

~Clan~



# TURNBULL EBENEZER

*Dedicated to preserving and recording the history of the Turnbull's from Ebenezer, a peacefully beautiful spot on the Hawkesbury River in NSW – now including our Turnbull cousins from across this country*

## NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2011

Hi.....We are back in business though I'm still battling to learn all the pro's and con's of this new Newsletter, but I'll get it, eventually. It was disappointing that Percy decided to resign. My daughter Carolyn is now taking his place and assisting me to master this new style Newsletter. I can't thank Percy enough for his part in assisting with setting up the Newsletters in June 2010. It may never have got off the ground without his help. We wish him all the best in his retirement and I hope he will continue to contribute in some way from time to time.

Some in this family may say that every early pioneer family probably had a "black Sheep" in the family and I agree..... we probably had ours in the Mary Ann story, but there was a far worse one for this family involving the Myall Creek Massacre in 1838.....I'll write what I know about this another time. Most of us know the events surrounding the death of Mary Ann Turnbull in 1825, but bringing so many convicts here would surely have imported many of the same devious and criminal activities they had back in London. The world's oldest occupation was alive and flourishing not only in Sydney Town, but further afield in places like the Hawkesbury. The awful Cock Fighting game and Horse Racing which attracted gambling was also rife in the early days. It reminds me of the story about John Turnbull Junior, son of pioneer John and his wife Ann. The story handed down through the generations by those who knew, was that John Jnr. was fond of the "drink" and gambling. My family and others knew, particularly those who had remained in the Hawkesbury since 1803. Young John never married. He moved between the Hawkesbury and Mangrove Creek because he had an interest in land in both places for a large part of his life. He was well liked in the Mangrove area and involved in local government there. He was a typical Turnbull in that he had a strong liking for and involvement with horses. He owned several and his gambling probably involved horse racing. Maybe that was how he became addicted to alcohol, but his addiction may only be a part of the Turnbull story. Whether or not this was a problem for young John within the family we will never know, but it appears he may have been a bit of an outsider in some respects. He was one of the executors for his brother Ralph's will, but refused to carry out his brother's wishes when Ralph died in 1840.

The following court paper was found in Sydney a few years ago and sent to me by Wally Jones. Old John Turnbull could have lost his home and property at Portland Head by a Court Order from Samuel Terry in 1832 unless certain debts were paid up by a certain date. It appears to have been for debts run up in one of Terry's Inn's in Sydney. Knowing about young John's addiction, I can't help but wonder if he was responsible for the debts, he had his father's name. There is no way of testing that theory now. The debt was paid up a couple of days before it was due by son Ralph.

### ***Terry Vs Turnbull 5/6/1832***

***On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> instant at 1 o'clock in George St opposite Polark's London Tavern Sydney, the Sherriff will cause to be sold, all the rights, title, interest and estate of Defendants in and to all that Piece or Parcel of land and containing 160 acres, more or less, situated at Portland Head with a large stone house erected on it, and great part of the land in cultivation unless this execution be previously satisfied***

Possibly with the help of the other brother George, both of whom were quite well off by 1832. The payment of the debts saved the old home and property for their father. There was "something odd" about that Court Order and debt business in my opinion. Years later I remember how angry my father became if the name Terry came up in conversation – at that time I knew nothing of the old Court Order. Samuel Terry was an odd character at best. {I won't go into his past history here}. The rumour circulating at the time was that he encouraged vulnerable men, often those with small Land Grant's, into one of his Inn's and got them drunk. Later when unable to pay their drinking debt, their only option was to sign over their land to him in lieu of payment of the debt. Another story which may have a link to the Terry story came from my grandmother.

Many times from the time I was about 10yo till she died in 1965 at the great age of 94 years, I heard the story about "someone bringing an old clock with them on the ship which disappeared from the house". I have searched my memory for more knowledge on what this story was all about, but cannot recall more. The only "old house" I can think of may have been John's old home at Portland Head. Did John and Ann bring a clock with them on the ship and it went missing from the old home. In recent times, when an old Scottish clock turned up in a home once connected to the Terry's, the clock story came back to haunt me. But of course nothing could be proved long after the event.

I wish to explain to those who now have a copy of my book "In the Footsteps of John Turnbull", what happened at the time it went to the printer in 2000. Then as now I'm 100% certain our John Turnbull's parents were **not** William Turnbull and Margaret Johnstone who were living in Annan c1750. New information I found in 2000 was too late to change in the book because the printing had begun.

I don't know who did the research and believed they had discovered William Turnbull and Margaret Johnstone were his parents, but both William and Margaret died in Annan in Dumfriesshire and I know they were absolutely NOT his parents because William Turnbull died in 1780 and I found his Will, {recorded in Annan} in about 2003.

Neither his wife nor any of his sons were alive when he made the Will in 1780. All his goods and chattels were left to his daughters, Janet, Agnes and Grace Turnbull with the husband of Janet, John Forrest left a small benefit from the Will. If a son was alive when he died, his goods definitely had to go to the son. Not even the son we knew of, Andrew Turnbull born in 1749 was alive when William died in October 1780.

What I found at the time my book went to the printer was this..... all the children written in my book which I considered to be the children of James Turnbull and wife Elspeth Turnbull were in fact the children of two James Turnbull's with possibly a third James Turnbull involved.

It's my belief one of the following James Turnbull's was his father:

James Turnbull MRD **Elspeth Turnbull 1733** – registered Hownam, Morebattle and Minto parish's.

James Turnbull MRD **Janet Gray 1738** – reg. Eckford parish, this James Turnbull lived in Hownam parish. {Janet's father was named James}.

James Turnbull MRD **Janet Gray 1743** - Hownam parish, {Janet's father was named William} {was this the same James Turnbull above? Or another}

Rev. James Turnbull MRD **Rebekah Reid** {named Rae' in register} **1752** in Yetholm parish – Rebekah died 7 months after they married. {James was Minister of Linton parish}.

Rev. James Turnbull MRD **Cecelia Rutherford c1758**, Rev. James died in October 1780....Cecelia died in London in 1795. {marriage record never found}. **One of the James Turnbull's has married a 2<sup>nd</sup> time, but the scariest scenario could be this..... ALL the marriages belonged to the same James Turnbull.**

**IF** James was 20 years old when he 1<sup>st</sup> married, 1733..... at the last marriage in 1758, **James** would still have only been 45yo.

In Scotland, the marriageable age was 16 years old, legally.

It would be nice to think Rev. James Turnbull was our ancestor, but unproveable at this time. I still have not been able to discover which of the above James Turnbull's and wife, were his parents. I'm leaning towards James with a wife Janet Gray, simply because JANETs were very often given the nickname of JESSY/JESSIE. Remember, old John's 2<sup>nd</sup> daughter was named Jessica, in the correct pattern of naming children in Scotland in those times.

The research will go on, until all lines of investigation have been exhausted.

Patricia, our London researcher is preparing to tackle the LMS records. Patricia was unable to find the death or burial record in London of Cecelia Turnbull, which may have given up vital information.

I'm a little late, but I've heard on the grape vine that Max and Dawn Day of Mt. Gambier in S.A. had been married 60 years on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2011. The celebration was held in Mt Gambier with a big surprise in store for Dawn and Max when grand children and great grand children arrived from distant parts of Western Australia. Congratulations and good luck to you both.

I promised awhile ago to tell the story of Clifford Taylor Turnbull, but because of unexpected circumstances I have not been able to write it until now, so here is Cliff's story. Cliff was the youngest son of David Charles Turnbull and Alice {Taylor} Turnbull and born in Norton St., Leichardt in 1910. In 1944 he married Doris Fallding. He began his working life as an Accountant, at first investigating Workers Compensation Claims, doing what he described as, *taking him into factories, down mines, into hospitals and even up tall buildings*. While working as an Accountant in 1939, he studied Physical Education as well and began his 2<sup>nd</sup> career in Community Welfare with the YMCA soon after he graduated. He spent 35 years working with the YMCA in Sydney and Newcastle where he was responsible for setting up many youth centre's all around Sydney and Newcastle. At the same time he was involved with the Scout's and did 10 years full time with the Scouting movement. His involvement with the YMCA included taking classes in painting, music



**CLIFF AT AGE 14**

appreciation, yoga, first aid, table tennis, dancing, car maintenance and adult gymnastic classes, what a job description. He modestly said he could play several musical instruments, including piano, guitar and harmonica. His Long Service leave was due and he had other plans at that time. He did a 2<sup>nd</sup> stint at Sydney University during this time and graduated in Social Studies in 1947. When he retired from the YMCA in 1975 he moved to Annesley House where he soon discovered a new outlet for his many talents. He played an active part in Martin Hall Senior Citizens Centre where he acted as MC at their new Dance Club. The Centre also offered a large range of activities which Cliff was familiar with and he soon became involved. For his outstanding work with youth and the Community Cliff received two medals during his lifetime. Cliff's life had been a very active one, but sadly he passed away on the 22 July 2002 at Annesley House. He was 92 years old. Doris his wife died several years before him.

In June 1981 Cliff received the Order of Australia medal for his service to Youth Welfare. Then in June 1992, Cliff was awarded a second medal, it was the Premier's Award for service to the Community.

In recent months I've received news that we've lost another two family members. The information came too late to include in the June Newsletter. Our sincerest condolences go to the families of both men.

On 2 April 2011, Raymond Allan Turnbull, late of Kahibah, dearly loved husband of Julie passed away. The Service was held at St John's Anglican Church at Cooks Hill. Raymond Allan was the son of Elston Turnbull and Doris Lynch. Elston was a descendant on the Ralph Turnbull and Sarah Reynolds line, via his parents, Alfred Turnbull and Ada Bowman both of whom were born in Wilberforce and Freeman's Reach respectively.

On 20 April 2011, Neil Colin Turnbull of Cessnock, passed away, he was the dearly loved husband of Alma, and his family. Neil Colin was the son of Cecil Colin Turnbull and Jessie Cragg. Cecil Colin was the son of



Henry Warr Turnbull and Margaret Caterson from the William Bligh Turnbull line.

When I wrote the story about JAMES BUTTSWORTH and his wife GEORGINA MARTHA TURNBULL in the last Newsletter and their move from Wilberforce to Mt Morley in Western Australia, I didn't realise then that I had a wonderful picture of them in my file. So here is the picture: All my pictures were on display at Ebenezer in June 2009. I must thank all the family members who very kindly sent their photo copies of ancestors too me prior to June 2009, because now as I look once again at this wonderful array of pictures, I'm amazed that I have them. They are windows to our past. I absolutely thank everyone who sent them to me, they are fantastic. I am so grateful I have them – thank you all.

**JAMES BUTTSWORTH AND HIS WIFE GEORGINA**

### **The Passing of JIM TURNBULL – from the MACCLESFIELD LINE**

Recently Jim Turnbull of Tamworth in NSW emailed me with news from his doctor that he had terminal cancer and wanted to see me urgently. Jim and I had spent years compiling our genealogy lines. I concentrated on our John Turnbul line from the Coromandel. Jim not only built up a comprehensive genealogy file of his ancestor, Archibald Turnbull who emigrated to Australia with his wife Anne Sugar Morier and their two children, John Morier Turnbull and Samuel Perry Turnbull, arriving in Sydney on the Macclesfield on 23 May 1833, but also spent a great deal of time building a file on our line of Turnbulls.

I immediately rang Jim and he asked if I could come to Tamworth so that he could pass on his entire files and keep his work ongoing. Jim's records are quite thorough and I will now work with another member of his clan to try and maintain the upkeep. Sadly Jim passed away on the 17 June 2011 at Tamworth Hospital (about 2 weeks after my visit). He is survived by his wife Shirley, two sons Samuel and Leslie, daughter in law, Lisa and three grand children, Bradley, Alexandra and Carrie. Our deepest sympathy is extended to Jim's loving wife Shirley and his family and friends at the very sad loss. **Percy Harrison.**

I didn't know Jim Turnbull, but my father had some contact with him many years ago, as did others connected to the Turnbull family in the Hawkesbury/Nepean district. Jim also had contact with people belonging to the Genealogy Society in Sydney when his interest in Ancestry Research began. His research into several branches of the American Turnbull families was quite remarkable and can be found on the Turnbull Clan Web site on the Internet.

A lady not quite directly related to us, but very well known too many in this family, Valmai Tuckerman, has had a rough time recently. Val, the wife of the late Alwyn Tuckerman {a very dedicated member and stalwart of Ebenezer Church} is a direct descendant of the Coromandel settler, Andrew Johnston who

designed and was responsible for the building of Ebenezer church. Val recently had several days in hospital for a routine operation and is now recuperating at home. We wish her all the best for a speedy recovery.

A few years ago when I walked into my local shoe shop to retrieve a pair of shoes I'd bought, I was greeted by a surprised voice saying "Oh I wondered who the other Turnbull was". After a brief hello and who are you introduction, I was astounded to find I was talking to Ann HANCOCK, the daughter of famous Harness Racing owner/driver, Tony Turnbull. Tony Turnbull had an amazing career with his horses. He drove some great horses including Hondo Gratten which won the Inter Dominion Harness race twice, but his daughter Ann was well known in her own right. Ann had barely left school when she applied for and got her licence to train harness horses. Next came the Drivers Licence in about 1977 and soon Ann was driving winners around the country tracks. Ann was the first Lady to drive harness horses against the men as there were no races specifically for Lady Driver's at any of the top tracks in the country. Her first win against the men came at Sydney's premier track, Harold Park in 1980. But in about 1984 Ann decided to give driving away for personal reasons. Her last drive was at the Bulli racetrack in 1984. The Turnbull Harness Racing ladies dynasty continues with Ann's sister Cindy, still driving successfully to-day. And the next generation of the Turnbull lady drivers is well on track to the winner's circle with nieces Emma and Amanda now driving and winning races around the country in the Turnbull name. Good on the girls!

Tony Turnbull's ancestor's first arrived here in the mid 1800's from Rutherglen, in the Glasgow area of Scotland.

I hear cupid has been very busy in recent months - in Melbourne. Congratulations to Michael Thom of Melbourne on his engagement to Kellie Armstrong earlier this year. Michael is an 8<sup>th</sup> generation descendant of John and Ann Turnbull, from the Ralph Turnbull and Mary Ann Riley line.

It was a nice surprise to hear the young lady, Elise O'Neill of "Hot Shot" fame awhile ago is now an engaged lady. Best wishes to you all.

While snooping through old sites on the Net recently I came across a rare picture, for sale. It was of Thatched House Tavern in Westminster in the mid 1700's. I did buy it and after some nervous days waiting, afraid it might go missing, it arrived. It's believed to be of an Italian Club Dinner held there in about 1750. This area of Westminster was the fashionable heart of London at the time, frequented by the upper class.



Twenty four years later we found our John Turnbull living and working in Thatched House Court as a tailor. Thatched House Court was just behind this Tavern in the Court Yard just off St James Street. This Court Yard consisted of 4 small shops with the fifth building used for living quarters. In 1775 and 1776, two John Turnbull's married in London. I believe ONE of those marriages was our John Turnbull's first marriage.

He was not living in Thatched House Court according to available records in 1776.

Finally, awhile ago Percy received further details about the passing of ladies in our family, one in very sad circumstances.....Mrs. Bianca Turnbull died on 5 August 2011, as the result of a car accident on her way home from work at West Wallsend Animal Hospital.

Then on the 23 September 2011, Phyllis Irene Turnbull, wife of John {Jack} Turnbull of Weston in the Hunter area passed away, aged 81 years.

Our sincerest condolences go to the families of both ladies. However, Percy is unable to find any record of either lady on his DVD, so if you know the ancestry connection of either of the ladies please let us know so Percy can record it for the future.

I am loath to use this Newsletter as a political tool, but I feel CSG is too important an issue to ignore. Recently I became aware of a Coal Seam Gas Company's intention to drill in very close proximity to Warragamba Dam. Horrified at the implication of this happening, I immediately contacted the Energy Minister, Mr. Hartcher, telling him what I knew and exactly why this CANNOT be allowed to happen. When this Newsletter went to print I'd had no reply. So important is this Hawkesbury/Nepean river system that to even consider allowing drilling anywhere within a 100K's of it is sheer madness. One mistake on any of the creeks and aquifers connected to the Hawkesbury/Nepean River system and Sydney would be without clean water for generations.

If anyone is concerned about this as I am, please speak NOW, before it's too late..... Thank you.

The cost of printing/distributing Newsletters via post has become quite costly, so beginning in 2012 we will only prepare and send them out three times a year.....

March/April.....July/Aug. ....and Nov/December. AND please don't forget, we need your stories and memoirs sent in to write about so our Newsletter can remain interesting and viable into the future.

Percy is still recording all our Births, Deaths and Marriages so continue sending in your information to him.



***Merry Christmas to all in 2011 and a Happy New Year - wishing all good health and good fortune in 2012.***

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