



Bitty Bull dedicates this issue to a very special shepherd and friend, Norman Turnbull. Part 2 of 2

HIGHLAND CLEARANCES

During the 18th and 19th centuries, sheep became the center of a huge cultural change in Scotland. The Highland Clearances or in Scottish Gaelic--Fuadach(an) nan Gàidheal ("the eviction of the Gaels") was a time when a large number of Scottish tenant farmers were forced from their homes and land by aristocratic landowners who wanted to use large sections of cleared land to raise sheep in order to improve the economy.

Many of the evicted families moved to small areas of poor farming land in the Lowlands, relocated to coastal areas where they had to learn fishing as a new trade, or were transported onto emigration ships bound for North America or Australia. Homes were burned to the ground to create sheep tracks and to prevent the families from coming back to live in them. Historical accounts record stories of violent evictions with little to no time given to some of the families to clear their belongings from the home or farm. Families would be forced to live out in the open, harsh weather until they were able to build a shelter in a new location and try to eke out a living under the poorest conditions. Some landowners would pay to relocate the tenants to new areas, but many were brutally forced out. Many tenant farmers relocated to Australia, Nova Scotia, areas around Ontario, Canada, and the Carolinas of the American Colonies. Canadian Gaelic was widely spoken for over 200 years in these areas.

Despite this tumultuous part of Scottish history, other parts of the world have been improved by Scottish ingenuity, poetry and literature, and the hard work and perseverance of the emigrants from the Highland Clearances.

This bronze statue located at the foot of the Highland Mountains in Helmsdale, Scotland commemorates the flight of the Highlanders during the Clearances.

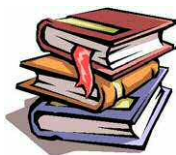


Norman Turnbull 1942-2013

Norman Turnbull, born in Edinburgh, Scotland, grew up on a farm, and from a very early age, woke up pre-dawn to milk the cows before school. At age 18, he joined the Royal Air Force and served for 12 years. Feeling restless and missing the countryside, he became a shepherd to over 1,000 sheep on Harewood Estate for Dame Lady Elliot. Norman loved and cared for those sheep and could identify each one and tell if one was missing from the flock.

One story goes that while on a trip, Norman met a young shepherd who proudly told him that he could shear a sheep in ten minutes. Norman responded that a seasoned shepherd could shear one sheep in one minute or he would lose his job!

Later in life, Norman became involved with Clan Turnbull as the Clan Schenachie (historian) and met and married his wife Terri. His kind spirit and his love for story telling and animals are missed today.



Book Nook

Tuck in with some sweet and silly books.

From Sheep to Sweater

by Robin Nelson

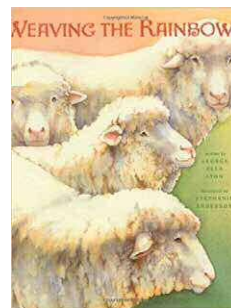
A step by step book that follows the production cycle from shearing a sheep to pulling on a sweater.



Weaving the Rainbow

by George Ella Lyon

A beautifully illustrated book about a young woman and her sheep and the shearing, dyeing, carding, and weaving process. A surprise creation at the end of the book.



Can you guess the meaning of these sheep related expressions and idioms? Match the expressions on the left to the definitions on the right. The answers are provided at the bottom of the page.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>A Uncle Bill is the black sheep of the family.</p> <p>B The government intends, by hook or by crook, to hold on to the land.</p> <p>C When John had trouble going to sleep he would count sheep.</p> <p>D The girls would make sheep eyes at the handsome new boy in class.</p> <p>E I will have dinner ready in two shakes of a lamb's tail.</p> <p>F Appearing to be kind, the thief was really a wolf in sheep's clothing.</p> <p>G March comes in like a lion and out like a lamb.</p> <p>H The sly salesman tried to pull the wool over your eyes when showing you his product.</p> <p>I I will look through these applications to separate the sheep from the goats.</p> <p>J He ruminated over the consequences of his decision.</p> <p>K The innocent children followed the Pied Piper down the mountain, like lambs to the slaughter.</p> | <p>1 To look at someone in a way that shows you are attracted to them.</p> <p>2 By whatever means necessary, whether fair or foul. Began to be used in 14th century and possibly derived from English medieval practice of allowing peasants to take deadwood from a royal forest using a shepherd's hook.</p> <p>3 Fool or deceive someone. Although thought to be of English origin, it was first recorded in America in 1839 and referred to the large wool wigs worn by judges and lawyers.</p> <p>4 A way to help a person go to sleep. The image of counting sheep jumping over a wall was first mentioned in Seba Smith's 1854 book <i>Way Down East or Portraits of Yankee Life</i>.</p> <p>5 To choose people or things of high quality from those of mixed quality. Taken from Matthew 25:2, Jesus refers to believers as sheep sitting on the right side in heaven and the goats (nonbelievers) sitting on the left.</p> <p>6 Someone that seems to be outwardly kind, but is up to no good. Possibly taken from the Bible--Matthew 7:15: Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.</p> <p>7 A disreputable or disgraced member of a family. Possibly derived from a misinterpretation from an English Bible that suggested that dark sheep were removed from a flock because they were considered worthless instead of highly valued.</p> <p>8 Something done very quickly. This phrase was used with ease in the early 1800's to refer to a small measure of time.</p> <p>9 Innocently and helplessly, without realizing the danger. This expression appears in several books of the Bible (Isaiah, Jeremiah) as well as used by Chaucer in <i>Man of Law's Tale</i>, 1386.</p> <p>10 Often used to describe spring weather: Blustery and stormy March/April that gives way to a calmer April/May.</p> <p>11 To chew repeatedly or to go over in your mind /think about for a long period of time. Latin word rumen means the first stomach of creatures like cows and sheep that must repeatedly chew in order to digest their food.</p> |
|--|---|

A7, B2, C4, D1, E8, F6, G10, H3, I5, J11, K9

8-11 correct answers=Ewe did great!, 4-7 correct=Feeling a bit sheepish?
1-3 correct=Baaaack to school for you!