

# BULLSEYE

A TURNBULL CLAN PUBLICATION  
Serving Turnbulls Worldwide

Volume 22

January - February

Issue 1

## 2021 WILL BE A TESTING ONE FOR US ALL - WORLDWIDE

*What a year it was! Nothing like anyone expected . . . and we weren't prepared. All our plans for clan and family gatherings, milestones, meetings and travel were suddenly put on hold. However, with the promise of relief through the newly developed vaccines designed to immunise us from the full effects of COVID-19 virus, hopefully we can look forward to a better year in 2021.*

However, with this promise of relief, it may take some time for many countries throughout the world to defeat this epidemic. Currently the tragic and overwhelming spread of cases arising from this virus are stretching the medical systems to breaking point. Media reports throughout the world are reporting countless millions who have and still are contracting the deadly sickness. Many thousands continue to succumb to the effects of this highly contagious disease.

Yet, despite what we know and understand, the world's population will take some time to recover from this world crisis. Sadly for some countries, it may take years.

Our hearts go out to everyone who has suffered in so many different ways during this unsettling time. To those who have lost loved ones, lost jobs, are enduring business stress, to those who are dealing with emotional or financial stress and to those feeling so lonely during this time... we feel for you.

Be rest assured that we, as Turnbull clan members and families, are a resolute lot and can look forward to facing a better year in 2021. Throughout the year, there were many stories within the clan where Turnbulls in their isolation became very inventive, either through social media or just by pipers and singing to their street neighbours.

As in the earlier years of our history, the Turnbulls 'would rather a fight than a feed' and, yet through our stubborn endurance, skills and ingenuity, that is how we survived. So, until this current crisis abates, stay safe so we can plan our lives once more.

### Ancient Norse and Gaelic customs of Hogmanay



*The famous fireworks and torchlight processions in Edinburgh are reminiscent of Hogmanay pagan celebrations, where bonfires were lit, blazing tar barrels rolled down hills and lit torches were tossed.*

### SCOTTISH INGENUITY AT ITS BEST



*The world famous Edinburgh's Hogmanay spectacular, is celebrated globally with impressive fireworks displays over Edinburgh Castle. The 2020 display tradition continued, but it was very different. With the hopes of a better new year and for the first time in history, a 'Proudly Scottish' and a never before seen visual extravaganza became a reality.*

*As a reflection of the year that had just gone and with a hope for the future, the display consisted of 150 glowing LED controlled drones hovering in the night skies to become a breathtaking spectacular, through the team efforts and Underbelly Director, Ed Bartlam. Due to restrictions on live events, the series was filmed in the highlands and moved on-line as a virtual stay-at-home event. The display was placed into many panoramas around Edinburgh, with music, poetry and brilliantly colourful animations.*

*Details on how this choreographed presentation was made- Page 2*

### Bliadhna Mhath Ur dhut!

#### Happy New Year to you!



*A new year is upon us!*

*Our TCA Newsletter has a very popular following and continues to keep its clan members and interested parties informed. Yet it can only exist with your support.*

*As Newsletter editor, my role is to inform and enlighten members with current events and achievements with the many Turnbulls throughout the world. This includes stories of relevance that don't make the newspapers.*

*Members interests and input with news, history, stories and places visited, has been and still is, well worth sharing. To this end, TCA invites you to take the opportunity of making a personal contribution. Your input could well be of more value and interest to others than you may think.*

*So, what do you have to share . . . ? ED.*

*Contact the editor at the following:*

*editor@turnbullclan.com*

## SNP WILL HOLD SCOTTISH INDEPENDENCE VOTE IF IT WINS IN MAY - MORE NEXT EDITION



# Authors Corner

## Janet Turnbull

Janet Turnbull, a former educator, decided to expand her interest in the natural world and is now working with 'The Conservation Volunteers' and 'Trafford Wildlife'. She is a member of Butterfly Conservation, the RSPB and National Trust, all of which seek to promote and protect the local wildlife and heritage.

She is also a keen photographer and through this, she has created and produced photobooks about her keen obsession with butterflies.

The publications tell of her travels around the country to take the elusive photographs.

She comments, "Britain has only 60 species of breeding butterflies - not many, you would think. But trying to get photographs of them all is much more difficult than I imagined when I started the project! What started as a photographic challenge has grown into a desire to protect these beautiful creatures.

Unfortunately they were printed in single editions, so they are expensive - even with the publisher's 50% discount they still work out at £32 and £55 respectively. If I thought there was actually a market for them, I would consider getting a bulk order which would bring down the price dramatically to around £12 and £18 respectively."



2021 Calendar images

## 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

**Turnbull Clan Association Worldwide** - www.turnbullclan.com

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

## HOW 'FARE WELL' HOGMANAY WAS MADE




Mesh driven drones taking off from their base in the highlands

The Celestial company has the world's only drone display that combines advanced technology with breathtaking organic performance. They are a collective of award-winning film makers, musicians, developers and storytellers. Celestial are pioneers in their field with their 'Skytheatre' displays being dynamic and awe-inspiring as can be seen in Fare Well. They see the night sky as an epic 3D screen capable of unlimited possibilities. **Watch the event on YouTube @ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xx3Zmkgt2no&t=25s>**



Computer controllers setting a virtual film scene over Edinburgh




# HAWICK REIVERS FESTIVAL

**THE FESTIVAL  
WILL BE HELD  
ON-LINE  
FOR THIS  
YEAR**

FRIDAY 26<sup>TH</sup>  
SATURDAY 27<sup>TH</sup>  
SUNDAY 28<sup>TH</sup>

# MARCH 2021





## REFLECTIONS FROM OUR PAST . . . 1931 &gt;

## LORETTA TURNBULL'S ROMANCE AND KIDNAP THREAT

*Loretta Turnbull was a glamorous beauty in the world of amateur sports. Her thousands of friends were shocked by the headlines, which bared a plot to kidnap her for ransom. The reports were particularly alarming to a handsome and famous New York publicist, Richard Blythe, daring aeroplane pilot and world wanderer. He wooed and won the darling of the water lanes in a colourful courtship, but at the last hour, even as the guests were gathering, their wedding was "indefinitely postponed."*

Blythe had returned from a world jaunt and Loretta had just set a new outboard speed mark. When her father, Judge R. B. Turnbull of Pasadena, "indefinitely postponed" the marriage of his sparkling, beautiful daughter, Loretta, the international girl outboard speedboat champion, sports circles buzzed with rumours of deep, dark hidden motives. Reporters anxious to appease their clamouring publics, begged for further comments. But their questions were drowned out by the surrounding noise.

When newspaper readers became well aware of the nefarious plot to kidnap Loretta for ransom, Judge Turnbull let it be known that several threats had been made and headlines told the story. The Turnbull mansion promptly became an armed camp with each member of the family carrying a six shooter, and guards with rifles patrolling the grounds.

"We all know how to shoot and we have plenty of guns," was Loretta's reply to the threats. "I can hit almost any sort of a mark at 100 yards or better, and so can my father and brothers. We're ready for these so-called kidnappers."



**Richard Blythe**

But to turn back to the romance, it was on Loretta's second trip to Italy to defend her title to half a dozen international "outboard" championship trophies that she met her New York Romeo, handsome Richard Blythe, a Publicity Counsellor. Blythe, in his own way, was as glamorous a personality. The spark of daring, which burned so brightly in the breast of each must have attracted them mutually. Anyway, they rushed around the city in a desperate effort to see everything before she sailed. They were constantly together.

Loretta was once badly injured in a race in New York and she had to be taken home to California on a stretcher. But when the next race came along and, despite protests from her father and physicians, she appeared at the course on crutches, was helped into the cockpit of her boat and won at a breathtaking clip.

The indefinite postponement of Loretta's wedding was announced at her father's California mansion late in the night before the ceremony. The reason Judge Turnbull gave, was the sudden illness of the bride-to-be, which amounted to a nervous breakdown. Richard Blythe commented that this was indeed the case and declared that he found Loretta 'high-strung and very nervous'.

The Turnbulls' are extremely devoted to one another. Their family ties are so strong that Loretta was unhappy about leaving them. The excitement of making plans for the elaborate wedding made her more nervous and as the hour approached, it became evident to her family she could never go through with the ceremony. That, and only that, was the reason for the postponement. There had also been a story reporting that the break came because he demanded that Loretta give up racing. His response was to the effect "Why I would have let her do anything she wanted to do. I would have given her anything she wanted." He added, "We are still good friends and my



**Noah Bettin, a friend of (President) Walter Turnbull sent this old 1934 newspaper article along when he found it in his attic in early December last year.**

relations with her whole family are of the pleasantest. I am still associated with Jude Turnbull in a business way and I consider him one of my closest friends."



**Racing champion, Loretta Turnbull**

Whether or not 'indefinitely postponing' meant a ceremony sometime in the future, no one will say. She is still not twenty-one and she has around a hundred amateur championship trophies; the latest being the world's speed record for Class F outboard hydroplanes, made while the kidnap guards looked on. Perhaps she preferred to remain as the 'Queen of the water lanes'.



**The National Trust for Scotland USA (NTS-USA) has just launched a new program. The COSCA Program has been developed with the advice of the clan societies.**

COSCA has one goal - 'to represent the interests of Scottish clan and family associations and our other heritage member organisations internationally and in the process, promoting our shared Scottish heritage and culture through all forms of public education'.

Below is the link to the January Newsletter for COSCA.

<http://bit.ly/39F173i>

If you are unable make the link to the newsletter, please e-mail me at: [scots1314@gmail.com](mailto:scots1314@gmail.com) and a PDF version will be sent to you.

Scott Swann, COSCA Membership Chairman, Clan Gunn

## USA – Support for ‘Delishops’



Hosted by Delishops founder, Charlie Turnbull, Delishops, the unique on-line trade community was designed to help food businesses to buy and sell speciality food profitably. It has again partnered and planned with Speciality & Fine Food Fair a further ‘Meet the Maker’ series of on-line events. The programme includes three key themes: Something New; Sustainability and Gifting Ideas. Events are recorded and posted to the Delishops community for retailers and food service businesses to browse.

## Scotland - Restructuring studios

A Scottish architect firm has announced that it will be implementing a wholesale restructuring of its studios as work load continues to increase, with plans to create new positions in three separate locations across Scotland. The Managing Director, Aitken Turnbull's latest announcement comes as the company predicts further growth in 2021 after a “strong performance” in 2020. He commented, “The key to our success is that we believe and practice that design matters.”



## UK - York's new fitness studio



Training Centre ‘fit20 UK’ has been franchised to Martin Turnbull, who created new jobs when it opened in York in January. The franchise continued to grow which bucked the trend during the pandemic with new memberships growing in 2020. Martin is keen sportsman and impressed with the programme. The ‘fit20 UK’ has the human touch with cutting-edge technology,



by Kenneth Turnbull - International News Editor

## USA - Task forces hopes into the future



The small town of Northville in Pennsylvania won't drown in stagnancy if mayor Brian Turnbull has anything to say about it. He spent time emphasizing the urgency to change the historic city's course, even if only gradually. While praising the work of its planning commission, Turnbull explained the creation of three mayoral task forces during the virtual town hall meeting in October. “If we don't act now, Northville will have one of the oldest populations in the state,” Turnbull said. “These are ideas that can help attract families, young and old to our city and make it more of a destination point for people.” The task forces' missions will focus on: ensuring that Ford Field changes into a central park; eyeing a potential river walk, guaranteeing a vibrant future for Northville's farmers' market.

## Australia - New chair of the Sydney Opera House

Sydney's first former Lord Mayor, Lucy Turnbull has been appointed as Chair of the Sydney Opera House was confirmed by New South Wales arts minister Don Harwin and applauded by chief executive Louise Herron. The new chair will bring a strong understanding of the role of the Opera House, “its heritage, its marvel, and its potential”. Ms Turnbull said her gender-breaking appointment amounted to “big steps, no matter what institution is involved”.



## Australia - Virtual reality brings real-life gains



In the Sunshine Coast hinterland, a small hospital is leading a new era in rehabilitation in south-west Queensland by using a suite of gaming and virtual-reality machines to treat patients. The 110-year-old Eden Private Hospital at Cooroy is pioneering integrated robotics rehabilitation in the state's south-west, after installing four state-of-the-art machines a few months ago. Doctors and patients say the comprehensive “robotics rehab” program is having positive results in patients who have not progressed with traditional therapy in years. John Turnbull the Allied Health Manager, said the robotics machines could assist a wide range of patients, including those who had suffered strokes, to those with cerebral palsy, Parkinson's disease and multiple sclerosis. “What this equipment can achieve is huge,” he said. It could even manipulate a patient's hand.

## Scotland – Player of the month

Announced in mid-January that David Turnbull the Motherwell midfielder had won the Premiership Player of the Month title in December 2020. The 21-year-old had scored 3 goals and set up 2 more. His blistering driving force contributed to a turnaround of Celtic's form in November. As a rejuvenated and energetic player, he has proved a very popular figure in the Green and White colours.



## UK - Delaying could cost lives

With Britain enduring the deadly virus outbreak, Professor Clare Turnbull, of the Institute of Cancer Research and an National Health Service (NHS) consultant in clinical cancer genetics, has commented that patients with the disease will suffer as hot-spot hospitals start to scrap cancer treatment to focus their efforts on tackling the winter wave of COVID-19 admissions pouring into wards. In mid-January she warned that delaying cancer treatment to focus on the virus will ‘quite simply’ cost lives, after it emerged the NHS is seeing fewer than half the number of cancer patients it normally would.

## New Zealand - Rest Home farewell

Shirley Turnbull was one of two Board members at Gore's Parata Rest Home who were farewelled with an afternoon tea in January. Between them they had clocked up more than 80 years of service at the Home. Ms Turnbull said she began working at the Rest-home 35 years ago as a caregiver. In 1991, she was asked and decided to apply for the manager's position. “I wasn't really that keen then as it wasn't a field I was familiar with,” Ms Turnbull said. She ended up loving the work and had great admiration for the elderly people she met.





# A SELECTION OF END OF YEAR CELEBRATIONS . . .



Turnbull family in Leicester, England

Fiona Turnbull, Scotland



Stephen Turnbull greetings, God bless

Jeff and Sue Trimble, Wisconsin, USA



Jim Turnbull, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada



Tom Turnbull



Cindy Turnbull Charlottesville, Virginia, USA



Kenneth Turnbull, South-east Queensland, Australia



Brian Turnbull, Quebec, Canada



Ralph Turnbull, Kibblesworth, N.E. England



Wally & Betty Turnbull, North Carolina, USA



John Turnbull, San Diego, USA



Darin Trimble



Paul Turnbull



Lee Turnbull



Willy Ballturn - Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year from Germany



## REFLECTIONS FROM OUR PAST . . .

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

Pairt threi

# BEDRULE NOSTALGIA – SPITAL ON RULE

## The Leadbetters of Spital Tower and Blanerne Preparatory

Picking up from where we left off last time, Thomas Greenshields Leadbetter of Spital Tower was born in Glasgow in 1859 to a family of merchants and metal-workers. His father James, of Stobieside, was a Justice of the Peace for Lanarkshire and a prosperous Glasgow merchant who took on his father's business: Thomas Leadbetter & Co.

James' mother was descended from the Blackwoods of Hall (Hawis) – a line that can be traced back to the 1640s. Among their number was Captain John Blackwood who took part in the defence of Quebec in the same year that Henry Scott, the 'Hero of Quebec', fought on the opposite side for the British. Interestingly, John's mother Mary Patterson was the great-granddaughter of John Patterson of Lochlyock, the first Clydesdale breeder.

The Greenshields held estates at Auchtool, Boghill, and near to Lesmahagow. The Leadbetters had tenanted various farms (Howburn, Edston, Mailingsland and others) in Peeblesshire since at least 1464 when Thomas Leadbetter was granted a lease of 'Whitehaugh under Glentress' by the burgesses of Peebles. This family, according to tradition, were descended from the Ledbeters (later Leadbetters) of Northumberland who travelled north with their feudal superior, Balliol of Barnard Castle, when John Balliol went to claim the Scottish throne.



*Spital Tower is located 1½ km due west of Bedrule*

The early Ledbetters had held land around Durham since the 1200s.

The modern line of Leadbetters made their money as brass founders in Glasgow in the early Victorian period. Thomas' brother John, founded his own merchant company in Glasgow, John Leadbetter & Co., and was able to acquire the estate of Eritchbank in Argyll. Thomas, however, grew up at Stobieside and trained as an architect in London, later exhibiting a couple of times at the Royal Academy. He ran a practice – Leadbetter & Fairley – on George Street, with James Fairley as partner. Thomas, impressively, was also a member of the Royal Company of Archers by the age of 27. In 1890 he married Mary Anne, daughter of Sir John Usher of Norton and Wells. They lived together in Edinburgh and at Stobieside with Thomas' father, having five children: James Greenshields, John Usher, Alan Edmonston, Mary Balmer, and Jean Gillespie. In 1897, upon his father's death, Thomas inherited Stobieside.

Mary was homesick and wished to be closer to her family, so Thomas purchased Spital Tower in about 1903, and set about building a baronial mansion – Towerburn – to his own plans, ex-

ecuted in 1912-14 with sweeping views to Fatlips Castle. Whilst the building was under construction, the family rented Edmonston Castle and Swinton House. Spital was not Thomas' best estate, Stobieside being twice the size and of better quality ground, but Spital's became a gentleman's retreat, with a home farm, small hunting stables and a hill for shoots. Thomas' brother Hugh, a gentleman farmer from the Pitlochry area, later bought 'Knowesouth' for similar reasons.

Thomas also designed the overhaul of Bedrule Church in 1914 for his brother-in-law Sir Robert, and the war memorial there. He was a church elder until his death in 1931, an avid photographer, and a keen heraldist; great-grandson Robert Bailey is continuing a project of his to create an armorial of all the arms ever used within the Rule Valley.

As well as the church, Thomas planned out the new Wells House and many other country estates in southern Scotland – his style being described as "bland and understated" by contemporaries. A plaque to the couple's memory is inside Bedrule Church. Thomas was buried at Dean Cemetery in Edinburgh, where he'd previously designed the Leadbetter, Greenshields and Usher Memorial.

Of the couple's sons, John, known as Jack, went off to naval college, where he died of monkshood poisoning aged just fifteen. All the boys attended Ardvreck Preparatory School in Crieff, while James and Alan went on to Rugby School – James later progressing to Christ Church, Oxford, where he rowed for the university's famous boat club.

James Greenshields (born 1891) received a commission as a 2nd Lieutenant of the 1st Lanarkshire Yeomanry in January 1914, being promoted to Captain in the field while serving in Gallipoli from September to December 1915. Having survived the horrors of the peninsula, he later served with the Machine Gun Squadron Camel Corps in Egypt, Palestine, and Syria until January 1919. For his actions during the First Battle of Amman on March 27, 1918, he was awarded the Military Cross. He is also noted on the University of Edinburgh Roll of Honour. Retiring from the yeomanry in 1927, he later served as a Major in the Second World War.

Third son Alan Edmonston (born 1896 in Biggar) attended the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich. He served as a Captain throughout the Gallipoli campaign with the 17th Brigade Royal Field Artillery (RFA), was mentioned in despatches "for coolness, gallantry and hard work, often under heavy fire... [showing] capabilities far beyond his years...", and stayed on until the last night of the evacuation.

Wounded on the Somme in November 1916 with the RFA, Alan was invalided home for five months and subsequently took a course at the Salisbury Plain Gunnery School. Once more he was mentioned in despatches as being "untiring in his work which has been performed in a most energetic and satisfactory manner. Although very young, he has carried out the arduous staff duties of

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## REFLECTIONS FROM OUR PAST . . .

From Page 6

## BEDRULE NOSTALGIA – SPITAL ON RULE

staff officer to a large group, sometimes consisting of nine and ten batteries, with marked success.”

Alan soldiered on to Belgium in 1917 as Acting Major of ‘L’ Battery, Royal Horse Artillery. During an advance on August 4 across the Yser Canal near Ypres, and while preparing a new forward observation post for his battery, two German planes came overhead and spotted the working party. The men were shelled and killed instantly. A highly thought of young man, he is commemorated on the Ardvreck School, Crieff, Denholm, Rugby School, and Strathaven memorials, and is buried in Canada Farm Cemetery. A window at Bedrule Church, designed by his father, was also installed in Alan’s memory, while his headstone inscription aptly reads: “His Short Race Was Well Run”.

James never married, and left the Spital estate to his sister Mary Balmer, who pruned one-hundred acres of woodland here by hand, and was a keen huntswoman. In time the estate was let to her cousin, Brigadier Clive Usher, who also tenanted Wells and Dykes from the Usher Baronetcy Trust.

Mary was also unmarried and left Spital Tower to her nephew, Alan Bailey – the son of Jean Gillespie Greenshields Leadbetter and Major Robert Anthony Bailey of the Guides Cavalry – all descended from the de Bailleuls, hereditary marshals of Flanders who had fled to England as Protestants in 1600, buying land near Bedford and changing their name to Bayley.

Robert acted as Lieutenant-Colonel in the Guides Cavalry during the change of power in India, as well as overseeing the transition from horses to armoured vehicles. Jean was a Senior Commander of the Woman Auxiliary Corps in India during the war. They married in 1945 and afterwards moved to Rhodesia, where they bought a five hundred-acre farm called Greenlaw, rearing pigs. In May 1950 the couple had their first child, Anthony Alan Bailey, who grew up in Africa and twice visited Spital Tower between the ages of five and twelve.

Alan was educated at Springvale Preparatory and Peterhouse Boys’ School in Zimbabwe. Upon turning eighteen he travelled to Europe to hitchhike with his school friend, Charlie Cunningham, who was descended from the Cunninghams’ of Abbotrule. During this trip he visited Spital Tower and was offered the estate by his aunt – mulling the offer over before accepting. He then attended Rhodes University and later came to Scotland to study at Heriot-Watt University, becoming a chartered quantity surveyor and opening his own practice in Hawick.

Robert Bailey takes up the story: “My father’s uncle Jimmy had sold the mansion as it was too large for the two of them, Mary and Jimmy. It briefly became a school, called Blanerne, and was then converted into flats [Category B-listed since 1971] by Jackie Rae. “During my father’s early time here the main tenants of the estate were Jackie Rogers, who lived at Towerburn cottage (the old head butler’s house), and he ran the hill farm, while George Richardson of Bedrule ran our grass parks and hay meadows.

“In 2018 I tenanted the land off my father, with Watson Pringle keeping his stock with me. My father and mother turned the



*Thomas Leadbetter and family*

walled garden into a campsite that now sees over four thousand people a year come into our valley, spending their money in the local pubs and shops.”

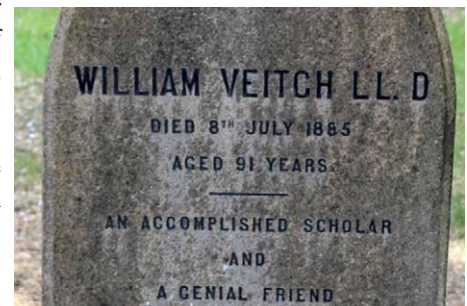
“I hope that I hold on to Spital and pass it down to future generations. I often read your articles as I take a keen interest in our border culture, as all people from this area should, and really liked the old designations for the lairds of Spital Tower – especially ‘the hazel dog of the toor’. Ours would probably something about giants, my father and I being both 6 feet 9 inches tall!”

Blanerne Preparatory School, which had moved from Chirnside, closed in 1966, and its assets were wound-up at a meeting of creditors on February 17, 1967, in the assembly hall. Bill McLaren often organised matches between the Hawick schools and Blanerne.

Ex-pupil Chris Kirk recalls: “I have many great memories of my school years here including the headmasters, A.U. Case and then Mr. Vass; teachers and pupils who lived locally in Hawick, Denholm, and further afield at Kelso; illicit visits over to meet the girls from Craigmount School (*at Minto House*) and cycling down into Denholm.

“I especially recall the hard winter of 1963 when we were in effect snowed in and the older boys were tasked with going over the hill into Denholm to bring back provisions by sledge/toboggan for the school.”

Denholm denizen Enid Cruickshank adds: “I can only say that I’ve still got a few of the blankets that were sold off after the school closed and my mother had bought some of them! I think several were used for the dogs and the better ones as under blankets. She was quite chuffed with her purchase.”



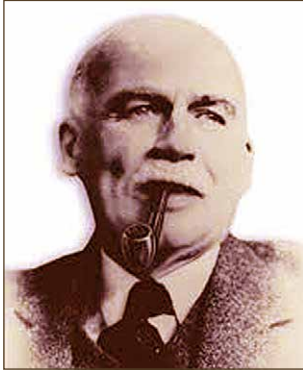
*Grave of William Veitch - Minister (1794-1885) Dean Cemetery*

*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; Hawick & District and the Great War 1914-1918 (2018), Derek Robertson*

*All images courtesy of Robert Bailey, great-grandson of Thomas Leadbetter*

# SCOTTISH INNOVATIONS - THE VARIABLE PITCH PROPELLER

*Extract from Turnbull Clan Association 'Who's Who'*



**Wallace Turnbull**

Wallace Rupert Turnbull, a Canadian from New Brunswick, was an aviation pioneer in engineering and an inventor. He graduated in mechanical engineering from Cornwall University in 1893 and undertook post graduate work in physics at the Universities of Berlin and Heidelberg, Germany.

His involvement in aeronautical engineering research spans over a period of more than four decades and touched on many aspects of flight.

Undoubtedly, his main contribution to the world of aviation was the invention of the variable pitch propeller,

a device that has become a milestone in the evolution of aircraft. A variable-pitch propeller or controllable-pitch propeller (CPP) is a type of propeller with blades that can be rotated around their long axis to change the blade pitch to suit the flying conditions.

In February 1922, he patented the Variable Pitch Propeller and it was considered one of the most important developments in aviation history.

When he was post-humously inducted into the Canadian Aviation Hall of Fame, his citation read: "The patient application of his aeronautical theses to a number of problems unique to flight, and more especially his invention of the successful variable pitch propeller, have been of outstanding benefit to Canadian aviation."

Today, propeller-driven aircraft use propellers with adjustable blade pitch to adapt the propeller to different thrust levels and air speeds so that the propeller blades do not stall, hence degrading the propulsion system's efficiency.



*The propeller display at the National Aviation Museum, Association of Professional Engineers of New Brunswick. New Brunswick Museum, Saint John, N.B. c. 1922*

Turnbull Clan Association  
5216 Tahoe Dr.  
Durham, NC 27713

