries of the town, in Hawick's case at Rulemouth. Burgesses were compelled to raise money to clothe and feed lepers, and any dead or wounded game found in the forests was sent there, alongside putrid salmon and pork.

The bailies of Hawick also had to visit the lepers thrice a year – armed with practically no knowledge of how the disease was spread from person to person.



An areial view of Spital-on-Rule

Picture: Rob Anderson

Lepers were only permitted to pass through the town and beg outside the ports of its outer limits. It was also a criminal offence for anyone to harbour a 'mysal' in their home.

The hospital and the chapel were destroyed by the Earl of Hertford's forces during the Rough Wooing – a relentless blitzkrieg of the valley – on 16th September, 1545. However, the advocacy of the church was still mentioned in the 1558 Douglas of Cavers charter, and four years earlier an acre of land "in terris hospitlis de Rowle, super lie

Harparhill" was granted to Archibald Elliot of Gorrenberry, along with the advowson of the chapel of St. Mary at Caerlenrig (perhaps suggesting a connection between the chapel at Teviothead and the one at Spittal).

The chapel graveyard was still in use until the 18th century but by 1858 only a few headstones remained; these can be seen behind Garden Cottage today.

Kirkyard or Leper Well was one of four freshwater wells in the village. The spring was surrounded by dressed stones and, as the name suggests, the water was thought to possess healing powers, particularly for skin diseases. Another well was located near the ford across the Teviot to Deanfoot (with the later addition of a wind-pump), and two others between the main road and the aqueduct that carried the mill lade.

While there are very few instances of witch stories in Hawick, nearby communities appear to have succumbed more easily to superstition, with executions said to have taken place at Spittal. The last witch of Denholm is said to be buried here; during her burial, one of the cords broke as the body was lowered, and a robin redbreast purportedly flew onto the coffin.

The ruins of the chapel and hospital were later repurposed to build three farms, a mill, a teind barn, and other associated buildings such as a dovecote – the latter lending its name to the village's Doocot Haugh. John Davidson, a tenant in Minto, is recorded at the Justice-aire held in

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REFLECTIONS FROM OUR PAST . . .

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BEDRULE NOSTALGIA – SPITAL ON RULE

Jedburgh in 1493. He was allowed to ‘componer’ for several crimes, including stealing one hundred ells of woollen cloth from Spittal-on-Rule. That same year Ralph ‘Anyse’ or Ainslie had remission for stealing twenty-four oxen and cows, six horses and goods from ‘the Place of Spittale’. Whether this was Spittal-on-Rule or Ancrum Spittal is unclear. George Thomson had two pigs stolen from his farm at Spittal in 1502.

In 1510 it is said that as many as twenty Turnbells met their end at the Deed Haugh at Spittal. The story goes that about two hundred of their kin had gathered to be pardoned by James IV. The principal Turnbells made their submission to the king, coming before him in linen sheets with withies about their necks, and “put themselves in the king’s will”.

However, keen to make an example of one of the most notorious reiving families, one in ten of them were hanged. Bishop Lesley reported that the king rode from Edinburgh to Rulewater, where “he tuik divers broken men, and brocht them to Jeduart; of quhom sum wes justifiet [executed]: And the principallis of the trubillis cum in lynyn claythis, with nakitt sordis in thair handis, and wyddyis about thair neckis”, and they were sent to various castles of their neighbours ‘in ward’.

The field was also called Deadman’s Haugh. George Tancred later wrote of a rising knoll, not far from the current farmhouse, that contained a stone grave with human remains and portions of armour, and a large silver coin.

The Mains of Spittal-on-Rule was sold by William Douglas of Cavers to Gilbert Ker of Primside in 1563. Richard Brown was described as such ‘in Rowlespittell’ in 1610 when he received part of the lands of Barnhills, and ‘in Reullspittell’ in a 1612 list of men convicted of charging more than the allowed rate of interest on loans. He failed to appear in Edinburgh to answer the charge and was denounced as a rebel by the Privy Council.

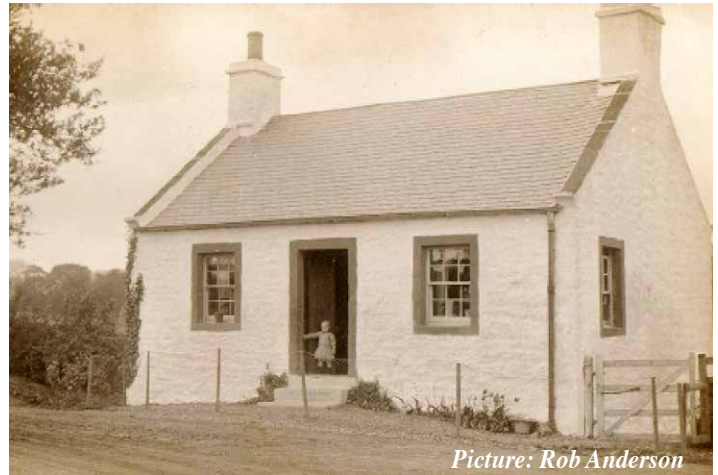
The lands were farmed by Patrick Storie in 1605 and Richard Brown in 1610. Robert and John Wright were tenants there in 1642. John Lindsay was tenant there in 1684 when declared as a fugitive for refusing to conform to Episcopalianism.

*More on the history of
these farms next issue.*

Spittal Mill was a corn grinding mill located between the graveyard and the Rule. James Scott was miller there in 1694, then the Veitch family; John Veitch is recorded as tenant there in 1792-97, James Turnbull in 1852, and James Ingles in the 1860s. The Bunyan, Murray and Veitch men of Spittal would meet weekly at the mill to read scriptures, Brown’s Dictionary, and other literary materials.

The mill had its own cauld and lade fed by the Rule, which was carried over a small aqueduct and crossed by three footbridges in Victorian times. The course of the lade can still be discerned by a curved line of trees near the old road bridge.

A teind barn was erected nearby the chapel ruins and was one of the oldest buildings in the valley, used for centuries to store church tithes or teinds, a tenth of all agricultural produce, such as crops or cattle, which was to be given to the church.



Picture: Rob Anderson

The Toll Cottage or ‘Lucky House’ with its original windows. 1915

Its roof was thatched until at least the 1920s and it contained a wooden fireplace hood or ‘hingin lum’. The shell of this oblong harled building can still be made out today. Adjacent to this was an orchard that was still in use into the 20th century.

Spittal was also the toll location on the road between Denholm and Jedburgh. The one storey Toll Cottage or ‘Lucky House’ at the road bend is a familiar site with its bricked-up windows and painted-on false windows. The cottage was the property of the Jedburgh road trustees, and was occupied for a long time by John Slatter. Tolls were collected up until 1880. A small road led north from here to the Spittal Ford on the Teviot, which was a popular crossing prior to the construction of Denholm Bridge in 1864.

Near the ford was the Spittal Plantin’ where the linen weavers of the Denholm area used to soak their lint. Rule Bridge, carrying the toll road, was built by the Douglasses of Cavers in 1748. It is adjacent to the modern Spittal-on-Rule Bridge and once contained a special flush bracket on its southeast parapet (the parapets no longer exist) used in the second geodetic levelling (i.e. mapping) Great Britain in 1912-21.

There’s a story attached to the old bridge. John Nichol, a baker in Hawick, was returning from Kelso market with a neighbour one day, when they decided to have a race to reach the toll-bar, wagering a gill. His horse could not take the bend, however, and leaped over the parapet of the Rule Bridge into the water.

Since the river was in flood they both escaped injury and he was rescued by the miller – clothes soaked, horse safely on the banking – to continue on his journey later that same day. An inscription ‘J.N. and his Horse’s leap’ was carved on the bridge to commemorate the event.

Guidepost Cottages, which once stood at the junction of the A698 and the Dunion road, were at least a couple of centuries old. Labourer Adam Scott and family were in one cottage in 1841, with an assortment of people in the other. Robert Mitchellhill, Beatrix Thomson and their families were there on the 1851 census, while William Hobkirk, Robert Trainer and families were there in 1861.

Credit: A Hawick Word Book (2020 ed.), Professor Douglas Scott; Hawick and the Border (1927), R.S. Craig; Rulewater and Its People (1907/2012 ed.), George Tancred; Gemma Lubbock

SCOTTISH INNOVATIONS - THE BLACKBOARD, JAMES PILLANS

Compiled by Kenneth Turnbull

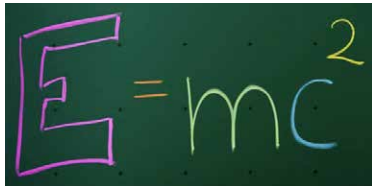


**Professor James
Pillans 1778 - 1864**

Prior to the blackboard, small slate boards (chalkboards) were used by students to solve mathematical problems and develop their skills in writing.

The chalkboards were the introduction to the larger blackboards when traditions took a major turn in Scotland in the early 1800's.

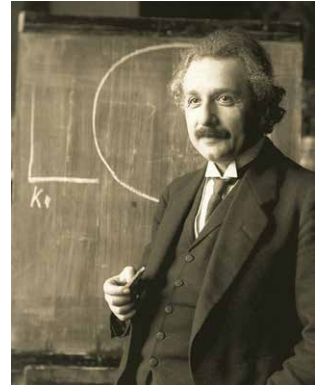
Scottish born Professor James Pillans, Headmaster of the 'Old School' in Edinburgh, Scotland, became fed up with the frustrating task of copying the class work for each individual student onto each of their chalkboards.



The Professor also enhanced the presentations by introducing coloured chalk for a more interesting display.

It was during a lesson in the early 1800's while he was teaching Geography, he came up with the idea of hanging several of the students chalkboards side by side to illustrate his teachings with large maps. By this method it also meant he could show the workings of complex formulas. It was a brilliant example of Scottish highly prized innovation and virtues . . . common sense.

Without this invention, many other great ideas and inventions might never have been developed. An example is Albert Einstein's formula of relativity $E=MC^2$ where he was able to illustrate it on a blackboard and share his theories with other students. Pillans complemented his invention with yet another invention. He added interest by including coloured chalks. Thus enabling more sophisticated presentations.



**Albert Einstein during a
lecture in Vienna in 1921**

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