



~Clan~

# TURNBULL EBENEZER

**Dedicated to recording and preserving the history of the TURNBULL families  
from EBENEZER, a peacefully beautiful spot on the Hawkesbury river in NSW.**

**Now including all TURNBULL family groups from across AUSTRALIA.**

**Vol 4....No 2.....TURNBULL NEWSLETTER.....July/August....2013..**

*First, I must apologise to all who didn't receive their copy of our March/April Newsletter. The hard drive of the computer holding all our email contacts, crashed unexpectedly. When it came back from the repairer, we found all our newest contacts for about the past 12 months had disappeared into cyber space. We still haven't found them so to those we may have missed we are very sorry and please resend us your address so we don't miss you in future. This was a lesson well learnt. **IF you still need a copy of the Mch/April Newsletter, please let us know & one will be sent.***

[I WISH TO ADVISE](#) - all our Newsletters are on the TURNBULL CLAN ASSOC. Website - klik onto publications and follow the prompts to where all our newsletters can be read.

Corrections from the last Newsletter:

James Hartley was born in Ceylon in 1814, not 1817.

Ebenezer School 1928/29.....in Row 3, it's ENA TUCKERMAN (not EDNA).

Richard Turnbull son of James and Isabella(Ord) Turnbull is believed to have come to Australia later than the parents, but it's not known how or when.

Continuing, RE Ann Warr and the son born James Warr Turnbull in 1798 in London. Assuming an earlier son named JAMES was born to our JOHN TURNBULL to an earlier spouse, prompted my search for the other son called JAMES. Because John Turnbull was missing from every record in London after the 1774 voters Poll, we had to assume he went back to Roxburghshire, either soon after 1774 and/or maybe after he married in London. Eventually TWO London marriages became of interest and both had signatures of the participants in the parish Register. Either may have matched our John's signature in Australia. (adding a bit of a stretch to the imagination).THEY WERE marriages to Sarah Coulter in 1775 and Mary Hodges in 1776.

THEN, in 1790, he married Ann WARR....Below are the three signatures belonging to JOHN.

<1775 1776>

v of September in the Year One Thousand Seven Hunds  
 By me J. Tiplston  
 solemnized between Us } John Turnbull  
 Mary Hodges  
 Quomploro

<1790

In 1775/6 ...JOHN was about 23yo,

In 1790 he was about 40yo.

Allow for his signature changing and different impliment's used to write with over the years.

They are all genuine signatures from records in the old parish registers of London.

Which of the two signatures {exclude Ann's} do you believe belongs to our John Turnbull.

For various reasons I believe it's the marriage to Mary Hodges signature.

(24) 1st son of John ...  
 May 2 ... John Turnbull Taylor Denholm ...  
 a child born and baptised James.  
 Oct. 10 Baptized a child to John Henderson in Ogelthor

This recorded copy above is genuine, from Roxburghshire parish town of Denholm, 1782.

It says...1782...May 2... John Turnbull, taylor Denholm had a child born and baptised JAMES.

I overlooked that faded entry several times before I realised what it was!

It appears to be written at a different time to all the other entries of THAT TIME and it's different writing to every other entry on all the pages. It encroaches on a section of the line, maybe so it fitted in right AT THE TOP of the page, BEFORE the first entry, WHY particularly there?

There were other John Turnbull's, (taylors), in Roxburghshire (two born in Lilliesleaf parish) in the years of interest (1747-1753) and I PURSUED THEM until I believed neither was our John Turnbull. Soooo knowing what I know now I HAVE TO ASSUME the above JAMES was the first son of our JOHN TURNBULL, which means .our John was the son of a JAMES TURNBULL, not RALPH TURNBULL as we believed, until now. ....to be continued.....?

**BEFORE** I continue, the John TURNBULL I wrote of who died in AYR CANADA in 1843 was not the tailor born c1750 as I wrote originally, but the grandson (born c1801 in Canada) of the tailor from Lilliesleaf in Roxburghshire, Scotland.

I have some great news regarding the little old Methodist Chapel in Sackville North. It was bought recently by Mr and Mrs Simon Jones who intend converting what remains of the sandstone chapel into a two bedroom home, {sad in a way it will never be a chapel again} but at least the little cemetery with many of our past relations and other descendants of early pioneers resting there, will now be looked after with the possibility it may open to the public for a day now and then – nothing remains of the interior pews and related furniture because as the story goes .....”two chaps who bought it years ago, ‘fell out’ and in retaliation one of them set fire to the pews”, reducing all to ash, red cedar ash.... Red cedar was plentiful in the Hawkesbury when the area was first settled, but over-use of such a wonderful timber and not one red cedar tree remains in the Hawkesbury to-day.

The Hawkesbury district west of the bridge at Windsor was once upon a time looked after by a great little council called Colo Shire Council. In 1980 it was amalgamated with Windsor Council and became known as the Hawkesbury City Council. The worst thing that could have happened if you listen to the old-timers who claim Colo was the “rich” Council and the amalgamation should never have happened. With the goings on of late in Hawkesbury City Council I have to wonder if the old-timers may have it right –WHAT A MESS our old Windsor Bridge debacle has become with so many falsehoods floating about re the old bridge. Most of the claims false. I DO WONDER, IF WE STILL HAD COLO SHIRE COUNCIL AROUND AND INVOLVED, WOULD THIS DEBACLE be happening?. I recall there was some “clever” people working in the old Colo Shire Council who knew everything about the district. It now seems such valuable knowledge is missing from today's Council.. I remember one of our Turnbull's was the President of Colo

Shire Council for a time – His name was Reg Turnbull, known formally as Reginald Beaumont Turnbull from North Richmond.

REG. TURNBULL was born in Windsor in 1898, the only child of Alfred Hughes Turnbull and Emma Taylor. Emma was Owen Cavanough, the family who donated land to 1808. When Reg left with his father on their In 1920 the family sold North Richmond and chards. He married Mar-a teacher at Sackville Turnbull's of that era be-local tennis and cricket He was very involved with ciations, being elected to cultural Association in



a descendant of 1<sup>st</sup> Fleeter Hawkesbury pioneering fam-build Ebenezer Church in school he worked for a time property near Sackville Ferry. and bought a property in planted out big citrus or-garet Munro, the daughter of school in 1921 and like most came an active member of teams, playing both sports. community and district asso-the Hawkesbury District Agri-1922 and became the stew-

ard of the Poultry section. Later he was elected President. (He was involved with the HDAA until he died in 1979). In 1960 he was elected to the now defunct Colo Shire Council and became President, serving as President in one of the busiest periods for the Shire Council when housing and industries were developing at a rapid pace. He served.on Council for ten years. BUT sadly in 1980 the wonderful Colo Shire Council ended - it was amalgamated with Windsor Council and became to-days, Hawkesbury City Council.

In 1972 Reginald Beaumont Turnbull and his wife Margaret moved to live in Richmond for their retirement, allowing them more time to enjoy travelling and Reg could retain his interest in horse racing and trotting, as well as following the cricket and tennis.

I thank their daughter JEAN, for her gratitude in supplying me with many important details for this story.

AND I SHOULD NOT FORGET to mention all our other TURNBULL relatives from the Hawkesbury District who at some time would have worked for the now defunct Colo Shire Council, in either the office or outdoors. The head office was always in Wilberforce - their jobs well done and appreciated, I'm sure.

**It's long past time** common sense prevailed over a reckless decision by this State Government re the **bridge** and Windsor got it's new bridge in the correct place, including a **By-Pass** taking

all the heavy vehicles away from Windsor township - Come on Mr. O'Farrell, do the right thing by the Hawkesbury.

Recently I received a lovely letter from a lady I hadn't seen for 56 years, Myrtle who now lives in Katoomba (attended my wedding) tells her story about some of the children in the old Ebenezer school picture because she knew them personally.

They were siblings George, Allan and Jean SARGEANT – Allan, became a successful policeman. Jean, married local Victor Rissler from Stannix Park Rd. and Dorothy Sargeant their young sister maybe in the picture but can't be identified there, married Aubrey Voller a local lad from Wilberforce. Some readers may have visited the refurbished Stannix Park House, built in 1838. It's at the end of the road and now a lovely old home with a "past" – MATTHEW EVERINGHAM the 2<sup>nd</sup>, was rescued by rowing boat from the top floor in the 1867 historic flood....In my teens Stannix Park house, by then in ruins, was our shelter when caught out riding our horses in a storm. ERROL BROWNS lovely old sandstone home and land on Sackville Rd. was THE house used in the TV series "A Country Practice". His sibling Jean & cousin Enid Brown are in the picture. BLIGH JOHNSTON lived on the original Andrew Johnston grant at the end of Portland Head Rd., also very familiar to me on my horse. The TUCKERMAN brothers, Maurice, Lawrence and Alwyn (Alwyn married Ebenezer Church stalwart Valmai Johnston) were working the huge citrus orchards on original Tuckerman land down by the river on Sackville Reach. JIM DAVISONs family were still on the original Davison land grant at Portland Head and RUSSELL KING became 'famous' around the district. ..Russell started the huge KING's HARDWARE business still trading in Ebenezer today and run by his ancestors. YOU CAN'T MISS IT on the right, just a few hundred meters before Ebenezer School. OUR first cousins Sadie and Bessie TURNBULL lived just up the road from us and MAY WATSON was one of two girls adopted (Linda the other) by my Grandmother after they were found abandoned on the steps of the old "Peoples Palace" in Sydney many years ago. THOSE REALLY WERE THE GOOD DAYS! But it changed – The floods in the 1950's and 60's ruined life as we knew it on the Hawkesbury. The river flats, famous for their orchards of peach, orange and manderins, in between the orchards were vegetable farms, an odd dairy and a few rearing cattle for markets. The orchard's were eventually killed off by floodwater and many animals were drowned or washed away in the floods, helping to morally and financially bankrupt families. But those who survived and stayed became stronger from the experiences. TO-DAY, it's nothing like I remember – all orchards or any sign they were ever there have gone. The TENNIS COURTS, where many learnt to play, also gone and close by the cricket pitch where the teams called "FORREST" played and won many games, have disappeared under tons of torn up dry earth and grassless acres. Water ski parks have replaced many orchard's. To me the area has gone backwards, compared to what it was

in my time, I suppose 'they' call it progress now. On the flat ground opposite the little shop (built by Clive and Molly Brown), ancient Aboriginal tools were often dug up. We had a big collection of aboriginal stone axes stored in our garage. A lovely fresh water creek surrounded that lovely flat grassy area, which I believe was an important meeting place for the tribes before Australia was settled.... I shake my head in disbelief at what I see from time to time and ask myself, what are we doing to this once great country?

***I have a request for Medical Information from BEV SALTER, as follows:***

Recently two descendants of Thomas Jerome Salter (1860-1920) and Elizabeth Ann Turnbull (1858-1948) have been diagnosed with a form of **cerebeller ataxias**, an inherited disorder which has now appeared in three (3) generations of this family.

Thomas Jerome and Elizabeth Salter's son, Walter Thomas Salter was the first known to have this disorder and three of his children displayed symptoms (all in later life) and now two more members of the next generation have been diagnosed with what has now been named "Salter's Syndrome".

Does anyone know of any other member of the Turnbull family who may have been affected by a form of cerebellar ataxia (or maybe it came down through the Salter family). Symptoms include (temporary) stroke-like clumsiness or willed movements and speech is also affected.

Please contact [bjsalter@bigpond.com](mailto:bjsalter@bigpond.com) if you have any information to pass on.

---

Recently Ann Ryan from the Central Coast sent me a wonderful picture and story about her father, Mervyn David Turnbull. Mervyn was born in 1909 in Leichhardt, the son of David and Alice Turnbull. (David was of the Sackville North family connection of Turnbull and Manning). Mervyn joined the NRMA in 1937 and worked for them for most of his life, first as a patrol officer. His job was interrupted for awhile by a stint in the Army from October 1941 till December 1945 - after which he rejoined the patrol staff. HOWEVER in January 1947 he was appointed as Engineer to the Technical Department of the NRMA where he was highly commended for his ability as an above average mechanic and a highly skilled technician. His promotion was accompanied by a letter from the head of the Patrol Dept to him, giving him A VERY GLOWING REFERENCE to be used in future, if ever needed.

The story of the  
lows – The  
old picture to  
ternet site on the  
NSW's. NRMA, at  
knowing who the  
the bike in the  
the Net). OF  
Turnbull family  
it and were  
ise it was Mervyn



picture is as fol-  
NRMA used THIS  
head up their in-  
HISTORY of  
the time NOT  
person was on  
picture – (still on  
COURSE the  
became aware of  
stunned to real-  
Turnbull. The

family contacted the NRMA and informed them it was Mervyn Turnbull, But there is yet another twist in the story - MERVYN was attached to the Wollongong NRMA, where Fred Wright has lived all of his life. Though Fred never spoke to Mervyn, he certainly knew about him as he was well known around the area for his expertise with the NRMA Road Service. At that time Fred had no idea he had a Coromandel Turnbull connection. It's just another one of those ODD Turnbull "things" we hear of now and then.

**Mervyn Turnbull on his patrol Bike in Crown St., Wollongong in the 1940's.**

.....

Our young speedster Levi Day is having mixed success with his racing career in Europe. He finished 9<sup>th</sup> at Brands Hatch and 11<sup>th</sup> at Thruston and then had a satisfactory 5<sup>th</sup> at Oulton Park on 6<sup>th</sup> May. Later on at Knockhill in Scotland he broke a lap record, then ran off and another rider ran into the back of him. At Snetterton he came 5<sup>th</sup>, his best result so far. He was last in contact with his grandparents as he was about to jet off to Japan from Heathrow where he was doing some testing on an Aprilla RSV4 Super bike. His next big assignment will be the 8 hour Endurance Race in Japan towards the end of July. We wish him all the best and to stay safe.

I also WISH his grandparents MAX AND DAWN DAY all the best for the right out-come with their upcoming health issues back home in Mt. Gambier.

**IN AUSTRALIA, THE LIFE AND TIMES OF "BREAKER" MORANT AND his action's in THE BOAR WAR ARE WELL KNOWN, but the truth about the man and his ancestry has never been proved, so it's time I told what I know of the Breaker Morant story.**

About 40 years ago I had a visit from two Journalists belonging to the ILLAWARRA MERCURY. Somehow they learnt I had a whip handle which belonged to "Breaker" Morant with his name

etched on it. THEY did see it that day, but decided it wasn't worth writing about and left. In recent years Louise a former journalist at the Hawkesbury Gazette also saw it and has remained silent. Family members know I came by the whip from my Uncle Bill Tuckerman. His older brother Cyril was a very close friend and confident of the 'Breaker', Harry Morant. When Morant left the Hawkesbury he intended going back to England, so the whip, 'as the story goes' was tossed on the ground in front of Cyril, Morant saying, "He wouldn't be needing this anymore where he was going, so it's yours". Cyril kept the whip – but Cyril was killed when his horse fell on him in 1919 and his youngest brother, my Uncle Bill, was left it in the Will. Consequently it came to me the same way, because I was the next family member following the horse tradition. I COULD just disclose his name, NOW, but because of research I've done recently I believe there maybe very close relatives of Morant still living to-day, maybe in Scotland where he spent much of his young life. I know this Newsletter is widely read thanks to the Turnbull Clan Association in the USA, so I'm hoping any living close relative may see this and contact me. Only a close relative would know his correct name – IF they contact me, with his "right" name and I'm satisfied, I WILL happily return what remains of the whip to them. There is other writing on the butt as well as his name. \*\*IF no one comes forward within a reasonable time I will disclose his name publicly.....

It's been a busy 3-4 months with the Grenada and Canadian research ongoing as well some local "stuff" – no doubt Victorian Alexander Turnbull was from Grenada, but it appears the only way to get a result will be for someone to go to Grenada.. In c1800 an Alexander Turnbull was a Plantation owner with slaves in Grenada, but **was** he connected to Victoria's Alex'?

The Canadian search has been an amazing run of discoveries – Turnbull families I researched in Scotland in the 18<sup>th</sup> century while looking for my John Turnbull have turned up in Canada in 'droves' – so I wonder why our Turnbull's didn't go there. Was it because our John was in London and had access to the offers being distributed in Scottish communities around London about Australia. **Oh dear, I now wonder, could the proof we need** be in Canada....Phew?

Again I thank all those who donated to keep this Newsletter going, it is so appreciated. AND to all the family members struggling with illnesses of every description and seriousness I wish you all the best and hope for the right result for all.

Bye for now and until our next Issue, November/December 2013.



Marie Turnbull....[goose2fly@yahoo.com.au](mailto:goose2fly@yahoo.com.au) or [marie.clanturnbull@bigpond.com](mailto:marie.clanturnbull@bigpond.com)

BY POST – 7/28 Moray rd., TOWRADGI, NSW 2518. OR PHONE 02 4285 7495.