

Clan  
Turnbull



Ebenezer

Vol.1 No.2

Newsletter

September 2010 Issue

*Dedicated to recording and preserving the history of the Turnbull families from Ebenezer, a peacefully beautiful riverside spot on the Hawkesbury River in New South Wales.*

Hi folks! Thank you for the wonderful and overwhelming comments about our first Newsletter. They were much appreciated and encouraging – with your help we can continue.....so please keep the pictures and the information rolling in. Our first attempt may have been bit amateurish but I promise we will get better with practice - thank you.

The many notes I'm receiving are leaving me completely "gobsmacked". The distance so many members of this family have travelled in 208 years is amazing. Other astounding information coming across the wires is the huge interest in us as "Coromandel" Turnbolls, by other Turnbull families across Australia. I do know, from research done years ago, there were about 50 different Turnbull families in Australia at that time. Turnbolls have come here from the Glasgow area and the Scottish Highlands. While some had English backgrounds, others came from close by in New Zealand or as far away as the USA. But one Turnbull who came across the wire to me a few days ago came from South Africa.

More in the next Newsletter about our latest Turnbull..... our "Coromandel" family definitely originated in the Scottish Lowlands. But whoever you are and wherever you're from, you're welcome.

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I've been corresponding with Judy from South West Rocks for some time. Judy's husband, Tony Hayman, is incapacitated and this prevents the family visiting when reunions are

held at Ebenezer, but I have tried to keep her updated. A couple of weeks ago, Judy wrote enclosing a picture of her parents. The picture was of Clive Stuart Turnbull & Beryl Ross on their wedding day in Brisbane. Clive was born at Home Hill, near Bowen in Queensland, and became Staff-Sergeant in the Army based at the Exhibition Hall in Brisbane. Beryl enlisted in Nambour, Queensland, and was also stationed in Brisbane where she met Clive and they married in 1942. Neither Clive nor Beryl served overseas.



Clive Stuart Turnbull and Beryl Ross  
on their wedding day 9<sup>th</sup> December, 1942.

Beryl's father, Harry Ross, and a couple of brothers, were in the 2nd Mounted Rifles in the Boer War and also in WW1. Harry was born in Inverell, NSW, and enlisted from Chinchilla, Queensland, on 8/2/1916. Like George Davis Turnbull, he was wounded

overseas, (in Raffa, Egypt in January, 1917) and discharged medically unfit in October, 1917. He was sent home but his health was never good after he was discharged. He died in 1944. The heritage of Beryl's mum is very interesting as she descends from another "renowned" Ebenezer family. Beryl is a descendant of the Ebenezer convict connection of Charlie Cross and Rose Flood, It's amazing how these two young people, so far away from their place of origin in NSW, met, fell in love and married. I guess similar coincidences to this have happened all around our country.

I want to remind family members who may intend visiting the Hawkesbury in future that Ebenezer Cemetery has many of our ancestors buried there, but many more were buried in St. Matthews Church of England Cemetery in Windsor and in Wilberforce Cemetery off Old Sackville Road at Wilberforce. In recent years it has been fenced in by the Hawkesbury Council and is well looked after. Unlike the very old St Thomas' Cemetery in Sackville Reach, which is so neglected that it's a disgrace, though Hawkesbury Council said they would look after it. The list of those buried in St Thomas' can be found on a visit to the Council Library in Windsor.

Around 1980, someone cleaning up old St Thomas' Cemetery destroyed about 70% of the headstones with a drag line used to rid the area of blackberry bush. About ten aboriginal graves were destroyed in the process - it's awhile since I've been there but, on my last visit, only one aboriginal headstone stood.

My grandmother, Florence Letitia Turnbull, was buried there in 1965 and her headstone was one of those destroyed in the clean up – the only acknowledgement that Nana Turnbull and her unmarried brother and sister were buried there is a memorial on a large flat stone on the rise quite some distance from where they were actually buried. The Tuckerman vault and a few headstones on the top of the rise still remain.

It's a disgrace this has been allowed to happen to a cemetery which is so important to Hawkesbury's Heritage.

The wonderful old sandstone Church of

England, St Thomas' at Sackville Reach, was also sold in odd circumstances though it was left in perpetuity (forever) to the descendants of Stephen Tuckerman. Many Tuckerman descendants are still alive and living in the area today, including my family of Turnbells. I hope the magnificently descriptive windows dedicated to members of past congregations still exist as no one is able to visit to confirm if they are all OK.

The picturesque sandstone Wesleyan Chapel and its Cemetery on the opposite side of the river at Sackville North have long gone. That land is now in private hands, the little church long since gutted of its interior, and we have no idea what is happening to its cemetery. No one is able to go in although many members of the pioneer families were buried there, including more Turnbells. When will the 'powers that be' in this country ever learn to look after our history?

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### **The branch we didn't know existed - until recently.**

In about 1995, a man came to see me armed with a huge folder which he wanted to show me. It was research he'd done over many years in trying to prove he was who he thought he was. Fred believed he was a descendant of the "Coromandel" Turnbells and how he came to that conclusion was quite a story. Fred knew he descended from a Thomas Wright and wife, Ann, but that was all. He'd followed his ancestry from the present day back to the 1800's where he found the burial of a Thomas Wright in Wollombi Cemetery in 1868. According to the death certificate, this Thomas Wright had died from a facial cancer. Before finding this fellow, he had investigated every Thomas Wright known to him who had been in or was connected to the Hawkesbury region of NSW in a particular period of time. The very readable inscription on the headstone read; Thomas Wright died on 2/11/1868 age 47 years, unmarried. OK, thought Fred, IF Thomas was unmarried, how did I get here if this man was my ggg'father. The date on his headstone suggested Thomas was born in 1821. Fred had researched all the records

and knew of only one Thomas Wright born in that year. Thomas Wright, son of James Wright and Mary Ann (Turnbull) Hartley, born or baptised 23/10/1821 in the Hawkesbury - but Fred wondered how he could be his ancestor if the records said this Thomas died unmarried.

Many family members would know the story of how three grandsons of old John Turnbull were accused of cattle stealing on the Wilberforce Common in 1836. Youngsters, John Turnbull and Thomas Wright, were convicted and Ralph Turnbull was acquitted. At that time all the Wilberforce farmers ran their cattle on the Common, many not branding their cattle, so it would seem it was more than likely a case of mistaking which cattle belonged to whom. As punishment, young Thomas, a boy of 14 years of age, was sentenced to a flogging and put in the care of George Turnbull and his wife, Louisa Chaseling. From that day onward, no record of what happened to young Thomas has ever been found, so there is a gap of about 15 years where we have no idea what happened to Thomas.

Then, in 1852, a Thomas Wright turns up in Comleroy Road at Kurrajong marrying Martha Ann Riley. Thomas was 31 years old and Martha around 15 or 16 years old. Was he Fred Wright's Thomas? ... It appears he was! George Turnbull, into whose hands the young Thomas was released in 1836, was known to have owned acreage in Comleroy Road at about the time Thomas married Martha Riley, but sold it soon afterwards. Thomas and Martha Wright had two sons, THOMAS, baptised in Richmond 8/3/1853, and JOHN, baptised 1855, who died when 10 years old at North Richmond. The wife, Martha, had left Thomas Wright by 1862 and married another man, John Turner, then married a 3rd time in 1881. Martha had married both men, without divorcing either earlier husband, claiming both times that she was a widow. Young son, John, died in 1865 and was buried in Richmond but what happened to son THOMAS. Did they go to the Dubbo area with their mother?

Fred eventually visited the area around Dubbo and Mudgee where Martha had married twice. It was while there Fred met with the family of

John Turner, whom Martha had married on the second occasion. The Turner family knew because Martha had told them that her first husband Thomas Wright belonged to the Hawkesbury Turnbulls. Now Fred had the answers he had been searching for since he found a young THOMAS WRIGHT born in 1853 had married ANNE SARGESON in Mudgee in 1877. Thomas Wright and Anne Sargeson were Fred Wrights grandparents. Their son, Ernest, was Fred's father. So how was it that old Thomas, born in 1821, died in Wollombi.

It's recorded how the Turnbull brothers, Ralph, James, John, George and William had been leasing about a thousand acres of land near Broke in the Singleton area to run cattle since about 1824. They had tried for several years to get it measured by a surveyor, without success. However, Ralph died in 1841 and William Bligh pulled out of the lease when he moved north, so they reduced the size they leased to six hundred acres until the 1860's when it appears they gave up the lease. Maybe that lease was the reason the first Thomas Wright was in that area. It's my belief the older Thomas was indebted to, and working for, George Turnbull for all of his life and more than likely was in charge of looking after the cattle running on that leased acreage at Swampy Creek near Broke. Perhaps he remained loyal to George Turnbull until he became too ill to work - but we'll never know for sure.

Fred also was able to establish that both Thomas' sisters, Jane and Mary Ann, were in the Mangrove Creek/Wollombi area where one had married into the Sweetman family and another into a Yates family.

Thomas, born in 1821, was never listed on any census or record after the court case in 1836. If he was in the bush in the Singleton area then it's understandable that he could never be found. For old Thomas it was sad, for it appears he was never recognised by his only surviving son, Thomas, and his grandchildren. Nor could he own up to ever being married to Martha or she may have been sent to prison as a bigamist.

Fred Wright has four brother and two sisters. Fred worked in the Mines for over 45 years

and when he retired in 1982 he had been a Mine Under-Manager in Bulli Colliery for a long time. He and his wife, Joyce, both now around 90 years of age, still live in the Woonona area - their main interest is their wonderful gardens which are an absolute picture every year, particularly in spring time. They have a daughter, Carolyn, a school teacher. We wish them all the best.



Fred William Wright and his wife Joyce Agnes Simpson  
Enjoying a Floriade visit.

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It's very sad to hear of the death of long time Ebenezer resident Athol Kemp. He died on 8th May, 2010, at 84 years of age. The Kemp family owned the original 100 acre grant of old John Turnbull on which his original sandstone home stood - it still stands today. Of course, one branch of the Kemp family married into the Turnbull family. Athol, as a young fellow, knew the ins and outs of the old Turnbull house and, like me, he could not understand why this old home is not Heritage protected - there is no doubt the main section of it would have been built before 1807. I marvelled at the size of the fire places which old John had built into both ends of his "L" shaped home, they are big enough to fit a small tree within to burn away (probably for days) before it needed to be replaced. Athol's father, Charlie Kemp, planted one of the finest and most fantastic orange orchards I've ever seen on the original grant - it's gone now, replaced by houses. In recent years, much of the original grant was sub-divided and sold for housing, becoming known as Port Erringhi. Until recent years, Port Erringhi's river launching ramp was a very popular spot for visitors to launch their water ski boats from for a day on the river, as did many Turnbull relatives, including mine.

On behalf of the Turnbells, I extend to Pauline, his wife, and the family our Deepest Sympathy and wish you the very best in the future.

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A while ago I had a wonderful letter from Deanne Clifton in Mulbring. Deanne enclosed a picture of her ancestors, John Boyne Turnbull and wife, Mary Jane Chapman, who married in Euroka in 1879.



John Boyne Turnbull and his wife Mary Jane Chapman.

Mary Jane was a bit of a spitfire, apparently, and they divorced in 1902. Later, in 1926, when Mary Jane Turnbull was living in Surrey Hills with one of her children, a robber, while making his get-away on a motor bike, ran over Deanne's Dad, Magnus James Turnbull (who was only a small boy at the time) - putting him in hospital with head injuries. Granny {Chapman} arrived home in time to take on the robber with a good left hook, holding onto him until the police arrived. She was a feisty lady. Deanne wrote about the hard life they had during the Great Depression, I, too, remember how bad it was in the years after the Depression, but maybe we were a little better off than some because we had a farm.

It's very pleasing to note the number of younger members of the Turnbull families we are hearing from who have become involved. For a while it seemed only we 'oldies' were contributing. Many thanks to all the new family members now interested.

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### Picture Gallery.

I need help to fill in some empty spaces on one of the Turmbull Clan, Fanny Theresa Turnbull – pictured below.



Fanny Theresa Turnbull.

Fanny Theresa Turnbull was born on 27<sup>th</sup> May, 1877, at Wilberforce, NSW. She was the daughter of John Warr Turnbull and Ann Manning and became a nurse.

While I cannot find any marriage records for Fanny I do believe she either married or partnered a man with the surname Morris, as the NSW Death Records list the death of a Fanny Teresa Morris sometime during 1957 at Manly, NSW, with parents John Warr Turnbull and Ann.

Should any member of the Turnbull Clan have more details of the life and marriage/s of this Fanny would they please send it to me at email: [perch@ol.com.au](mailto:perch@ol.com.au) or by snail mail to: Percy Harrison, 3 Storey Street, Putney, NSW 2112.

Also we are interested to know if anyone can recognise the building in the background.

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Our London research for John Turnbull is ongoing and we know little more than we did a couple of months ago. Patricia has been through many Rate Books and still finds no trace of him paying rates for any place he may have lived in while in London. However, she has identified names of some of the referees on the letter which pertained to old John's good character re emigrating to the early Colony. In the Rates Books for 1801 were these names: John Torkington, Peter Kingdon, John Waddell, tinman in Ogle Street. Henry Feron/Feront was not found and appears not to have been living in the St Marylebone area. Between 1800 and 1802, an Edward Wood was paying rates for 9 Castle Street East where John and his family claimed they lived. Actually, though we know he was living in London for around 30 years, his exact whereabouts for all of that time is still a mystery. The 1791 Rate Book for Thatched House Court survived and John Turnbull was not living there in that year. {St James parish}. The 1791 Rate Book for Castle Street East {St Marylebone parish} gives a Jane Harforth as the person paying the rates for No. 9. On the baptism of their child, JOHN, in Wells Street Scotch Church in 1794, it states the family was living in St James parish. It is so frustrating - there is still much more research to be done in London.

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A few days ago we had to vote - I often wonder why decent, honest people get involved in such a nasty "game". Whether you're a winner or a loser, {like open season at duck shooting time}, pot shots of fabricated lies and misuse of the truth can bring participants "down" at any time, so I congratulate Malcolm Turnbull for "sticking it to them" and winning so well in Wentworth. For other family connections who were winners in politics on the day, congratulations also.

If you were not a winner.....well, look on the bright side, there is always next time.

So, until next time with more stories to tell. Good Luck and all the very best.

**Marie Turnbull.**