

## TCA MEETING AT GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN

by Katherine Turnbull - TCA Events Organiser

*What is home? Is it the place you grew up or where you live now? Or could it be someplace where you feel a sense of belonging? For many of us who have had the opportunity to return to our ancestral home in Scotland, the deep connection we feel with the land is very moving, as if - even though we may have been born thousands of miles away, generations removed from living there - it felt like coming home.*



Each July, thousands of Scots, those of Scottish descent, and others curious to be a part of the culture, ascend the windy roads to a mountain meadow in western North Carolina to celebrate their heritage.

On Grandfather Mountain, in the heart of the storied Blue Ridge Mountains, is where you will find the Macrae Meadow - the home of the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, which celebrated its 68th renewal in 2024. Year after year, people convene here for a four-day festival of Scottish games, dancing, music, heritage, food, and of course - whisky! A record 108 clans and societies were present at this year's games.

Circled around the meadow, the clan tents - bright and colourful - are full of history, information, and clan conveners ready to share their family origins, answer questions from visitors, stamp childrens' passports, and catch up with friends - even sharing more than a few wee drams! They are a place for families and friends to gather, and for some a chance to find their place - their home - as I did nearly a decade ago.

I started this article describing home as a place, but home can also be found in the people that you are blessed to be surrounded by and share experiences with - the family we've formed through a mutual interest in our Scottish heritage - many of us having travelled to Scotland and beyond together. For me, home was being able to spend four days on a mountaintop immersed in Scottish history (*and men in kilts!*) and managing to share that with more than two dozen Turnbulls and Trimbles I consider family.

This year, we welcomed the most visitors we have ever had in my four years hosting the TCA tent at Grandfather Mountain, but what really made it special was the turnout and support from the TCA members. For the first time since 2019, the entire TCA board of di-

rectors (minus Australian, Kenneth Turnbull) were in one place. Like a family reunion of distant cousins from all over the United States, we enjoyed the time to reconnect with each other and share stories.

We also checked off all the boxes for a clan convener, as Turnbulls and Trimbles participated in Thursday night's Calling of the Clans ceremony where President Walter Turnbull held the torch for the lighting of the saltire, Friday evening's Patrons' Dinner, Sunday's

kirkin of the tartan and the clan parade, as well as having a participant in the youth highland games! Wyatt Trimble, of Alabama, took home medals in the stone throw (1st), sheaf toss (2nd) and caber toss (3rd). Congratulations, Wyatt!

The 2024 Turnbull Clan Association Annual General Meeting was held Saturday 13th July, at the Valle Crucis Conference Center's Johnson Hall in Banner Elk. What at first glance appeared to be a short drive from the games turned into a wild ride down narrow, twisting country roads to what seemed like the middle of nowhere.

The Johnson Hall, however, turned out to be a lovely, private setting for our dinner and meeting with an idyllic country vista and perfect weather. Guests were greeted on the patio for photo ops with a large backdrop depicting Fatlips Castle and the view of the Rule Valley, before moving inside for a buffet dinner followed by the annual meeting.

President Walter Turnbull, clad in his Turnbull ancient hunting tartan kilt and smart Prince Charlie jacket, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the gathering. Former president and honorary clan chief, Wally Turnbull - ever so dapper in his Turnbull modern hunting regalia, then gave the blessing and a reading of the Flowers of the Forest - reading the names of those who have passed in the last year, and giving a pause of remembrance.

Betty Turnbull announced this year's winner of the Turnbull Clan Scholarship; Liam Alexander Turnbull, who will be completing a Master's degree in International Law at the University of London - UCL. Congratulations Liam!

Sandy Turnbull updated the treasury report, and Jeff Trimble discussed the Turnbull Clan whisky project - pre-sale bottles are still available.

*More AGM continued on Page 6*





## Flowers of the Forest

Remembering

Mark Alexander Turnbull

2nd May 1951 ~ 28th April 2024 Aged 72

Mark left this world for his final adventure on Sunday, 28th April 2024, aged 72 years following complications from COPD. He is predeceased by his mother, Joyce Irene (Stott) Chloros, his father Robert Gordon Turnbull, and his sister Lisa Marie Bean.

Mark is lovingly remembered by his sisters Deborah (Chloros) Dubois of Des Moines, IA and Angela "Angie" Chloros of Manchester, N.H. as well as his many nieces and nephews, cousins, other family members and friends.

Leading a varied and colourful life, he once described himself as someone who had "... been a lumberjack, panned for gold, rode horses, climbed all over the Bavarian Alps, swum in the Mediterranean, toured Crete, checked out Springtime in Paris, and was a long-haired hippie in the late 1960s."

Mark was a U.S. Army veteran, serving on active duty from 1980 and 1984, and in the N.H. Army National Guard. He was also a member of American Legion Post 79 in Manchester, N.H.

In retirement, Mark devoted much of his time exploring and celebrating his Scottish heritage. He was a proud member of the Scottish American Military Association Post 1812, the St. Andrew's Society of N.H. and the Turnbull Clan Association. He was a founding member of TCA USA and active volunteer in a variety of roles, including lead archivist and regional trustee. He loved representing his clan at the New Hampshire Highland Games and at other Gatherings of the Clans during Scottish heritage events across New England, especially as the long-time co-host of the Clan Turnbull tent. Mark will be remembered as a kind, generous, and loving brother, uncle, cousin, and friend to all who knew him.



### 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.

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**Turnbull Clan Association Worldwide** - www.turnbullclan.com  
Officers: President - Walter Turnbull • Vice-Presidents - Jeff Trimble, Betty Turnbull, Katherine Turnbull, Kenneth Turnbull • Treasurer - Sandy Turnbull • Secretary - Brittany Turnbull •  
Webmaster & Genealogy - Andy Turnbull  
Founders: John F. Turnbull, Scotland • Dorothy Berk, USA



## Flowers of the Forest

Remembering

Albert James Turnbull

18th May 1936 ~ 20th July 2024 Aged 88

Albert passed away peacefully at their home surrounded by his loving family on 20th July 2024, aged 88 years. Albert, beloved husband to Rita, devoted dad to Hayley and Ian, treasured grandad to Rachel, Alex, Emily and Lucy, special great grandad to Elena and much-loved brother to the late Judith. Albert was also a friend of many.



The retired lecturer at Gateshead College, Whickham and engineer became interested in tracing his family history in 1972. But it took 20 years of detective work for Albert to discover he was related to royalty. He commented, "I managed to go back even further to King Cerdic in 500AD using the Anglo Saxon Chronicles". The English Heritage found the retired engineer Albert Turnbull, was in fact a strong claim.

He joined the Turnbull Clan Association and made himself available to the members for help in establishing their personal heritage and soon became a much sought after and well-known figure for his assistance with the members. He also became an invaluable resource for the DNA Turnbull Project for clan members. It identifies the genetic information inside the cells of the body that helps make people who they are.

Albert produced three publications, including 'Grandad's Story', which is more or less an autobiography, relating to his war years, apprenticeships and sport.



When Albert joined a local history group, he had no idea he would find a photo of one of the most memorable days of his childhood.

He raced a tram as a 10-year-old to keep up with his younger friend, who he put on the tram after struggling during their trip to Saltwell Park. His kindness that day, won young Albert a sixpence from cheering passengers on the Gateshead tram.

### Sharing and Caring

With the passing Albert James Turnbull and Mark Alexander Turnbull, their families appreciate your thoughts and prayers.



We congratulate the winner who found the 'Little Bull'. Bragging rights go to Luis Copa (aged 4) of North Carolina, USA. Can you find the other hidden 'Bullseye Bull' in this issue?





## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK . . .



### A SELECTED QUOTE FROM 'SCOTSPEAK'

*The Scottish Banner, August 2024*

**"We're beginning to think about taking the Edinburgh Tattoo abroad which allows us to do things a little differently and open up creative options.**

**Could we do a bit of a tour and tap into new audiences? For example, we could we go to North America and bring that Scottishness and the Tattoo and its connection to another market? I think that would be a measure of our success and effectiveness."**

*The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo's Chief Executive Jason Barrett said the brand will tread a fine line between modernity, authenticity, and heritage as it looks to its future and ensures it reaches new and broader audiences and the potential for further international touring.*

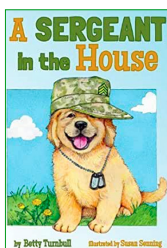
## Give a gift of Children's stories

by Betty Turnbull

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 the lessons learned.

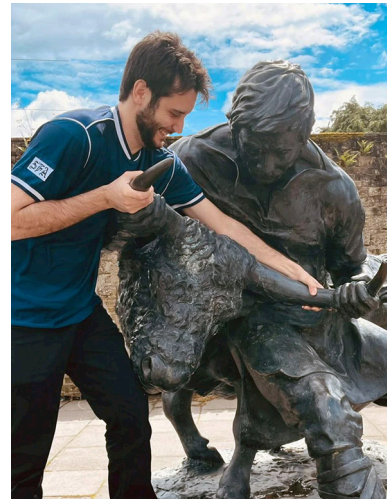
Available: [TotallyTurnbull.com](http://TotallyTurnbull.com) and [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com)



Rated: ★★★★★



## 2024 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



*The Turnbull Clan Association offers a \$500 scholarship to encourage members and their relatives to help with continuing education and/or learn more about Scottish tradition and heritage.*

This year we are pleased to announce that the recipient of the scholarship is Liam Alexander Turnbull.

Liam is a post-graduate student at the University of London - UCL. He is completing a Master's degree in International

Law. Liam is extremely passionate about advancing self-determination rights, which was in large part the focus of his Thesis.

He seeks to use the law to advocate for the fulfillment of self-determination rights for all nations and peoples - including in Alba/Scotland. Liam says, "The strength of the Turnbull heritage, as evidenced by the Association and the pride of all of its members, is a great source of inspiration for me and I will work extremely hard to represent the Turnbull Clan as best I can in my legal career and beyond."

Liam recently took his first trip to Scotland and enjoyed visiting his ancestral homeland. He made sure to stop by the Turning of the Bull monument in Hawick and climb to Fatlips Castle. We wish Liam all the best in his studies.

### CONGRATULATIONS!

**The next scholarship will be awarded at the 2025 AGM**

*It is not too early to submit your application. Please visit:*

*<https://www.turnbullclan.com/index.php/happenings/tca-scholarship> for details and how to apply.*





## Help Us GROW!

While membership dues are voluntary, we do need money to function and to fund activities that promote our clan heritage and family unity. These activities include the website, newsletter, our genealogical records, tent hosting at Scottish events, clan arms and heritage projects. We need your support to help fund the programs of Turnbull Clan Association.

Please consider making a donation.  
[WWW.TURNBULLCLAN.COM](http://WWW.TURNBULLCLAN.COM)



## Turnbull Clan Association Worldwide

### News from around the world

by Kenneth Turnbull - International News Editor

**New Zealand – Protein in your diet**  
Mission Nutrition director Claire Turnbull said in an interview on '1News', a small bowl of cottage cheese can provide around 20 grams of protein. That is more than egg at 6 grams so it's quite a lot.

But a high protein breakfast can be quite beneficial. Foods, along with the likes of meat and fish, which can help provide protein through the day such as corn, oats, nuts and seeds, and pulses. Protein diet, along with resistance training, can be beneficial.

#### USA – Support Technician award

Congratulations go to Adelia Turnbull, as a stand-out student in the Information Systems Technology program, for her remarkable achievement in earning the Cisco Certified Support Technician (CCST) Cybersecurity certification. Adelia's dedication and hard work exemplify the high standards we uphold at Mountain Gateway.



#### Canada - Professor leading voice



Professor Laurie Turnbull is a leading voice in the supply chain industry, and much sought

after to present his expertise at industry events for over a decade. Turnbull obtained his professional CITT designation in 1988 and was the recipient of the CITT Award of Excellence in 2014. He has been a full-time professor at Conestoga since 2017, teaching various courses in supply chain management. He contributes to industry organizations, and the ability to provide students with career education.



Photo: 1News

#### Scotland - Showcase 'Battle of the Butchers' competition

Two Alnwick butchers, Dan Turnbull and Alex Daley from Turnbull's Northumbrian Food Hall, competed at The Great Yorkshire Show against eight other teams in a competition hosted by Dalziel Ltd. Teams of two raced against the clock to cut and prepare as much as they could from a range of fresh meat in just two hours and 45 minutes before presenting to a panel of expert judges. The team was given different cuts, a pantry of ingredients and a workspace, and were judged on ten requirements to complete their skills. The pair came away with four awards from the heat, which included: best beef product, best burger, best sausage and best pork product.



#### USA –Stargazer donates telescope for the local College



John Turnbull a Monmouth resident, has donated an 11-inch telescope to Monmouth College in Illinois. The donated eleven inch model is what Turnbull called a 'go-to' telescope. "You type in a number or a constellation, and it will turn and go to it and get it in the field," said Turnbull, who is director of Monmouth's Turnbull Funeral Home. "That will be very helpful for students." Turnbull has been hooked on astronomy ever since his mother, Ruth Turnbull, got him started in his youth. "It's free, it's live, and you don't need electricity," said Turnbull. "You get an appreciation for how small we are to everything that's out there."

#### Scotland – Historic Photographic records of Scottish Life

Some eighty-five photography lots focusing on the 19th and 20th century Scottish life collected by Dr Murray Mackinnon went under the hammer at Lyon & Turnbull. In 2018, the National Library and National Galleries of Scotland acquired The Mackinnon Collection, one of its most important photographic acquisitions with a varied subject matter and across all classes, including family portraits, farming, industry and landscapes from the 1840s to the 1940s among its 14,000 images. Mackinnon's legacy remains as one of the country's most significant collectors of photography.



#### UK - World's most expensive whisky auctioned at record price



been recognised as the most sought-after Scotch whisky, as illustrated by the previous top sum of £1.5m achieved by Sotheby's in 2019, which set the previous auction record for any bottle of wine or spirit. After being aged in sherry casks for six decades, just 40 bottles of The Macallan 1926 were bottled in 1986, representing the oldest Macallan vintage ever produced. It is believed out of the remaining 11 that remain 1 was broken 1 bottle was drunk. The one recently sold was bottle no.5.

An extremely rare bottle #12/12 of 1926 Macallan whisky went for £2.7million, claiming the record for the world's most expensive whisky. The record has been broken after it sold at a Sotheby's auction last November in London. The Macallan 1926 has always



#### Scotland - Olympic Silver on debut

Morpeth track cyclist Hamish Turnbull won silver on his Olympic debut alongside fellow debutante Ed Lowe and returning medalist Jack Carlin. Turnbull admitted: "To be honest, we came here expecting to fight for third. As soon as we got into that gold final, all the stress was off. We tried to express what we could do and enjoy it." The three cyclists raised expectations by posting the second-quickest time in qualifying and backed that up with a superb first-round ride to overhaul Germany and earned the right to meet the Netherlands in the Olympic Gold Medal final.



Photo: BBC Sport

#### South Africa - New CEO appointed

With his high success in the company operations, Paul Turnbull has been appointed to the Hyundai Automotive in South Africa as its new CEO, to push the percentage of market share. Now 51, Turnbull was born and raised in Johannesburg and started his career as a sales coordinator in the automotive industry at 22 and became the company's youngest dealer principal in 1997 at the age of 25. A key focus for Turnbull is to reset expectations and "... to ensure that the right people are in the right places".





# OUT & ABOUT AT GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN GATHERING



*An evening display of the tent with the added backlit 'Bull' mascot*





## CLAN MEMBER OF THE YEAR



*President Walter Turnbull presented the 2024 Clan Member of the Year Award to Richard Dalton at the AGM dinner. We are grateful to have Richard as part of our TCA family for all of the work he does. Congratulations, Richard!*

## TURNBULL CLAN REPRESENTED AT GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN GAMES

*Continued from Page 1*

Katherine Turnbull, gave an update on clan tent hosting at highland games and celtic festivals - we are always looking for new volunteers to take this on - it is a great way to connect with your family, heritage and make new friends.

Katherine is also an administrator for the Turnbull-Trimble DNA Project, announced that there are now 319 members in the project! FTDNA is working to move family trees to a new host - MyHeritage, and as always, those in the project are encouraged to fill out as much of their family tree as they can. If you need assistance with building your trees, please reach out to administrators Fiona, Katherine or Alan.

Walter Turnbull then took a few moments to recognise one of our own members - highlighting his accomplishments and thanking him for his dedication and support of the Turnbull Clan Association - awarding the 2024 Turnbull Clan Association Member of the Year Award to Richard Dalton!

Richard, of Reno, Nevada, hosted his first Turnbull tent in 2021, and continues to be an active member of TCA, the Nevada Society of Scottish Clans, Sons of the American Revolution, various genealogical societies, and many others. Congratulations, Richard! Also, if there ever was a best dressed award given at these functions - Richard would have taken that home as well!

**This is also an election year!** Some of our board members are seeking re-election to their positions, but we are always seeking new volunteers from our members. If you are interested in learning more, please reach out. Voting will take place later this fall.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the fact that hosting the TCA tent at Grandfather Mountain is not a one-person show, and I can no longer do it alone, especially on the scale at which I set the bar. Months of preparations and planning go into making this happen - for this event and others I attend through the year - and none of it would be possible without the dedication, creativity, humour and support I receive from my two best friends: Mandy Abel and Amanda George.

Neither have any affiliation with the Turnbells other than having been long-time friends, but after I became involved, they both expressed interest in attending the events, and now they both play an integral part in my ability to continue hosting TCA tents. Mandy joined me at Grandfather for the first time in 2022, and Amanda in 2023, and both also attend the Virginia Scottish Games in September.

With each games, the displays change or are modified, things are added (*did everyone see that stunning floral chandelier Amanda crafted just days before the event?!*) and they've heard me tell the Turning of the Bull story so many times they can recite it themselves - all while handing out highland coo stickers and stamping children's' clan passport books. They made quite the impression on all of the TCA members who attended Grandfather Mountain this year, and I think it's safe to say they are now honorary Turnbells! Thank you, ladies!

A highlight to close out the weekend, Stephen Quillin - President of the Grandfather Mountain Games - presented Turnbull Clan Association with a Clan Appreciation award (*shown Page 7*). The wooden plaque, etched with the Turnbull crest, was received by Amanda George and Mandy Abel on behalf of tent host, Katherine Turnbull and Turnbull Clan.

*If you were unable to attend the Grandfather Mountain games this year, I hope you will consider joining us in 2025!*

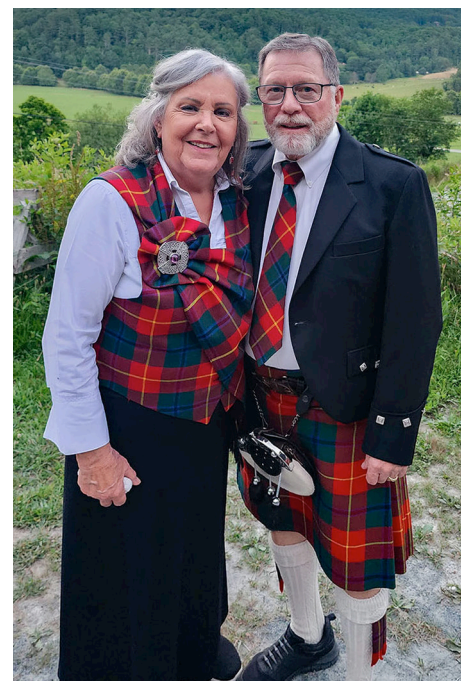


*This year Wyatt Trimble (son of Darin and Jill Trimble) completed in the games for his age group at the Clan Intermediate Level. He placed overall 2nd but, did win first in stone throw, 2nd in sheaf toss and 3rd in caber toss.*





## MEETINGS AND MEMORIES OF THE FOUR DAY GATHERING







# IT'S TIME TO VOTE - THE 2025 NOMINEES



This is an election year for TCA. The candidates and offices are below. Any TCA member in good standing is permitted to vote. Good standing includes lifetime members and those members who have paid dues for 2024. If you would like to vote, but have not paid dues, please visit [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. Voting will only be done by email.

If you are a lifetime member or contributing member and would like to nominate yourself or someone else, please submit your nomination by 15th September, at which time nominations will be closed. Email [communications@turnbullclan.com](mailto:communications@turnbullclan.com)

## ***VOTING will commence in the October edition.***

You may send an e-mail in October to [communications@turnbullclan.com](mailto:communications@turnbullclan.com) with your vote. State the name and office of the person you are voting for. You may write in a candidate if desired. Voting ends 15 Dec. Officers will be announced in the February 2025 Bullseye.



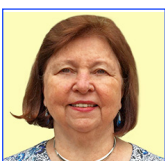
**President: Jeff Trimble** is a Quality and Technical Director, providing casings for the meat deli industry. He's married to his wife Sue for 32 years and has a daughter and a son. He's a tent host for the Milwaukee Games, Wisconsin games and will host the Chicago Scots games in 2024. He enjoys genealogy, fishing, hunting and wildlife conservation. In addition to fulfilling the role duties of president, he would like more Turnbolls involved in the Association and in Highland Games and clan events world wide.

**Vice President: Walter Turnbull** is seeking a position as Vice President. He is a civil engineer residing in Brandon, Florida with his wife Brittany. He is a veteran, having served in the US Navy. Walter's hobbies and interests include boating, cooking, college football and travelling. Serving two terms as TCA president has reinforced Walter's passion about his Scottish and Turnbull heritage and he is hoping to continue sharing his passion with others as Vice President. One of his greatest pleasures has been to meet Turnbull "cousins" from all over. His desire is to promote a greater community of Turnbolls through local, regional, and worldwide events.



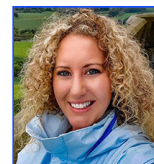
**Treasurer: Sandy Turnbull** currently holds this position and is seeking re-election. Sandy resides in Auburn, Alabama USA and has been supportive and active in Turnbull Clan activities for many years. As treasurer, in addition to the day to day accounting, he oversees the filing of necessary legal documents to maintain TCA's 501-c-3 status. He says, "My Turnbull heritage and extended worldwide family are very much an important part of my life. I consider serving TCA in this capacity and honor and pleasure."

**Secretary: Jill Trimble** is a family woman and an experienced Elementary Teacher. She grew up in a small town in Indiana, and is currently living in Huntsville, Alabama. Jill and her husband Darian Trimble, have been married for 26 years and have three sons, Houston, Wyatt and Luke. The boys keep them very busy with all their sporting interests, including football, tennis and hockey. They also love to travel together. The family began visiting the Scottish games in 2005 where they also started a search for their Scottish heritage. They began tent hosting with TCA in 2022 at Stone Mountain in Georgia and plan to host more TCA tents in the Tennessee and Alabama area. They enjoy meeting new Turnbolls at these festivals and learning about their heritage.



**VP Communication: Betty Turnbull** currently holds this position and is seeking re-election. Betty has been involved in TCA for close to 20 years. In 2005, she became editor of the Turnbull Clan newsletter, *The Bullseye*, and held that position for fourteen years until Kenneth Turnbull took over. She remains a contributing editor. Betty also organised the first TCA official trip to Scotland in 2007. Since that time, she has organised several additional trips. Betty is author of Scottish themed children's books that emphasize the importance of heritage and family values, including *The Man Who Saved the King*, the story of 'How Turnbolls got their Name'. When she is not writing, Betty enjoys gardening, travelling, and being Gramma. Betty resides in Durham, North Carolina, USA, with her husband, Wally.

**VP of Events: Katherine Turnbull** is a security specialist involved in government defense contracting and a professional horse racing photographer. She is a co-administrator of the Turnbull-Trimble DNA project and has a keen interest in researching her Scottish heritage and genealogy. She began hosting clan tents for TCA in 2021, and hosted the TCA Scotland tour in 2023. In her spare time, she enjoys travel, collecting books, creating art, and spending time with her animals. A lifelong equestrian with ties to both sport and racing industries, she resides on her farm - Rulewater, near Martinsburg, West Virginia, USA, where she raises thoroughbred horses, Australian cattle dogs, and Nigerian dwarf goats.



**VP International News and Editor: Kenneth Turnbull** resides in south-east Queensland, Australia with his wife Patricia. As a former printer and now a semi-retired school Teacher, he currently holds the position as editor for the bi-monthly *Bullseye* newsletter and is seeking re-election. Kenneth is also the co-author with Norman Turnbull for the *Borders Tales and Trails* publication. The book relates to the history of Borders battles and key historic Scottish figures. It also describes places of interest to visit, with an emphasis centred on Clan Turnbull sites around the borders.





# STIRLING CASTLE – HISTORICAL SCOTS STRONGHOLD

By Kenneth Turnbull

*There were essentially two categories of castle introduced into Scotland during the course of the twelfth century: Royal castles and castles built by tenants of the crown, including barons and knights, holding their land in return for military service.*

By 1200 there were castles as far apart as Berwick-upon-Tweed, hard by the English Border, Ayr in the west and Dunskeath in the north. They were primarily the fortified residences of the monarchy, though the royal family never dwelt in them permanently but travelled around the kingdom, overseeing the nation's affairs, consuming their rents which were normally paid in kind, or simply pursuing their leisure interests.

Stirling Castle is 914 years old, although after the Battle of Bannockburn, the original castle was destroyed on the orders of King Robert the Bruce. This was so that the English could no longer use it against him. It had witnessed both the battles of Stirling Bridge and of Bannockburn.

The oldest part of the present castle was not built until 1381, long after William Wallace and King Robert the Bruce had died. The task of rebuilding the castle began under King David II, when the Wars of Independence between the English had ended in 1356.

Built on a large rocky outcrop of a quartz-dolerite intrusion, known as Castle Hill, it was one of the most important strategic and significant locations in the Scottish kingdom. It is thought that this rock on which Stirling Castle stands, could have been inhabited for around 3000 years, but the first Royal castle dates from 1110.

Through the Middle Ages and the period of the Renaissance, it was regarded as the most important Royal castle. It entertained the royal court of Stewart Scotland at the peak of its history. Several Scottish Kings and Queens were crowned at Stirling, including the infant Mary Queen of Scots. It was also the birthplace of James III and the childhood days of James V.



Over time, the castle suffered eight sieges, the last one being in 1746, when English King, Bonnie Prince Charlie was unsuccessful in his attempts to recapture it. Today, it is recognised as one of the finest architectural examples of the Renaissance period.

After the siege of Berwick in 1296, King Edward I (Hammer of the Scots) ordered many strongholds and castles to be built throughout



*Stirling Castle as it proudly stands today on the intrusive crag*

Scotland, so as to have complete domination over all Scots. It seemed incredible to the people of Scotland that for so long they had resisted all invaders. But this invasion was short lived as King Robert the Bruce inflicted a most humiliating defeat on Edward II and the English army at Bannockburn in June of 1314.

It could also be said that indeed many of the Turnbull ancestors fought alongside William Wallace, although the name at the time would have been “Rule or Roule”.

Stirling Castle had become a vital stronghold held by the English, because it was the gateway through to the Highlands. In 1314, King Robert the Bruce's brother, Edward Bruce, laid siege to the castle and made an agreement that if the castle was not relieved with fresh troops by mid-summer, then it would be surrendered back to the Scots. The English had agreed and began to organise themselves for a major campaign.

Following Scottish resistance to Edward I's overlordship from 1297, the English King orchestrated several long campaigns to cement his control of Scotland. The most successful of these campaigns was from 1303-1304, during which Edward used two English armies to sweep through Scotland, reaching as far north as Moray and seizing Scottish strongholds as he went.

Stirling was one of the most defensible castles in Scotland and it would require more than bows and arrows alone for it to fall. Materials for siege engines were shipped from Newcastle and Edward ordered the churches in Scotland to strip their roofs of lead and send it to Stirling.

The English made use of trebuchets (siege engines) and to the Scots, it was ‘game over’ when a monstrous weapon called the War Wolf arrived on the scene. It was capable of flinging a pot of “Greek fire” and huge projectiles at Stirling Castle. Against all odds, Stirling Castle held out against Edward's siege. For three months, Edward watched on as the catapults flung boulders and fire at the castle walls. He was determined to see it fall.

It is difficult to imagine what Stirling Castle must have looked like in 1304 following Robert the Bruce's victory at the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314. The castle was destroyed to prevent it from falling into English hands again as a key strategic location.

It was not just Scottish military forces that he wanted to crush, it was the idea of an independent Scottish kingdom, an idea of which he had become the destroyer. In this atmosphere of total defeat that a young Robert the Bruce launched his campaign to become King of Scots.



# SCOTTISH INVENTIONS: ANAESTHESIA-JAMES YOUNG SIMPSON

Researched and compiled by Kenneth Turnbull



Professor James Young Simpson

*Scottish entrepreneurs, geniuses and eccentric inventors and their ability to think outside the square, have helped to change our everyday lives throughout the world for the better. Here is another example of Scottish ingenuity with imaginative foresight that has ultimately influenced the developing world.*

James Young Simpson, born in 1811, was the son of a baker from Bathgate, West Lothian. As a young medical student, he trained and practised as a physician, witnessing the trauma and shock many victims experienced with amputations. The butchery practise of limb amputation while patients were fully conscious almost became too much for the young physician.

After graduating, he practised Midwifery, advancing quickly and at the age of 29, he was made Professor of Midwifery at Edinburgh.

Prompted by his experiences of surgery, the Professor decided to come up with a drug that could block (\*anaesthetise) a patient's pain. Early experiments with the drug *ether*, were rejected. He then came across a new substance known as *chloroform* being used in factories as a solvent. He found that it also had the side effect to make the factory workers drowsy if they were to mistakenly sniff it.



So, before trying it out on a patient, the Professor experimented with it on himself. He and two assistants sniffed a bottle of chloroform and became unconscious. To the relief of others present, this didn't last long. A few days later he delivered a doctor's daughter using this drug, becoming the first to use it in medical practise.

Word of the benefits spread quickly. Queen Victoria gave birth to her eighth child under chloroform anaesthetic. The use of this drug was found to vastly outweigh the risks in subsequent operations. He was awarded with a baronetcy by Queen Victoria and an honorary degree by Oxford University.

*\* Anaesthesia is a state of controlled, temporary loss of sensation or awareness that enables the painless performance of medical procedures.*



Anesthetic machine for monitoring continuous physiological parameters

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