

~Clan~

# TURNBULL EBENEZER

**Dedicated to recording and preserving the history of the Turnbull families  
of Ebenezer, a peacefully beautiful spot on the Hawkesbury River,  
N.S.W., including the history of other Turnbull families across Australia.**

**Vol. 3...No. 3 ..... November/December 2012 ..... Clan Turnbull NEWSLETTER.**

Oh my, what a year it's been - how time flies. In many instances it's been exciting and at other times a quite stressful year – but heck how dull and boring it would be if everything always ran smoothly. We've lost friends and family, some we only know from the pages of our Newsletter. We've welcomed new babies and shown family weddings, it's a shame we don't have room to show them all, but there is always next year.

I've heard from family members who are heading overseas in the Xmas holidays or next year, so I remind everyone.....particularly those heading to the UK, don't forget to have a look at the Turnbull monument in Hawick Hub in Scotland. All those I have spoken too who have seen WILLIAM and the TURNING OF THE BULL monument can't stop talking about it and tell me it's an incredibly moving experience which must be seen to be believed.

If anyone ever thought it was anything but a small a world we live in, maybe this will convince you. For 7 years I've lived next to a direct descendant of HENRY LAMB and I didn't know. My neighbor Beryl "out of the blue" last week casually asked me which Turnbull I descended from. Curious to know why this suddenly came up I replied "George, WHY? " Beryl then told me of her Henry Lamb connection and wanted to know everything I could tell her about the old home. Was it still there and in the hands of a Turnbull – I was happy to tell her 'yes' and the section which wasn't destroyed in the fire in 1803 still exists, with new additions built around the old rooms. If you don't know which home I'm writing about, it's 'Kelso' on Mud Island the home of Joan Turnbull and her Late husband Russell. Beryl also believed there was a plaque in Thompsons Square dedicated to two members of her family. I can't recall a plaque there – or is it elsewhere in Windsor?

It is many years since I began searching the Old Parochial Registers, specifically in Roxburghshire County, Scotland. I've been through the Registers from the areas around Hownam, Morebattle and Linton parishes so many times that I can almost recite some details off by heart. I'd come to the conclusion that it was much more likely our John Turnbull originated in that area than any other part of Scotland. The name which definitely suggested I was in the right place was the fact that Russell Turnbull's home in Sackville North was named "Kelso" and had been named that way for years, if not from the time George Turnbull and brother Ralph bought the house and land from Thomas Clarkson in 1824 or soon afterwards.

I recall the conversation I had with my grandmother when I was about 16yo – while sitting on the verandah early one sunny morning I plucked up courage to ask, "Nana where did the Turnbull's come from". Nana Turnbull would

have been nearly 90yo then and I didn't expect to get an answer though she was still hale and hearty and in full control of her marbles as we would say.

For seconds she said nothing then out came one word which sounded like "Sprooston", she shuffled through the papers on her knee and said no more.

Though I had been fishing around in an area called Sprouston for a couple of years, it didn't occur to me until a phone conversation I was having with a lady I'd come to know in Morebattle began talking about this place called Sprooston {emphasizing the ooo's in the middle}. I stopped her and asked "where is this Sprooston". With a strong Scottish accent she was explaining to me, when the penny dropped. The memory of my grandmother naming a place exactly as this Scottish Lady was pronouncing it, was SPROUSTON I heard that sunny morning many years ago and it wasn't far from Hownam or Morebattle in the Scottish Borders. Here in Australia I was pronouncing it as 'Sprowston'.

If there was one thing I learnt during this search it was to understand how differently the Scottish pronunciation is when compared to our Aussie pronunciation. This is how I believe we have been misled about Annan being our heritage site in Scotland, when in fact it's probably Hownam,

I soon learnt about an ancient village called Mow which was very close to the English border and it had a small chapel attached which appeared to belong to one family. The owner was classed as a minor Laird named John Turnbull.

IT appears from all I'm able to discover, that when this Laird died it was the end of the family at Mow, but not the end of the family. The children of that laird had moved on to another town or city or maybe even emigrated. No one really knows what happened to them. Nothing remains to-day to suggest a village or an old chapel and graveyard ever existed there so any chance of finding anything useful was long gone.

In the strangest of coincidences not long after this discovery a big package of papers arrived in my mailbox from America. What that package contained was odd because in it was pages and pages of research done by an Australian college Lecturer from a Sydney College while in Europe on extended leave, but for some reason he sent all the info to an American Turnbull family. In the meantime I had become close friends with the same family and now they were returning the research to me. His research was about the Scottish Turnbull's fighting in wars for other Countries around Europe and how our name evolved in Europe. Included at the end of these documents was many pages about a search in the British Isles in the 1950's for particular lines of the Turnbull's from Bedrule.

A plaque was being placed in Bedrule to commemorate all branches of the families who descended from Sir Thomas Turnbull of Bedrule in the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

Sir Thomas Turnbull was originally a wealthy man, but he made some bad decisions and eventually lost everything and his land was sold. Now the original Bedrule land has been returned to a Turnbull. Wally Turnbull from America was able to buy it back recently.

The Bedrule Group had specific names of descendants they were searching for in Britain and they managed to find all but one. Though advertising widely, NO descendant of John Turnbull from the Sprouston branch could be found anywhere in England/Ireland or Scotland. It was known this John Turnbull originated in the Minto area c1500 and that he was another branch of the Bedrule Turnbull's who split from them around the time Sir Thomas lost his land. This John Turnbull's move established the Sprouston branch of the Bedrule Turnbull line in the 16/17<sup>th</sup> century. For month's they searched Britain for a descendant, but no one came forward and the plaque was dedicated without any member of that branch being present.

By now you can probably understand where I'm heading with this story - could we be that lost branch of the Bedrule Turnbull's they searched for?

Maybe we are, but how to go about proving it, escapes me at this time.



to Mary Ann had been taken after her death, but I had nothing about who had taken in and looked after young James. So I queried if Chris' information could be true. Chris had documentation which suggested young James Hartley was in an orphanage in Liverpool, Australia for some time after his mother was killed. The age of the James Hartley in the orphanage fitted with him being our James Hartley. IF anyone in the family has information as to the truth or otherwise of this belief, or has any information at all on what happened to young James after his mother died, would you please let us know as this is all the info. Chris has about young James' immediately after his mother's death. I am waiting for the Ceylon records to be released by the British Archives, hopefully early next year as it could tell us the situation around James' birth in Ceylon and his father's death there or even how Mary Ann got back to Australia, as this appears a bit of a mystery as well. I am also hoping the records of that old Orphanage may have survived and are kept somewhere to be found. I have a record of James when about 14yo being employed at Sackville by William Dunn. But where he was between then and 1850 when he married Jane Armstrong in Wilberforce isn't known. He must have remained in the area to have met and married Jane, but he was 36yo when they married. They had a large family. Chris's grandmother Sophia was born in 1857 and by all accounts a very feisty lady, typical of early pioneer women who had to be feisty and strong for a family to survive.



1. Gladstone - Parsons Point - 1927. Sophia & Tim Power



2.

The boy in Picture 1 is Tim Power, Sophia's grandson and son of Gus who was Sophia's youngest child.



Gus when an older man is in Picture 3, standing on the far right of the group - taken during the Great Depression of workers in GLADSTONE MEATWORKS Qld.

Picture 2, is baby Tim with his father Gus using a cross-cut saw in Gladstone Qld.

Picture 4, is Sophia with Maureen, baby sister to Tim Power. Maureen is still going strong and living in Brisbane.

Sophia spent most of the latter years of her life apart from her husband. At a certain time in her life the family was in dire straits financially so John Power left home to go shearing in Queensland. From that time on she had no idea where he was or what happened to him for most of the remainder of his life. Her young son Gus was her only benefactor and took her to Gladstone with him when he moved north. Sophia remained in that area for the rest of her life. Sophia married John Power in July 1875 at Attunga in northern NSW and died in Queensland in 1934. Towards the end of her life the family never heard of her husband John Power again, but it's known now he died alone and destitute in Sydney in 1933. His body was taken to the anatomy division of Sydney University where it was used for experiments. He was interred in 1934 at Rookwood Cemetery.

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My talk with Beryl about Henry Lamb turned out to be a mini mine of information and I learnt some important information from her in relation to the old farm on Mud Island. There has always been some doubt about how and when the old home was named Kelso. There's no doubt now it was named by the Turnbull's thanks to my talk with Beryl. Kelso only had two owners before the Turnbull's bought it from Thomas Clarkson in 1824. Henry LAMB was a military man who received the farm on Mud Island as a grant when he left the Army. Henry was born in Durham in the UK and had no connection to Scotland what so ever. Lamb couldn't remain there after the fire because of the problem with the local aboriginals who had tried to burn the place down more than once. Thomas Clarkson was a well known London business man who also had no connection to Scotland. It could not have been named by anyone other than the Turnbull's. It is as the late Russell Turnbull told me years ago, his Grandfather named the farm 'Kelso'.

All the talk about Ebenezer was promoting a bit of home sickness, so next morning I packed up my car and took off to Windsor. Windsor is struggling with the controversy about floods and whether it should get a new higher bridge at present. Warragamba Dam is a very controversial subject. It's all about whether the dam wall should be raised or not to protect the Valley from a very big flood in the future.

I am against tinkering with the height of the DAM wall. IF the wall collapses at the present height the damage and loss of life would be a catastrophe, but IF they go higher it would be far worse and felt far wider than just in the Valley. Nature shouldn't be tampered with because nature will always win.

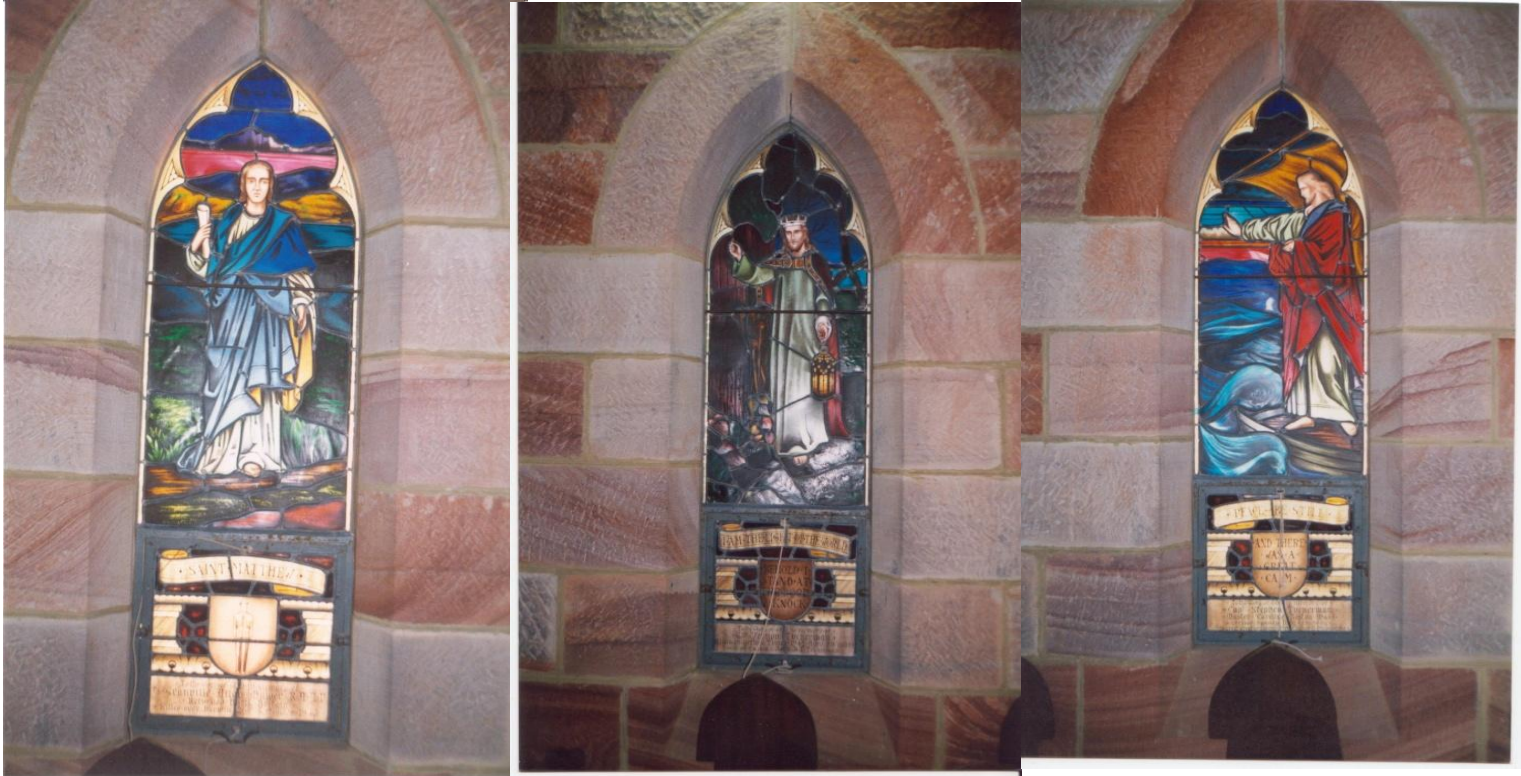
As for the new Bridge - the one the State Government and the RMS (old RTA) want is an ugly concrete monstrosity which many in the district don't want, including me. If they go ahead with their current option it may ruin or damage a section of old Thompsons's ing genuine square anywhere in Macquarie. I hope the Government this bridge bigger to accommodate Windsor and Singleton). I dread to dering up and down Putty Rd and winding Putty road is not fit for such and the **RMS** don't listen to the their option before it's too late {they them of what people power did lived at Ebenezer and didn't listen to so hostile towards him that on the Lang was hung from a very tall tree vote next day. **Jack Lang** was sacked in May 1932. It is possible for people power to win against the odds and it needs to win in Windsor's bridge fiasco.



Square which is the oldest and only remain- Australia and originally named by Gov. doesn't have a hidden agenda by wanting bigger semi's on Putty Road (between think of wretched B-Double trailers thun- the carnage they will create. The narrow traffic. If Premier **O'Farrell**, his **government** people of the Hawkesbury and reconsider aren't listening now} , then I'll reminded back in 1932 to then Premier Jack Lang. He the people. The locals in Ebenezer became night prior to voting a huge effigy of Jack in the school yard where everyone went to

I paid a visit to old Ebenezer church and all was as it usually is there, wonderfully neat and tidy and a pleasure to see so I drove on down to Sackville turning right at the ferry, going along Sackville Reach (Tizzana Rd.) to St Thomas' cemetery. I was pleased to see it was tidy and had been mowed recently – many early Turnbull's and other pioneer

family member's were also buried there. I moved a few yards along to the now defunct St Thomas' church which was erroneously sold by the church a few years ago. It went to court to get control of the land the church stood on plus two blocks next door which also belonged to the church – the church and lands were in PERPETUITY to Stephen



Tuckerman and his descendants, {for life}. The church hierarchy obtained ownership by claiming no Tuckerman's remained alive. There were thousands of descendants still around, including many Turnbull's who were Stephen Tuckerman descendants, at the time of the court case. I have no evidence that a descendant was ever searched for at that time to confirm if it was true. So the Court awarded St. Thomas' and the properties to the church. To-day it's another nationality's church, with notices up banning outsider's from entering the site. Above are 3 of the fantastic windows in the old church which were dedicated to local people who had a particular association with the Church. Can't help but admire the beautiful sandstone surrounding the windows.

To-day so many new homes have been built in the area's around the old church that surely people living close by would have appreciated having an historic church close to them for worship on Sundays. Those involved in the sale should hang their heads in shame.

As I turned back toward Sackville ferry I noticed a lady waving to me from a drive-way not far from the cemetery. I stopped as it was a great opportunity to ask about all the new homes I could see built into the rocky sandstone hill along the two mile stretch of road at Sackville. The lady was living on the original grant of First Fleeter Matthew Everingham and knew a lot about the area. I could have stayed talking for much longer, but I had a meeting with Val Tuckerman so apologized and said I must go. As I began to drive off she said "Oh I know Val, please tell her hello from Elizabeth Teo". That stopped me in my tracks and I backed up to her because I was amazed to realize I had been talking to the mother of celebrated surgeon, Charlie Teo.

Because many family member's had moved away from the Hawkesbury early in their lives they have very little knowledge of our early years on the river or of how important it was in the scheme of things for the colony. The river was from early settlement the life stream of the colony. Our families came up the river on a boat, not overland as some believed, in 1803 to settle at Portland Head. Windsor was called 'Green Hill's then. The river remained useful for transporting goods to Sydney till about 1950 when road service over took the usefulness of river boats. I can remember the last boat, the old 'Surprise' picking up the last load of water melons from Sackville wharf for the Markets in Sydney. It was a sad day. The name 'Surprise' was revived when a new and bigger flashier boat began carrying tourists up and down the river when the old Surprise ended her life on the river. But that also ended when the

tourist stopped travelling. To-day the famous Bridge to Bridge speedboat race AND a Bridge to Bridge Water Ski race are both held annually on the river. Who would have believed it was possible to get from Brooklyn to Windsor (about 60 miles) in a little over half an hour as these racing boats do to-day. Water Skiing is the major sport on the river, canoeing is also popular and a little dangerous. The river is still the playground for locals and visitors.

For as long as I can remember the Hawkesbury River has been a playground for many, including the rich and famous. There's a long list of famous people who either lived on or played in the Hawkesbury regularly. Keith Williams the original inventor of Seaworld on the Gold Coast and holiday island, Hamilton, began his water skiing life on the Hawkesbury around Ebenezer/Sackville. Famous water skiers like "Gelegnite" Jack Murray a winner of the Redex Round Australia car race, Bill and Marie Maclachlan who drove and raced cars long before they went water skiing, Sydney men's store owner Ron Bennett, the Carr boys who kept their ski boat in our shed summer and winter for many years and were later fatally injured when their racing boat exploded on a Sydney waterway. Then there was the Professor's, Messel and Sumner Millar and 'bird man' Bill Moyes as he was called around the river, famous for his hang gliding expertise and experiences and the music men Col Joye and his brother, also The Dell Tones and deep voiced "Pee Wee" who swam across the river when the people called out to him to come across and we had a fantastic sing-along with him that day. Just a few of the famous, but there is many more who came and went on the river. Water Skiing was first brought to Australia by American Reg Johnson in the early 1950's – he and his friend the famous Sydney photographer Ray Leighton came to Sackville with their wives that day and introduced the sport to Australia and I was there to see it all happen. Ray Leighton was also into Hang Gliding. For all this great river has had going on, in it and on it, since we arrived here, it's still a mighty fine, but highly dangerous river which has claimed many lives in the couple of centuries since colonisation.

Late News: Just now received a letter from Scotland re the McGregor/Turnbull story – more in the next Newsletter.

So again I thank all who have been involved with the stories and those who kindly donated to assist with keeping the Newsletter going. We wouldn't survive without you. Please keep the stories coming. So until next year in March/April 2013 .....good bye for now.....Marie Turnbull [goose2fly@yahoo.com.au](mailto:goose2fly@yahoo.com.au) you can phone me or send me a letter: .....Ph. 02 4285 7495 7/28 Moray Rd. TOWRADGI, 2518.



Married: Sept. 2012, Qld. G'son, no 1.  
Todd and Catherine Elphick.



William and the Turning of the Bull monument, Hawick, Scot.

Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year 2013.