



~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 N.S.W.....

...now including all Turnbull families across Australia...

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TURNBULL NEWSLETTER

July/August 2014.

According to the late Jim Turnbull (*researcher*) there's about fifty three different TURNBULL families in Australia. With so many Turnbull's here, why can't I find another family who may be closely related to us, was a question I'd begun asking myself, over and over. I remember the day I was in old Bellingen post office about 25 years ago and came across what I believed was a picture of my father among a group of men. When I took it too the lady behind the counter to ask if she knew who the men in the photo were, I was a shocked to learn it wasn't my dad in the photo at all, but a man named Turnbull from EBOR, a village half way between Dorrigo and Armidale in northern NSW. The photo was of a group of Ebor Turnbull men. After some research I discovered there was no relationship between us and the Ebor Turnbull's in Australia since we all arrived. So why such a likeness between the man in the photo and my dad – it could only be that somewhere in the past we were a connected family and the likeness had transcended many generations of our families, to appear again in our family many years on. Generations on and we are now confronted by DNA science which has become big business and in my thoughts constantly – WHAT IF, we DNA tested every male member in every TURNBULL family in Australia to find out if any of us were related.

Could it be done?

Recently I've become aware of a nasty disease which has devastated a young man from the Turnbull/Hartley family line in Queensland. Michael is his name and at 14 years of age it was discovered early, thankfully by accident. Michael had a rare tumor and a simple x-ray while on a normal visit to his Orthopedic Surgeon found he had an ameloblastoma. It is a very rare jaw deforming tumor. Michael has had all the necessary operations and treatment available and things are looking good for him in the future. I wish Michael, his mum Deb and the family all the best.

The Windsor Bridge is an ongoing problem as we wait to find out if the NSW Government will change their attitude about building the new bridge over the river in Windsor instead of repairing our old bridge and keeping it. The construction of a by-pass and a new bridge for heavy traffic to cross the river in another place is a dire need for the old town of Windsor. On my last visit to the Hawkesbury I made the mistake of taking a drive out Freeman's Reach Road, I wanted to see if any old Ridge homes had survived years of flooding. Very quickly wishing I hadn't done this because I was reminded of the days the coal trucks terrorised vehicles in the Wollongong area. Seems there will always be a 'cowboy' truckie, whether he's in a coal truck or a turf B-Double. A turf laden truck wanted to push me along Freeman's Reach Rd. when I was a bit slow getting out of his way. No one should be subjected to or accept such dangerous activities on the road, anywhere. BUT apparently the new Premier MIKE BAIRD and his State Government along with Hawkesbury Council seem happy to condone this activity by allowing continued crossing of the current bridge by semi trailers and huge turf trucks, which then travel through the town, eventually causing great damage to the streets. The council and the government become joke's when continually complaining how bad the roads are, while the reason is staring them in the face, wake up you guy's, **it's the big truck's**?. THE ONLY ANSWER IS A BY-PASS. Come on MR. BAIRD and Co, do the right thing by Windsor and the residents.

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A few weeks ago I received my first letter from a Turnbull in Tasmania. I have been curious about 'Tassie' Turnbolls for awhile because their Christian names in many instances were very similar to ours. IAN TURNBULL was his name and he has a long and impressive ancestry leading back to his ggg grandfather DR. ROBERT TURNBULL, born in Edinburgh Scotland in 1791. Robert Turnbull and his family emigrated to Sydney c1832. This wasn't the only connection Ian had in early Australia because Gov. Macquarie's father-in-law, his Aide de Camp, CAPT. JOHN CLIFFE WATTS, was also Ian Turnbull's ggg grandfather. When Macquarie left Australia, Capt. Watts also returned to England. He later married and resigned from his position in the 73rd Regiment and remained in English private life for some time. Later he returned to Australia

where he was appointed, replacing his brother, Post-Master-General for the next 20 years. LATER while in NSW as an Architect, John Watts was responsible for the



Capt. JOHN WATTS



RUTH and IAN TURNBULL

design of many of our early buildings.....ie The Lancer Barracks in Parramatta – The Old Military Hospital, now Headquarters of the National Trust in the Rocks – St John’s Church in Parramatta and Extensions to the Old Government House in Parramatta. Later he returned to Adelaide. IAN was born in Adelaide in 1941, but he has lived in several Australian States before finally deciding to settle in Tasmania a few years ago. MORE about IAN TURNBULL later.

All my searches are important to me, but just now I’m being side-tracked, before I can seriously get into more research about the 1801 John Turnbull. Thanks to David McCabe in London I have much more information than I WOULD HAVE IF I’D BEEN DOING THIS ALONE, but I believe there is still much more to learn. There are many coincidences involving the two Turnbull’s, 1801 JOHN and our JOHN in 1802. I believe they did know each other. For instance we all believed the naming of the Ebenezer area, Portland Head came about because they sailed up the river and spied the huge rock overhanging the river and believed it resembled the profile of the Duke of Portland back in London so they named the area after him, BUT IT MAY HAVE BEEN CHOSEN FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT. The London JOHN TURNBULL was a known close associate of the real Duke of Portland in London AND he went to the HAWKESBURY soon after arriving here in January 1801 (says so in his book). THEN there was the strange reason of why our John Turnbull didn’t sign up to come to Australia with the Coromandel group until very late in 1801 (his application dates on his papers confirm this)...WHY? The other emigrants to travel on the ‘Coromandel’ signed up very early, some as early as 1799.

(Was our JOHN waiting to hear from LONDON JOHN, already in the new COLONY, before making his decision to leave for Australia) There was also the strange letters which began arriving in Sydney between 1805 and 1808 for John Turnbull which I know could only have come from London. Why did they stop coming in 1808?. Odd or not, the London John Turnbull got back to London from Australia in late 1804 and may have become ill in 1808 because that's the year he made his Will. No more letters came to Australia for our John after 1808. The reason London JOHN was here from 1800 -1804 was to search for a suitable salt for curing pork as well as looking for bigger whaling opportunities. It is well documented our Australian JOHN became a first class dealer in pork, specifically because of the way he cooked and cured the pork. Slowly I'm beginning to put together some facts relating to these TURNBULL'S.

We know London John Turnbull had a close relative named Rev. Alexander Turnbull, living in Edinburgh, who witnessed his Will and I need to investigate Rev. Alexander further.

ORIGINALLY there was doubt the London John Turnbull who came here in 1801, was not the same Turnbull who belonged to the shipping company of MacAuley, Turnbull and Gregory. That company was dissolved around 1796 because of the financial difficulties of George MacAulay (died in 1803), but we know he was the same John Turnbull because of a continued connection between John Turnbull's sons and the MacAulay children, later.

Still much more to be learnt about these TURNBULL's and their Australian connection.

As I was closing the last newsletter, mail began arriving from rellies relating to Anzac Day. They were too late for that newsletter so I'm enclosing some pictures which arrived with their stories, in this issue. Below picture is of a group from "B Company Second Seventeenth Infantry", On the bottom row, left is Paul McCann, in the centre is George (Darkie) Kearney and on the right was Harry (nick name) Wells. "Darkie" fell in the coral at the first opposed landing since Gallipoli at Scarlet Beach on the way to taking Finschaffen near the Huon Peninsula. The 2/17th and 2/13th Infantry were given the honour to lead the landings because of their exploits at Tobruk and El Alamein. I believe the Finschaffen and Huon Peninsula campaign was at least as tough as the Kokoda because the 20 Brigade had to continually beat off the elite Japanese forces, 14,400 of them over 3 months in the jungle, rivers and ridges until meeting up with the troops who eventually came over from Kokoda. "Fatty", Fred Peters actually fell with 7 others on Rudkins Knoll, Jivenang near Finschaffen straight after a quick battle of Lae because Japs retreated and Diver Derricks, Sth Australian Battalion, easily took the town.

The author wishes to remain anonymous.....



Sitting Left to Right: Paul McCann, George Kearney & Harry Wells



PTE. G. W. KEARNEY

PRIVATE GEORGE WILLIAM KEARNEY of Port Kembla, NSW was an indigenous serviceman and an elder, warrior and leader of the Wadi Wadi people of the Illawarra region. He enlisted in the 2/17 Battalion. Pte Kearney died of wounds in New Guinea, on 22nd of September 1943, age 28. It is noted that Pte Kearney fought for his culture before his wartime service and he died as a warrior for his country - thank you to the correspondent for sending in this ANZAC story.

I wrote a story a few years ago about Richard Turnbull, but now more information has come to me about his ancestry and there is much more to Richard's story than I wrote of originally.

Weeks ago I received a part of Richard's eagerly awaited ancestry. Richard is a reasonably new Aussie having emigrated from South Africa in 1997 and now lives in Orange, NSW. He is a highly accredited Exercise and Sports Physiologist having degrees in Exercise Science, Rehabilitation and Sports Science. He also has high level coaching accreditations in South Africa and Australia for Rugby Union and has great expertise and experience in many other areas of sport fitness and health.

When Richard first contacted me his interest was in 'catching up' because of our TURNBULL name and who we were. When he informed me that he had his ancestry ON PAPER, going back several centuries in Scotland, my eagerness to see what he had was then upper-most in my mind and of course, actually meeting Richard was also important.

I still have not met Richard personally, but now I have a large part of his ancestry on my desk to research and from these papers I note he descends from a long line of JOHN TURNBULL's going back as far as c1500 in Scotland. It took me awhile to grasp exactly what I may have had in front of me and when I did, all I wanted to know was, WHAT DID RICHARD LOOK LIKE? I did have a picture of Richard in my photo gallery.



L to R. Lauren, Matthew, Christen – Gale and Richard



RICHARD TURNBULL

TO MY AMAZEMENT it appears from the picture I have, Richard may have a “Coromandel Turnbull nose”. Our nose is a ‘hotly’ discussed subject and a well known facial feature in our line of Turnbull’s. I wrote about this in a recent Newsletter. So until I can ‘catch up’ with Richard personally, I will focus on searching the names Richard has given me in his ancestry, at the on line web site of the Scottish Records Office in Edinburgh to see what I can ‘uncover’.

I received a letter recently from Marjorie {nee Johnson} Turnbull in Queensland to tell me her family knew Rodney ‘knuckles’ Blundell. Her family lived in Girraween in the Sydney metropolitan area of NSW in the 1940’s. MARJORIE SAYS: “we lived in Girraween near the Shipway’s in the forties and we knew most of the people living in our area. My family moved to the West Wylong area of NSW, around 1949 – Rodney was about 10-12 years old then. We knew Rodney was adopted. The Shipways had a poultry farm over the creek from us. My grandfather {Hind’s} was a police officer around the Toongabbie/Prospect area”.Marjorie now wonders what happened to Rodney over the years. If anyone knows anything about Rodney or if he is still alive, please let me know so I can pass it onto Marjorie and the family, most of whom knew Rodney.

Marjorie talked about a recent phone call from their nephew, Mark Turnbull in Canada. When she complained to Mark about the cold weather, he replied, “You don’t know what cold is in Australia”. Mark is the son of Colin Turnbull, (the Roy Carlton/Belle *Gardiner* Turnbull line) and many years ago Colin worked casually on weekends in Windsor for my dad. It was very sad to

learn that Colin has lost his eyesight so I wish Col all the best. His son Mark met and married a girl from Canada and has lived there for many years - they have two sons.

The Roy Carlton/Belle TURNBULL line is another very large, typical Turnbull family. Doug being the eldest, Colin next, Keith in Qld, then the girls Edith Jean, Mary Isabella and Margaret, and lastly John and I believe all are still present today.

We commented on how different it is today compared to years ago and I totally agree with Marjorie - many people don't know, let alone speak to their next door neighbour now. It seems we've lost the art of community friendship in these so-called modern times. It's a shame - when I think about my dad sitting on a 4 gallon drum in front of our garage on a sunny morning, speaking about "everything under the sun" with the next door neighbour and Marjorie recalls how her husband Ian and Reg Turnbull (a former Colo Shire Council Mayor) would sit on the gutter in front of their home in Richmond for ages, discussing the Turnbull history - those sort of friendship's don't appear to exist now.

Mark Turnbull and his Canadian connection remind me that we have several other Ebenezer Turnbull descendants who have married and remained in Canada.

THOUGH not 'yet' a relative, as far as I know, a very remarkable Turnbull story is unfolding from a Canadian source which relates to the search we have been doing for Lyn and her family from Victoria regarding her ancestor Alexander Turnbull who came here from GRENADA, W.I., many years ago.

This part of the story began about a month ago when I received a letter from Daphne Phillips Daifas of Montreal in Canada. As I sat reading in stunned silence and amazement everything Daphne was writing, it was slowly '*sinking in*' that maybe, here in front of me was the answer to our Grenada mystery.

Still in stunned silence I sat down to forward on to Jenna in New Zealand and Lyn in Victoria, everything Daphne wrote and to wait for their replies. LYN'S came first, just as stunned as I was, then JENNA's came via her ipad from overseas - she was on holidays.

Daphne wrote that she believes all three of them descend from either Alexander or Gordon Turnbull, brothers and plantation owners living on GRENADA. The brothers were born in Edinburgh, Scotland and obtained land in Grenada some time between 1764 and 1783. There would have been a third brother on Grenada named ROBERT, who died during the Fedon insurrection (the struggle between ruling English and French land owners), and another brother

named George living in New York at the same time. Following 7 years of war when France ceded Grenada to the English and the French land owners were allowed to stay, but some chose to leave, selling their land to eager English and Scots wanting to make money in the islands. Daphne has not been able to find some of the baptisms in Edinburgh, (I'll search soon) but knows the family consisted of Alexander, Joan, Elizabeth, Helen and Gordon, because they were named in a Will.

Briefly this is what we know so far: Alexander, plantation owner, living on the small island CARRIACOU just north of Grenada, had 5 children, (only 1 son, Alexander) with a Maria Decaux described as being Portugese, but Maria was a slave. It appears she would have been brought to Grenada from a Portuguese colony. I will concentrate on Alexander, for now, as he appears to be the one the three girls (here and in Canada) may descend from.

Gordon and Alexander's father, the original (*on the baptism of son Gordon it says*) ALEXANDER TURNBULL, was a wright Burgess of Edinburgh and Elspeth Gordon his spouse had a son named Gordon on 2/11/1741. Son Alexander's baptism hasn't been found so far. It is these sons whom Daphne believes became the Plantation owners in GRENADA.

{Brother Gordon did have a son named Alexander, but it's known he died in Grenada in 1862}

Daphne has done lots of research and found notes re GRENADA, relating to Robert Turnbull who died in 1795 which gave another hint that George Turnbull in New York was also a brother.

It says: *George Turnbull of the City of New York in America appoints Gordon Turnbull of Grenada and Alexander Turnbull of Carriacou, attorneys over his affairs in the West Indies or elsewhere, over Negros or other property belonging to the estate of Robert Turnbull his brother, deceasedwitnessed by: John Bell, W. Brodie, F. Pollard, Nicholas Nicols Blake of the Fanny.*

So we must assume George Turnbull was another brother to Gordon, Alexander and deceased ROBERT.

This story is still unfolding on many levels and more will be known and written of in later NEWSLETTERS as we learn more about this amazing family story.

I took a mini break from writing the newsletter a couple of weeks ago to spend a few days taking in familiar sites and catch up with friends around Windsor, something I haven't been able to do on any recent visits. Time raced away and I didn't get to see or do a couple of things I specifically wanted to do - one missed important visit was to Ebenezer Church. While in the

area I heard many good things about the old church because ON THE LONG WEEKEND IN JUNE, the church was 205 years old, still standing in perfect condition. The 205 pilgrimage took place on the 14th and was well attended. It was remarked on how wonderful the old church and the surrounds were being looked after. It's easy to believe it is the most visited site in the area and it is really a very peaceful place. Unless it's mid-summer and the ski boats continually fly up and down the river.

Early in MAY it came to the attention of several Ebenezer-ites that a story appeared in a previously unheard of magazine named "INSIDE HISTORY". It was disappointing to read such a mediocre story written about this wonderful old church - it has too great a history to be written about in such a trivial manner, particularly on the eve of the church's 205th birthday.

I drove down to the Colo River next day to visit Val Wilcox, a class mate from our school days, whom I hadn't seen for ages, though we keep in touch. Val and her husband Ron Males are highly regarded Aussies who were very involved in the breeding of Arabian horses in Australia. They have retired from breeding Arab's now, but still involved with horses. Quite recently Ron competed in another state in an endurance event and was very competitive

I received a note from Sue Assad in Qld as she was about to leave for a European holiday, apologising for not letting me know earlier that her mother had died. Her mum was THELMA MARCHMENT of Wauchope in NSW and she died in JULY 2013. Sadly just three weeks later Sue's stepfather ROBERT MARCHMENT died.

I also had a call from the partner of ALAN TURNBULL of Rockferry Rd. in Wauchope to tell me of Alan's death on the 18/11/2013 in Wauchope.

We extend our sincerest sympathy to both of the above families.

I now have another story I wish to talk about, appearing in the magazine "INSIDE HISTORY".

Last year I wrote a story in our newsletter about my family and a secret it kept and protected for the last 176 years. It's said to be what happened when relative *John Henry Fleming* was the leader of the infamous massacre of indigenous people at MYALL CREEK in 1838. BUT now my story has become part of another man's story and his decision to have another look at the massacre and the aftermath.

I considered it a privilege to be able to be a part of the research for this story which has now been written of by the author of a recently released book called "EUGENIA".

The author is NSW's most Senior Crown Prosecutor MARK TEDESCHI, AM QC. He writes about aspects of the story I've never had access too and those results are part of his published story in two following issues of the magazine.

The first part was released in the May/June issue, 2014 of the magazine, **INSIDE HISTORY** and was called "*JUSTICE EVADED, JUSTICE DENIED*" – the 2nd part arrived on my doorstep yesterday the 3rd of July and for some reason, with another heading, "*WE REMEMBER THEM*".

It's disappointing that some parts of the story were not there OR possibly edited out for some reason for it still leaves me with some unanswered questions of HOW INVOLVED was *John Henry Fleming* in the massacre. In an upcoming newsletter I'll write about *PROSPER TUCKERMAN who married MARIA (Mariah) FLEMING*. Records exist of the help and respect the Tuckerman's had and gave to the aboriginal people of the Hawkesbury River. It began with original Stephen Tuckerman born in 1801 and continued with his son *Edward Sherman PROSPER Tuckerman*, born in 1838. It's very distressing to continually hear all the bad things the Europeans did to the aboriginal people and it's time we talked about the good things done for them, by the Tuckerman's and others, including Dr. Thomas Fiaschi.

This is the only picture we have of Mariah, other than the one appearing in several books with husband Prosper. This photo was taken in front of the home in Sackville Her youngest child with her, my Aunt, Annie Maria *Tuckerman* Turnbull – Annie married my dad's half brother JAMES DAVIS TURNBULL. The old home was pulled down after she died, before it fell down, it was riddled with white ants.



It's time to sign off again, so until the next issue, out just before Xmas, all being well, I must thank all the current participants for sending in their stories for this issue.

Thanks to Carolyn Wright for her assistance with the editing.

Also, best wishes to everyone still struggling with illness and other health issues.

Marie Turnbull - you can find me at – 7/28 Moray Rd., TOWRADGI, NSW 2518.



You can email me: marie.clanturnbull@bigpond.com or goose2fly@yahoo.com.au

And my phone number is: 02 4285 7495 - PLEASE remember MY ANSWERING MACHINE may be on.

BYE FOR NOW.....

