

THE BATTLE OF BYLAND — SAVING THE KING!

Military historian Stephen Turnbull became the unofficial Turnbull Clan Association representative at a unique event in England in October. This is his report:
By Stephen Turnbull

As a military historian (*albeit one specialising in Japan*) I have always taken a keen interest in medieval battles, particularly when they involved Turnbulls, so I was thrilled to be invited to attend a unique 700-year commemoration here in my home county of Yorkshire.

Very few people have heard of the Battle of Byland, which was fought by King Robert the Bruce against Edward II of England on 14 October 1322. It happened eight years after Bannockburn and was almost as great a victory, because the Scot-



Battle of Byland, monument at North York Moors National Park

tish army came very close to capturing Edward and all his treasure.

The English army were drawn up on the forbidding heights of the escarpment now known as Sutton Bank, a dramatic cliff-face lying a few miles from Thirsk in North Yorkshire.

In 1322 it defended the road to the coast as Bruce's army approached through Wensleydale. Edward II was resting in the abbey of Rievaulx not far to the east.



Photo by Davy Major

Dr. Stephen Turnbull with Adam Bruce, a direct descendant of King Robert the Bruce

Robert the Bruce realised what an opportunity had come his way. One detachment of his army under Sir James Douglas (*and not a few Turnbulls, I believe*) attacked up the slope against rocks and English arrows in an almost suicidal assault.

Meanwhile other units made a wide circle round and approached the English positions in secret up two wooded gulleys. The English defence collapsed and Edward fled, leaving much of his treasure behind including the Great Seal of England. With the Scots in hot pursuit he just made it to a ship in Bridlington, from where he sailed to safety in London.

In October 2022 a fine stone memorial to the battle (*the first ever to be erected*) was unveiled by Adam Bruce, a direct descendant of King Robert to commemorate the 700th anniversary of his ancestor's triumph. The event was organised by the North York Moors National Park Authority and was a splendid affair. I had the pleasure of meeting Adam, and was delighted to hear that he knew all about the legend of our ancestor saving his ancestor!

Byland was the last victory ever gained by a Scottish army in England, and it was a privilege to be present for its commemoration. I also told Adam about another personal connection with the time of Robert the Bruce. My wife and I were married in All Saints Church in Weston, near Ilkley, which was burned to the ground during a Scottish raid in 1319. We worship there regularly, so I joked with Adam that I should be presenting him with a bill for damages!

START PLANNING FOR THE 2023 CLAN GATHERING IN SCOTLAND

Turnbulls! The time has come to begin planning our next clan gathering in Scotland!

For those of you who have joined us on previous tours . . . what were your favourite sites to see? To those who have not been on a Turnbull tour . . . what would you most like to see?

Dates have not yet been finalised, but we are planning for 2023.

More information will be posted early in 2023.



VIKING WARRIORS FEARED SCOTLAND . . .

Authors Corner

Dr. Stephen Turnbull

Stephen Turnbull is best known for his books about Japanese military history but also enjoys writing about Medieval Europe.

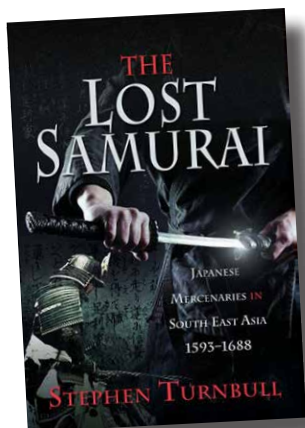
In fact, his next book will be about the invasion of Europe by the Mongol armies of Genghis Khan's successors. So great was the extent of the Mongol Empire that within the space of ten years the fierce horsemen of the steppes fought the armies of the King of Hungary and the samurai of Japan, neither of whom knew that the other existed!

Stephen is also working on a military history of South-east Asia entitled "Elephants and Gunpowder", followed by *(at long last!)* a military history of Late Medieval Scotland (*Turnbulls anyone?*).

For further details visit his website at www.stephenturnbull.com.

The Lost Samurai reveals the greatest untold story of Japan's legendary warrior class, which is that for almost a hundred years, Japanese samurai were employed as mercenaries in the service of the kings of Siam, Cambodia, Burma, Spain and Portugal, as well as by the directors of the Dutch East India Company.

Rated: ★★★★★



Applications Being Accepted for the Turnbull Clan Association Scholarship

We are very excited to announce the Turnbull Clan Scholarship. The Turnbull Clan Association is offering a \$500 scholarship to encourage members and their relatives to help with continuing education and/or learn more about Scottish tradition and heritage.

Applications will be accepted through to 1st April of the calendar year, with the award being announced on 15th May. In addition to receiving a \$500 check, the recipient will also receive an additional letter recognising the honoree. The winner will also be announced in the *Bullseye*.

Donations to the scholarship fund may be made in any amount through the website under special projects. (<https://www.turnbullclan.com/projects>).

A donation of \$500 may be made in memory of or to honour a special person. These scholarships will be named after that person. In addition, these scholarships will be recognised in the Turnbull Clan newsletter, the *Bullseye*, along with the story of the person being honoured. If donating in memory of or in honour of someone, email scholarship@turnbullclan.com with the person's name, something about the person's life, and your name. All donations are tax-deductible in the USA.

Criteria for receiving a scholarship: Supporting membership in Turnbull Clan Association (TCA) or sponsorship as a descendant of a supporting member (*child, grandchild, nephew, niece, etc.*). Education and activities the scholarship considered for a scholarship include continuing education, college or university courses, and technical training. Highland dance lessons, bagpipe lessons, and classes about Scotland are also eligible activities.

All ages are encouraged to apply and will be considered.

To apply for a scholarship, follow the directions at: <https://www.turnbullclan.com/happenings/tca-scholarship>

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.

All e-mail correspondence: editor@turnbullclan.com

Turnbull Clan Association Worldwide - www.turnbullclan.com

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HOW WILL YOU BE CELEBRATING HOGMANAY?



So . . . what New Year's Eve stories or images would you be willing to share with us at the coming end of year's festivities? If so, please contact the editor at: editor@turnbullclan.com



Congratulations to Rick Turnbull in Ontario, Canada, who has again earned the bragging rights as the first to find the little bull.
• Can you find the other hidden 'Bullseye Bull' in this issue?

Editorial . . .

In February, Walter Turnbull was returned as our President and the new committee introduced both Brittany Turnbull and Katherine Turnbull as two new office bearers, joining Sandy Turnbull, Betty Turnbull, Jeff Trimble and Kenneth Turnbull. Our TCA member and reader numbers were now well over 2,500.

We learned of the welcome news that the Scottish Government was confirming community support for two new National Parks yet to be decided. This included the Scottish Borders and Galloway.

On top of all that, the Scottish Borders Council, together with Archaeology Scotland and Historic Environment Scotland, had begun their preliminary dig at the Bedrule Castle site. However, the Covid-19 virus forced some delays with their progress in the site findings. Many local school children also took part in the dig.

Professor Jane Bower and her team were actively campaigning for a Scottish Borders National Park with public meetings, using the 12 Towers story and the cultural heritage areas as the starting point with their work. The Borders area was prominent in their talks.

In April, the President and his wife, together with several TCA members, hosted the Dunedin Highland Games in Florida, USA. In the same month, Bill and Claudia Trimble also hosted the TCA at the New Smyrna Beach Heritage Day in Florida.

In June, a TCA Scholarship Award was announced, offering a \$500 scholarship allocated to a qualifying recipient or recipients each year funding is available. Moreover, the Common Ridings made a comeback this year as well, through the disappointing pandemic cancellations since 2019.

Fiona Turnbull also played an active role this year with her wide knowledge of DNA testing, and gave a public talk on the subject during the festivities. The TCA clan also attended for the first time at the Milwaukee Scottish Festival in Wisconsin, USA.

In July, TCA was again represented at the Grandfather Highland Games in North Carolina, USA and hosted by Katherine Turnbull. It was also reported that many new friends were made.

In August, we had a female member of the clan awarded 2nd placing in the world for the Highland Games Heavy Events competition in New Brunswick, Canada. The Bedrule Heritage Project moved on to Phase 2, despite the several weather disruptions. It was also announced that there would be another dig at the Bedrule Castle site in September. Their report is on P 6-7 in this issue.

In October, the TCA held the annual AGM at the Stone Mountain Highland Games, bringing together many members, both in reuniting with old friends and making new friends. Two recipients of the Scholarship award were presented with their awards. This included the dancer Lilly Trimble, and Vivian Turnbull for her academic studies, while Katherine Turnbull was awarded Clan member of the year.

The Scottish Borders Project continued with their research workshops around Bedrule Castle, while maintaining a positive engagement with the local community.

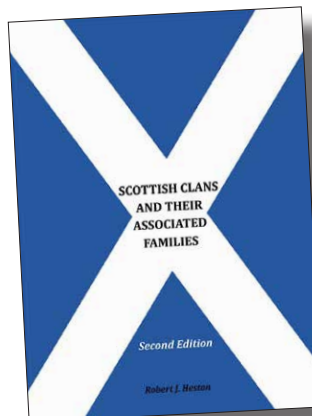
A timely reflection on the 2022 year that has been both very active and rewarding for the Turnbull Clan Association members.

Kenneth Turnbull, Editor



GENEALOGY RESEARCH NEWS

SCOTTISH CLANS AND ASSOCIATED FAMILIES



Available through
Amazon
bit.ly/3OwAT5K

Author Robert Heston has recently released a second edition book entitled '**Scottish Clans and Their Associated Families**', that could well be of interest to TCA readers.

This updated edition contains accurate information about Scottish clans, family associations and societies. It identifies new resource material which will significantly improve the identification of family surnames to a specific Scottish clan, house, and family.

Since the first edition, many organizations, including the Turnbull clan, have delved deeper into their history and updated the names associated with their lands, to include spelling variations, all of which are now incorporated in the second edition.

There are more than 12,000 names with the sources where these names were found. This current source is focused on identifying family surnames associated with Scottish clans, houses, and families. TCA supported the research made by the author.

"My research of publicly available census, church and parish records, finds surnames affiliated with as many as six districts. I hope to have this research completed and on the streets by late Spring of 2023 and titled, '**Scottish District Families**'. Consider this updated version as a companion to first edition.

Please contact me at rheston1947@gmail.com for any additions, corrections, or updates found since this publication."

Robert (Bob) Heston



Virgin Islands – New appointment



Melvin Turnbull on his appointment as Co-chair of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States Regional Conservation Caucus, said “I am proud that I have

been nominated to serve as one of the Co-Chairs of the Conservation Caucus. I embrace this opportunity to deepen and strengthen our relationship with our brothers and sisters of the OECS, who are integral partners in environmental and sustainability matters.

Scotland - Painting auctioned



It was one of the last finished paintings by the celebrated Scottish artist, Joan Eardley before her untimely death, depicting two street children of Glasgow. It went under the hammer with fine art auctioneers Lyon & Turnbull in Edinburgh in early December. Eardley's ‘The Yellow Jumper’ has been described as an outstanding example of the artist's depictions of children. It fetched a six-figure sum at auction.

Australia - Skate Champion



Jake Turnbull has only been skating for two years but has gained skills that are remarkable for his age. He

is one of three Margaret River children who qualified for the Australian skateboarding championships which were held at the end of last September in Mackay, Queensland after excelling at their most recent competition held in Rockingham, Western Australia.



by Kenneth Turnbull - International News Editor

Australia – Unveiling of former Australian PM's bust



The former Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull AC, visited the Ballarat Botanical Gardens in Victoria early November to unveil his bronze cast bust on the famed Prime Ministers Avenue. He became the 29th Australian Prime Minister to have their bronze statue installed on the Avenue. The official unveiling ceremony was held at the Ballarat Botanical Gardens. The Sydney-based sculptor Linda Klarfeld, who was commissioned for the statue also attended. Ms Klarfeld said after making three different versions, advice from her art teacher helped her capture Mr Turnbull's essence. Generally, once a Prime Minister has completed his term of office, a bust is commissioned as a protocol which is followed by the Historical Memorials Collection in Canberra.

USA – Highest recognition RN paramedic Nursing award



Cora Turnbull of Cabool at Texas County Memorial Hospital has been honoured with a DAISY Award during a cinnamon roll breakfast ceremony held for all the DAISY Award nominees in mid-November. As a registered nurse, Turnbull is a (RN) paramedic at TCMH. The DAISY (Diseases Attacking the Immune System) Award is the highest recognition award for an RN and licensed practical nurse (LPN) at the hospital. The DAISY Award is part of the non-profit DAISY Foundation of Glen Ellen, California.

UK – Launch of Equestrian Centre defibrillator

Nicola Wilson a Silver and Gold Medalist Olympian, has welcomed the purchase of a life-saving defibrillator at a North Yorkshire equestrian centre. She visited Richmond Equestrian Centre last Friday to support the launch of the defibrillator, along with Dr Nicola Schaible, from Darlington Memorial Hospital. Abigail Turnbull, from Richmond Equestrian Centre, said she was extremely grateful for their presence at the launch. “Hopefully we will never need to use the defibrillator, but it's something we have been saving up for a while, and it's just nice to know it's there and can be accessed by anyone at or near to the centre,” she added. It is particularly important in rural communities and the ambulance service.



Scotland –The highest honour

A Selkirk man who has supported Selkirk's Catholic Church since he was a six-year-old altar boy, is set to receive the highest honour the church can bestow. Passkeeper, Dougie Turnbull will be given the Papal Medal later this month, also known as the Benemerenti Medal, by Archbishop Leo Cushley. Dougie, who is now 75, opens up the church, ensures it's warm, salts the paths on cold days and makes sure everything is in place for each and every service. He said: “I'm shocked and surprised. I just do the small things. It's just getting on with things that have to be done.”



Canada – Volunteers give a hand



Laura Turnbull reports that ‘Volunteerism’ is alive and well in the South Okanagan and Similkameen. The ongoing Keremeos Creek wildfire has seen countless folks help at local evacuation support sites by assisting residents to register and receive provisions and directing them to other emergency resources. Numerous volunteers have made emergency kits to help the evacuees on a short-term basis. We are always grateful.

USA – Launch of new Studios

Amanda Turnbull has joined forces with two other North Africa film and TV industry veterans to launch MENA-focused company ‘Rise Studios’.



Their aim is to break fresh ground in the region as a provider of premium content across all audiences. “We are excited about partnering with Great Mountain Partners for this venture as a specialist media and entertainment global investor, with immediate access for Rise to an ecosystem of IP producers from across North America and Europe,” commented Turnbull, in the new role as Chief Executive Officer.

EVEN THE FIERCEST OF VIKING WARRIORS AVOIDED SCOTLAND

Written by Jonathon Brown, Independent News, UK. 2009

Icelandic sagas carried a warning for Norsemen

In the early medieval period, a group of seaborne Scandinavian raiders known as the Vikings left their mark on history as brutal warriors, smart traders, and adventurous explorers. The Viking reputation as bloodthirsty conquerors has endured for more than a millennium, but new research shows that some Norsemen approached these islands with more than a little trepidation. Uppermost in the minds of the Icelandic merchants weighing anchor off Scotland in the Middle Ages were the ferocious reception they expected from hostile locals, dangerous landings, the incomprehensible language and the terrible weather (very foggy).

The Vikings' raids were small-scale affairs at first, consisting of a few boatloads of men who would return home once they had collected sufficient plunder or encountered too strong a resistance.

The most likely reason for the early raids, however, was the acquisition of wealth. In the 7th and 8th centuries, Europe was growing wealthier and each of the Scandinavian lands had already established trading networks. Vikings were mainly young men who spent a gap year 'raiding and trading' before returning to their farms in Iceland.

Advice handed down to Norse travellers in the 13th century warns those making the journey to Scotland, that they did so at their own peril.

A new analysis of the classic Icelandic Sagas (*Islendingasaga*) has unearthed the following counsel: "Icelanders who want to practise robbery are advised to go there ... but it may cost them their life."



A depiction of young Icelandic Viking raiders and traders

They had also established powerful colonies in mainland Scotland, England, Ireland, France, North America and Russia.

At this time the Scots were fighting off the Norman kings of England as well as coping with the bitter struggles of their own clans. But as their sphere of military influence grew, the Norse became more interested in trading than fighting.

They were not always met with open arms, according to Gisli Sigurdsson. "The only places the Norse expected a safe reception was Orkney and Shetland, where the people were basically like them and where they would be greeted as kin," he said.

They were particularly nervous in the western sea lochs then known as the "Scottish fjords". The Vikings were also wary of the Gaels of Ireland and west Scotland as well as the inhabitants of the Hebrides.



Coastline at Traigh Mhangurstadh, Lewis, Outer Hebrides, Scotland



An old viking hull in a picturesque coastal fjord

Another tells of a Scot identified as Grjotgard, a kinsman of Melkolf, king of Scotland (Malcolm II). His flotilla of 13 vessels bristling with fierce, angry-looking warriors intercepted a party of arriving Icelandic traders in a western sea loch:

"You have two choices. You can go ashore and we will take all your property, or we'll attack you and kill every man we lay our hands on," the Scot warned them.

The chronicles set down on yellowed calf vellum eight centuries ago have been reinterpreted by Gisli Sigurdsson, a historian at Reykjavik University, who suggests that the ancient Norse were more tentative than other accounts suggest, especially when it came to contact with the Scots.

Though written down in the 13th century, the part-fact, part-fiction accounts based on the travels of the leading Icelandic families pertain to a period 200 years earlier.

At the height of their power the Scandinavian seafarers claimed Orkney, Shetland, Iceland and Greenland.

Part Three - September/October 2022

BHP22 - The Roundup!

ARCHAEOLOGISTS SEARCH FOR DAY OF DESTRUCTION

Archaeologists have been at work in the fields around the Bedrule Castle site and are hoping to reveal some of the historical events of the fateful day when the remote Borders valley was destroyed by an English army, almost 500 years ago. During a single day in 1545, a 15,000-strong force burned and pulled down more than a dozen strongholds in the Rule Valley. Fields of corn and smaller settlements were also destroyed. Now, with a second spell at the rural site coming to an end in mid-October, project manager Phil Richardson is happy with the finds and discoveries that have been made so far. The following is a report sent by Professor Jane Bower, FRSE, Project Manager, 12 Towers of Rule programme

Hello all! First of all, we'd like to say a thank you to all the volunteers, school pupils, teachers, young people, support staff, Natasha Stone Carving and our project partners at The Campaign for the Scottish Borders National Park and Paul and Stuart at the Bedrule Manse B&B and The Richardson family.

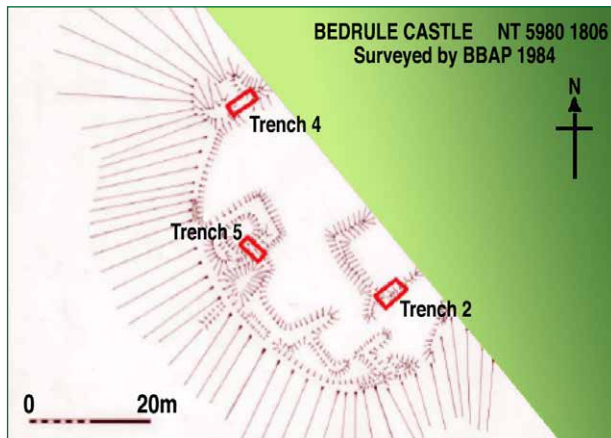
Over the course of the 12-day excavation we worked with around 180 young people from across the Borders, including school pupils from Denholm, Jedburgh, Kelso, Eyemouth and Earlston and young people evaluating their future options with Works +. These young archaeology enthusiasts supported a group of 15 fantastic volunteers to excavate 3 trenches across the site.

The purpose of each was to investigate the nature of stone and turf features

visible on the ground and to further understanding on the preservation, construction, use and destruction of the castle. Questions remain around the possible 'slighting' or partial destruction/dismantling of the site after it was confiscated from the Comyn family by Robert the Bruce in the early 14th century and any rebuilding by the Douglas or Turnbull families before the site was destroyed during the Earl of Hertford's raid of September 1545.

The first of our trenches was 'Trench 2' and was extended by 2 metres to the north-east to catch more of the corner of the large building within the castle's interior that could have been a keep or large stone tower. Within this trench, after removing the top-soil and recording the stone and soil deposits, we began to unpick the rubble from the in-situ archaeology.

A tricky task! What was revealed was that much of the rubble had



Plan showing the position of each 3 of the trenches examined at the castle site. Volunteers underway at the early stage of carefully removing topsoil at the Trench 2 site.



sealed a layer of burnt material which probably relates to the raid by the Earl of Hertford in September 1545 and the final destruction of the castle.

Some pieces of animal bone were found within this trench along with some pieces of clay, with straw inclusions, which could be burnt wattle and daub (*other inclusions*). Some lumps of mortar were also found.

We did not reopen 'Trench 3' from the November 2021 phase of the excavation and instead opened 'Trench 5', a 4 metres by 1 metre trench positioned across what we believed to be the remains the south-west wall of a fairly large tower.

Continued on Page 7



The Trench 2 team working hard to reveal the trench's secrets



Post-excitation photo of Trench 2- showing the inner wall face and the deposit containing burnt material in the foreground

STONE WALLS HAVE REVEALED SOME HIDDEN SECRETS

Continued from Page 6



Excavations at Trench 5, with a beautiful backdrop! (Thanks to Geoff for this great picture!)

Much like 'Trench 2', this trench contained some slightly confusing sequences of tumbled stone and building collapse either side of a stone wall.

This wall was recorded, photographed and drawn meticulously by the 'Trench 5' team and then removed. Once the tumble on the interior was removed it made it clear that the wall we had placed our trench over was 1.8 metres in thickness, a substantial piece of construction.

On the exterior, we excavated deeper to reveal a wall which we believe pre-dates the one we uncovered when the topsoil was removed. This earlier wall seems to be the original late 13th century wall built by the Comyn family with the later one indicating restructuring or a completely new construction by the Douglas family after the First War of Independence.



Post-excavation photo of Trench 5, showing the two walls

'Trench 4' was also extended to make it a size of 4 metres by 2 metres and it was placed at an earthwork that has long been interpreted as a gatehouse... and we did find a layer of rough cobbled covered by a distinct dark-grey gravelly clay which could represent a trampled surface over these cobbles.

Two interesting sherds of modern pottery (pictured) were found amongst other sherds in the SW corner of this trench in a distinct red-brown soil. We will show these to a specialist and hopefully get a more accurate date range for them.

What exactly happened on 16 September in the Rule Valley has now come under the spotlight as the Twelve Towers of Rule campaign continues to reveal the many hidden mysteries.



Distinctive pottery sherds shown here (items of Scottish origin) were found in Trench 4.



Volunteers excavate around an area where a spiral staircase is believed to have been located at the castle

Having already hosted hundreds of pupils from local schools in the Borders and dozens of volunteers from the community, Archaeology Scotland is delighted with the interest being shown.

On the 11th October, we officially concluded the second phase of our Bedrule Castle dig. Hopefully, we can return to Bedrule again next year to find out even more.

Once the archaeology work is completed, plans are being drawn up to create a walking trail along the main sites with interpretation boards in place.

We'd like to say thank you again to everyone who was involved in the project and helped to create a fun and friendly atmosphere.



Archaeologists are uncovering the walls of Bedrule Castle

We'll be in touch with upcoming workshops and events in the Rule Water and the final report on our findings at Bedrule will be sent round when it's all finished.



TOTALLY TURNBULL



Looking for a Hogmanay gift?



Turnbells are a proud and spirited clan with a rich history in the Borders of Scotland. Totally Turnbull is your source for clan gifts and collectibles so you can share your passion for your Turnbull ancestry and Scottish heritage. Our mission is to provide useful, decorative, and gift items that celebrate our proud Turnbull heritage. In an effort to provide more options and make your shopping easier, **totallyturnbull.com** offers a place to find popular Lochcarron Mills tartan products and your favourite Turnbull books, related artwork and posters.

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In addition to finding your special garment or gift, you'll be supporting Turnbull Clan Association. Proceeds from sales help support projects for Turnbull Clan Association, including monument maintenance and the tent hosting fund. It's WIN/WIN!

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Tartan



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