

~Clan~



TURNBULL EBENEZER

We are dedicated to recording and preserving the history of the Turnbull families from Ebenezer, a peacefully beautiful spot on the Hawkesbury River in N.S.W. including the history of other Turnbull families from across the country.

Vol. 3....no....1.....March/April 2012.....CLAN TURNBULL NEWSLETTER.

I hope everyone has had some luck and a good start to this new year of 2012.

It is nearly 25 years since I began researching our Turnbull families. It wasn't too long after I began when I confronted my first dilemma. While talking to Wally Jones on the phone one day he had this to say "you know my grandmother said we were McGregors". Shocked by this statement, I thought about it for a couple of days and then dismissed it as "fanciful". On a couple of occasions much later I asked Wally why his grandmother believed this and how much more she had said at the time, but Wally was quite young at the time and he didn't ask more questions.

Then, some years later while in contact with Jim McGregor from Morebattle, a small village on the Scottish Border, I told him about Wally's grandmother's belief. At the time Jim McGregor was driving around the Border taking pictures of specific places for me to use in my book. His reply literally "floored" me. Yes we could be McGregors and this was WHY.

Back in 1603 in the Scottish Highlands the McGregor's lost ownership of their name after they massacred every Colquhoun they could find in the Highlands. As a result James the 6th, (James the 1st of England) the King took the right to use their surname away from them, for decade's. His decree was that they could take any other name they wished, but never use the McGregor name again. Many McGregor's were caught, hanged and quartered and many others fled Scotland to Europe and Ireland. Later a few sneaked back across the sea to the north of Scotland and took another name. Jim McGregor told me that the Turnbull name was one of the names chosen to use because it had something to do with our motto, "I saved the King". The McGregor's believed they were descendants of the first King of {Dalriada} Scotland. It took nearly 200 years to get use of their name back permanently. It was given back for

short periods of time during those years, only to have it taken away again almost immediately. There is much more to this McGregor story than the above chapter, but too long a tale to tell here. Now, when I think about that story I can't help but think.....could we really be McGregor's. It has puzzled me a little for quite awhile as to why there was a large increase in the Turnbull name in Lowland Scotland from about 1650 onward. But maybe there was another explanation.

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It's sad to learn we are missing more members of our family.

Our sympathy is extended to Robert and Suzanne MacKay and their granddaughter on the death of their son and father Robert {Robbie} Mark MacKay on 2 May 2011 in Ellalong in NSW. Robert was a single Dad with a seven year old daughter, Allegra Georgia MacKay. We wish them all the best.

It was sad to learn of the passing of Noelene Kirkwood's husband in November last year in South West Rocks. Our deepest sympathy is extended to Noelene and her family.

At about the same time, I received a letter from husband had died. Malcolm Roy Turnbull of the service was held at the Lakes Chapel on Thursday extended to Daphne, his four children and fourteen Jessica, Nicholas, Christabel, Ella, Benedict, Harrison, Eloise for their loss.



Daphne Turnbull who wrote to tell me her Cranbrook in Qld died on 24 July 2011 and 28 July 2011. Our deepest sympathy is wonderful grand children, Felix, Eliza, Jack, Lily, Madilyn, Chelsea, Angus and

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Many thanks to Barry McCann of Diamond Beach for writing to tell me the very sad story of Bianca, the wife of Peter Turnbull and daughter-in-law of Grahame and Cecily Turnbull in the Newcastle area. Bianca's car was forced off the road into a tree on the way home from work in West Wallsend. Our sincerest sympathy is extended to the family. Grahame is a g'g'grandson of Ralph and Amelia Turnbull on the William Bligh line.

Barry wrote a wonderful story about his uncle Neville Turnbull who died in August 2009, when 88yo. He writes: Uncle Neville after riding his horse out in the morning to check his cattle had a stroke that afternoon. He was known as Poppy Bean to his great grand kids because he gave them jelly beans. He passed away two weeks later. At his funeral his grandson Dean Turnbull led his saddled pony followed by the horse drawn hearse. Neville was a top horseman "the last of the celebrated Macleay horsemen" was his epitaph.

Reuben, Neville's father was involved with racehorses and was cousin of many including Malcolm Bligh Turnbull's grandfather in Kempsey. At 4.30am he could be heard whistling as he milked his cows. Marie Flanagan, his late wife knew they were related to the Bulahdelah Turnbolls because another, Mary Magdalene Flanagan from the Macleay area married a Bellingen Turnbull in 1895. In Kempsey and Wauchope the descendants of Reuben's father, Ralph

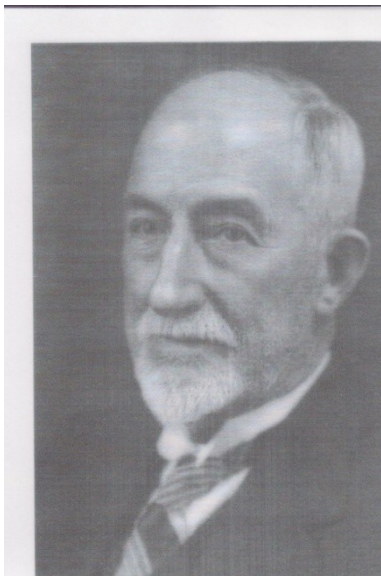
Turnbull, interacted with the descendants of Ralph's brother James Bligh Turnbull and his son Ivor Gosper Turnbull and other related families like the Boyter and the Miles families.

Sadly, for Barry McCann and his sibling's their mum Doris Verdan (Turnbull) McCann, at age 93, passed away on 21 December, 2009. Doris was a great socialiser and wrote for over 50 years to her friend and cousin on her mother side, Alley Waters in Kempsey. Alleys eldest son was Cecil Waters the smallest forward who played a record number of games for the North Sydney Bears. {Doris married dad Paul McCann in 1944}. Paul was a Sergeant in the 2nd AIF 2/17 Battalion which bravely defended Tobruk in the Easter 1941 battle when the Germans came back in after Corporal John {Jack} Edmondson from their Battalion had won the VC medal the day before. Then the Rats of Tobruk went on to Australia's major battle of WW2 at El Alamein where shelling by 2000 artillery pieces preceded the deadly battle. Then the 9th Division went on the attack and forced the enemy from Lae, Frinschaven in New Guinea and Borneo. I never heard my father or his mates express any hate towards their former enemies though they were entitled too after 5 years of action. After the war our dad Paul was happy to lay sewer pipes in Sydney for the Water Board. Doris and Paul's seven granddaughters include a doctor and a lawyer. Paul and his brothers would have chuckled had they witnessed their great nephew's late wife, Kerryn McCann, win those two Gold Medals in the marathons.

Thank you for the great stories Barry.

IDA EVELYN DIXON – nee TURNBULL

Ida was born in the teacher's residence adjoining Croobyar School on 31 July 1895. Croobyar was a one-teacher school about a mile west of Milton on the South Coast of NSW. Cyrus John Turnbull her father, was born at Sackville Reach in 1854 and after many flood's on the Hawkesbury, he left to become a schoolteacher



CYRUS.... Her father Cyrus Turnbull became the teacher at Croobyar and Ida happily spent her girlhood years there. There were about 70 children in the school and Ida, when old enough was allowed to help her father give the younger children

dictation. Cyrus was at Croobyar from 1893 until 1913 when he was transferred to Far Meadow school near Berry. Ida

The old schoolhouse at Croobyar with distinctive five chimneys is still standing and recognizable today, but the school itself was dismantled and moved many years ago. It was a well known



venue for tennis parties, with lovely gardens and the children always took prizes for sewing and floral arrangements. Many concerts were held there in which the children often performed.

The Far Meadow schoolhouse is still there in Berry, but much altered now. On the 1st January 1919, Ida married Victor Harold Dixon, (son of the Methodist Minister in Berry) in Berry Church. At first Ida and Harold ran a farm at Far Meadow, but later moved to Windsor district. Their farm was on Freemans Reach Rd., about 4 miles from Windsor. They had an extensive orange orchard and the barns on the farms had been built by convicts in the early days of the settlement. They also ran cattle and had a large poultry run.

Ida and Harold had six children, Joy, Edna, Betty, Nancy, Don and Brian. Ida had much to do on the farm, helping with packing the oranges, preserving fruit as well as looking after the family and her beautiful rose garden. Ida also helped with the Red Cross. Like everyone along the Hawkesbury river they often had to move furniture and goods to an attic or the highest point on the farm. Because of her Red Cross involvement Ida became involved in World War 1 as a volunteer at the Bomaderry Repatriation Hospital. During World War 11 she was active in the Windsor branch of the Red Cross. Then in 1983 she was given the Red Cross Society's Service Award, in 1985 the Laurel Wreath and in 1991 the Red Cross's highest honour, Honorary Life Membership.

After her husband Harold died in 1965, Ida left the farm and moved to Castle Hill with her son Don. There she continued her Red Cross work.

Ida Dixon died on 12 September 1997, aged 102, after a long life of service to her family and the community.

I barely remember Ida - I was only about 10 years old when my mum took me over to Freeman's Reach to spend a day with her so all I remember of Ida is how tiny this lady was. Thank you, **Pamela Goesch** for the story on Ida Dixon.

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FATLIPS – the only remaining Tower in the Border of Scotland to remind members of this family around the world of the power and the ruthlessness of the Turnbull's in medieval times, {Thank goodness we aren't like that now, though some might suggest in has has now received funding

Most of the credit can be attributed a young girl named Gemma the border close to Fatlips. The Scottish Border Council and Historic Scotland have approved the donation of hundreds of pounds worth of assistance to have the old tower restored. I believe work has

If you wondered where the name Fatlips came from for this Tower, well, there are a few stories



transcended time in a few of us} which for restoration work to be done.

attributed a young girl named Gemma the border close to Fatlips. The Scottish Scotland have approved the donation of of assistance to have the old tower already begun.

name Fatlips came from for this Tower, on how or why, most of them legendary,

but the one I favour, "The Barnhill Turnbull's at one time the owner's in this Tower, were said to have very full Lips", hence the name Fatlips. Other legend's say.....Fatlips was a goat which broke free from the tether and fled home to warn of impending danger and ANOTHER.....Fatlips was a spirit in long forgotten folklore.

These are typical of great Scottish legends one hears of from time to time.....Though Fatlips is the only remaining Tower once belonging to the Turnbull's, they had several other Towers, all of which have now gone. Bedrule was the most famous of the Castles, others were Fast Castle and Fulton Tower .

A query from a correspondent?

I know this is a long shot, but I would be grateful if anyone has a picture of Edith Turnbull, {sister of Reg} born in 1887 and died in 1909, would you please send me a copy as a family member is looking for a picture of Edith. They were the children of Hiram Australia Turnbull.

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It is pleasing to hear that some of our sick rellies from awhile ago are now well and truly on the mend. I wish Shirley from the north coast, {had a really nasty 2011} all the best in her new job at Armidale Uni and I hope your well and happy. To Joan a dedicated member of Ebenezer Church Fellowship and other rellies, some still not quite the best, good luck and I hope 2012 is a better year for all.

Late News: Our deepest sympathy is extended to Percy Harrison (Keeper of the Turnbull Master File), his family and friends on the passing of his youngest brother, Hilton Albert Harrison at Wyong Hospital on 17 January 2012. Hilton was a 3rd generation G'grandson of John Turnbull and Ann Warr and grandson of Selina Sophia Turnbull and William Binney Harrison.

Also..... our deepest sympathy is now extended to Percy's wife, Alice and her family and friends on the passing of Alice's sister, Edwina Doney nee Massie, who passed away on the 15th February, 2012 after a long battle with Alzheimers.

..... **Forever in our hearts = Percy and Alice**.....

We have a new addition to our ancestry – on the 28 December 2011, ALANNAH MAY THOM was born to Kelly {Armstrong} and Michael Thom in Melbourne – Congratulations to Kelly and Michael and the very excited Grandparents.

Congratulations to Alex, son of Malcolm and Lucy Turnbull on his engagement to Yvonne Wang, both of whom are 29yo. The wedding is planned for May 2012, in Beijing, where Yvonne's parent's live. Alex and Yvonne are living in Hong Kong and plan to move to Singapore after their wedding.

Please don't forget = Percy Harrison is in control of our Ancestry Files. He can be emailed or contacted

at perch@ol.com.au.....or by anyone wishing to add names of births, deaths or marriages to our Ancestral File or by writing to Percy 3 Storey St Putney NSW 2112.



This is a picture of magnificent orange orchards on Mud Island, taken from the top of the hill on Lower Portland Rd. c1950. These orchards were about to be drowned by floodwater – floods eventually killed all the orchards from one end of the river to the other by c1960.



GUESS WHO THIS IS?

The young lady from 'Hot Seat'Elise.....

And her husband.

They married in Melbourne in January 2012

Elise and Scott Waters

HELP!

Is there a retired family member or someone with time on their hands, who has some knowledge of working with marble and/or sandstone - a little help is needed to do repairs in Wilberforce General Cemetery, Old Sackville Rd., Wilberforce.

This old cemetery was repeatedly vandalised a few years ago with several quite old headstones and grave sites badly damaged. Because of continual vandalism in the cemetery, Hawkesbury City Council, very generously, fenced the cemetery awhile ago to protect it.

Many of the older graves and headstones have been repaired, but we still have a couple of old Turnbull graves which need attention, so IF anyone can help, even a little, it would be much appreciatedplease give me a call.

The old Sackville Reach cemetery, {often incorrectly named St. Thomas' cemetery} is in a very sad state. Many of our Turnbull ancestors, and others, who were buried there, now unknown sites because their headstones were destroyed by someone with a drag chain doing a clean-up many years ago. Of the dozen or so aboriginal grave sites, all have disappeared. The famous Dr. Fiaschi paid for his native workers to have a Christian Service and burial in the cemetery. The last full blooded aboriginal Martha Everingham is buried there, but no sign of her grave now exists though she was very highly regarded in the district because she had a wonderful way with sick children of European origin as well as aboriginal.

Martha spent most of her life living on the Fiaschi property, as her family all worked for Dr. Fiaschi. Martha was well known to my Grandmother and a regular visitor to church on Sundays in the now defunct St. Thomas' church. It is too sad to contemplate and difficult to understand why our Sackville history has been allowed to almost disappear from Hawkesbury history. Was all the trouble and toil by our early ancestors worth so little that it wasn't worth keeping. In a hundred years time will there be anything left to show.....probably not.

Then there is the disgrace of the little Methodist church across the river at Sackville North, no one knows what has happened to our family grave sites there and soon they won't even exist when river history is written.

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I've learnt that all our relatives and their friends known to have been living in Grantham, Lockyer Valley and in southern Queensland during the terrible flood's, were safe. Most built on the side of the hill - I wonder if some knowledge from the past re Hawkesbury floods was a help.

After many floodless years during a long period of drought, Hawkesbury Valley is now flooded once again, but at the time of writing, Hawkesbury Valley appears to have escaped any real damage, this time, but heavy rain is predicted for all of April so I hope the Hawkesbury Valley will be spared again.

I've heard from irate relatives in the Hunter Valley who now have the threat of Coal Seam Gas exploration on their doorsteps. At a recent meeting they were totally gobsmacked by the "spin" the lady representing CSG put to them on the value and safety of CSG mining.

To-day, in spite of considerable anger by the public the Government has given a CSG company permission to drill a test well at Oakdale in Warragamba Dam catchment area. The spin these people use, said to be scientific, doesn't give me any confidence it's correct. What I know came from a couple of hundred years of pioneers living on the

Hawkesbury and living the problems, not learning them in front of a computer or out of a book. The scientists had better be right or they will have a lot to answer for! This country could be on the edge of destruction for the sake of greed. That's my opinion.

Lastly, thank you to the relatives who have written recently about the Turnbull nose. I do know about our 'nose' and I will write more about it in following Newsletters.

Thank you for all your letters of support, good wishes and very welcome donations of every description, it is much appreciated.....signing off.....

Until next July/August, Marie Turnbull at goose2fly@yahoo.com.au

or at home7/28 Moray Rd TOWRADGI, 2518.



My co-editor, Carolyn,carolync9@optusnet.com.au

And the backroom support, husband Andrew and daughter Emily, 8yo with a flathead they caught in Port Kembla harbour

