

The Turnbull Trails



Stirling Castle



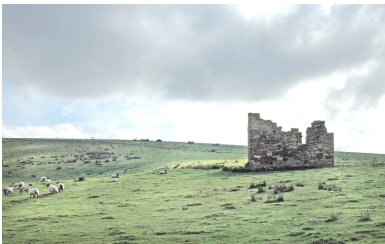
Hawick



Bedrule Kirk



Bedrule Turnbull Cairn



Fulton Tower



Jedburgh Abbey



Fatlips Castle



Minto Parish

Turnbull Trails



Ruberslaw

The Borders, Scotland

Stirling Woods and Castle

Historical significance to Turnbells: Stirling Woods is a part of King's Park of Stirling Castle. This is where William of Rule saved King Robert the Bruce's life by turning the raging bull's head and was consequently dubbed Sir Turn-e-bull.

Interesting Facts: William I (William the Lion) created a royal hunting park at Stirling. This is most likely the park where William of Rule saved the life of King Bruce.



Robert the Bruce at the entrance to Stirling Castle



Stirling Park as seen from the heights of Stirling Castle

William Wallace and Andrew Murray lead the Scots to victory at the Battle of Stirling Bridge below the castle in September 1297. Stirling Castle was consequently surrendered by the English to the Scots. The Scots abandoned Stirling Castle after their loss at the Battle of Falkirk and Edward I again resumed control in 1298. In 1299, Robert the Bruce successfully laid siege to Stirling Castle and regained it from the English.

Sights to see: A visit to Stirling Castle should include the following within the castle walls.

The King's Old Building: This was built for James IV in about 1496. Its north end is located on the highest part of the castle rock.

The Great Hall: Most historians agree that James IV built this structure and he clearly intended to impress. The Great Hall was the largest ever built in Scotland, measuring 138ft by 47ft. It is heated by five fireplaces. The space seems huge to our 21st Century eyes. It must have been truly awe-inspiring in the 1500s.

The Palace: In 1538, when James V was to marry Mary of Guise, he wanted something to show that Scotland could match the best he had seen in France.

Minto

Historical significance to Turnbells: In the 14th century, Minto was in the possession of the family of Turnbells. It passed from them to the Stewarts, and eventually was sold to Gilbert Elliot, the ancestor of the present family of Minto.

Interesting Facts: One of the more infamous of the Turnbull clan was John, Lord of Minto, nicknamed "out with the sword" because of his fiery temperament. It was said of him, "woe to the Englishman on the Borders who came within the reach of his sword..." He was taken prisoner in 1399, and held in the tower of London until 1413 and killed in 1424 during the battle of Cravat fighting with the French against the English.

William Turnbull, founder of Glasgow University, descended from the Turnbells of Minto. He was born in the early part of the fifteenth century. He was educated for the church and later became bishop of Glasgow.

Sights to see: Minto Parish Church is a picturesque stop.. The Church is part of the Church of Scotland and is a Victorian building with a Gothic style. It was completed in 1831 and replaced a much earlier medieval building close by which was recorded as far back as 1275. The Church graveyard is testimony to the Turnbull influence in the town by its many Turnbull markers. The cemetery contains a very interesting and wide collection of Celtic crosses.



Fatlips Castle

Historical significance to Turnbells: Fatlips Castle is a 16th century stone rectangular tower house which served as a fourteenth-century Turnbull stronghold. The site commands a wide view of the surrounding country and the castle was used to provide a beacon when danger threatened.

Interesting facts: The castle sits 730 feet high on Minto Crag. It was originally the fortress for the famous Border Reiver Turnbull of Barnhill. Sir Walter Scott wrote of the castle and Turnbull in "Lay of the Last Minstrel:"

On Minto Crag the moon beams glint, Where Barnhill hewed his bed of flint; Where falcons hang their giddy nest. Mid cliffs, from whence his eagle eye, Full many a league his prey could spy.

The origin of the name "Fatlips" has many theories. However, the most likely follows. A Minto woman vowing to never leave home after her lover was killed in battle declared that her house was kept in order and her food and drink provided for by a fairy or spirit named Fatlips. She described him as a little man with heavy iron shoes, with which he trampled the clay floor to dispel the damp. As reported by the October, 1927 issue of the *Border Magazine*, it is believed that the name of the spirit, Fatlips, was transferred to this type of dwelling. There is at least one other structure in Scotland bearing the name Fatlips.

The castle was destroyed by Hertford's Border Raids in 1545. The castle became the property of Sir Gilbert Elliot and was rebuilt in 1857 by the third Gilbert Elliot, brother of Jean Elliot who wrote the great lament "Flowers of the Forest." Fatlips was used as a family museum and shooting box for the Minto Estate until around 1960.



View of the Bedrule Valley from the Parapet of Fatlips Castle.

Fatlips has recently been renovated. If visiting, a key to go inside is available from Oliver's Garage, Minto. The trip up and the view are well worth the effort.

Hawick

Historical significance to Turnbells: This historic and picturesque town is located in the "Turnbull region" of the borders. The town charter of 1537 mentions Turnbull as one of the original family names granted land at this time.

Interesting Facts: Hawick is the largest town in the Scottish Borders. It lies on the Teviot River. The position of the river was important to the town's growth. Hawick was founded by the Angles in the 600's. It was further developed by the Lovells, a Norman family, in the 1100's. Industry in Hawick has traditionally centered around textiles.

Hawick was often in the middle of the cross border wars between England and Scotland from the 1300's through the 1500's. Most of the town's men of fighting age were killed in the Battle of Flodden, September 9, 1513. In 1514, the town was once again threatened by raiding English troops. The troops were fought off by the boys, or "callants" of the town who captured the English flag. This event is commemorated during the annual "Common Riding" each year. In addition to celebrating the capture of the English flag in 1514, it reenacts the custom of riding the boundaries of common land. This is an ancient custom of riding around the boundaries to make sure that no one had encroached and to remind the people where the boundaries were.

Sights to see: The town of Hawick offers free parking. One can park and tour many of the interesting sites and streets on foot.



The newly established Hawick Heritage Hub is home to the Scottish Borders Archives and Local History Centre. The Turning of the Bull monument is placed in the courtyard to the Hub. The monument is 1.25 life size and depicts William Rule turning the bull to save King Robert the Bruce.

Bedrule and Fulton Tower

Bedrule: Historical significance to Turnbells: Bedrule is a farming community named after the waters of the Rule, a tributary of the Teviot River. It is thought by some to mean “the village by the roaring stream.” Bedrule is often considered to be the home of the first Turnbells and the beginning of the Turnbull Trails.

William of Rule, the man dubbed Sir Turn-e-Bull for saving King Robert the Bruce from a raging bull was from Bedrule. The lands around Bedrule subsequently belonged to the Turnbells.

Interesting Facts: The founder of Glasgow University, William Turnbull, was born in Bedrule.

One of the beautiful views from Bedrule is that of Ruberslaw, a large 1400 foot high hill. This rise that dominates the Rule valley and can be seen from many angles played a significant role during the time of the Covenanters. Despite great efforts from the Episcopalian Church and the government, conventicle or clandestine prayer meetings were held at fairly regular intervals in Bedrule and the surrounding area. Lookouts perched on Ruberslaw would watch for government spies seeking illegal meetings and warn of danger so preachers and worshippers could disband before being caught.

Sights to see: At the end of the one remaining street sits the Bedrule Kirk (church). The church is full of Turnbull history. Nearby, about 150 yards to the north of the kirk, is a small mound where Bedrule Castle, home of the Turnbells, once stood. In the church yard, is the Bedrule Turnbull Cairn, dedicated in 2014, the Cairn gives tribute to the significance of Bedrule Castle and houses a Turnbull time capsule.

Fulton Tower: Historical significance to Turnbells: The tower home belonged to Margaret Home of Cowdensknowes prior to her marriage to William Turnbull of Bedrule, at which time it came into the possession of the Turnbells from Lord Home, Margaret's father.

Interesting Facts: The name Fulton is probably derived from “foul toun” presumably named so because the area had a noxious odor coming from the ground before the land had proper drainage.

Jedburgh

Historical significance to Turnbells: A Border town, Jedburgh, located in Roxburghshire, is the seat of the circuit court. It was the most important town to Bedrule and the sheriff court there determined the fate of many a Turnbull.

The grammar school of Jedburgh was founded by Bishop Turnbull of Glasgow in the middle of the 15th century.

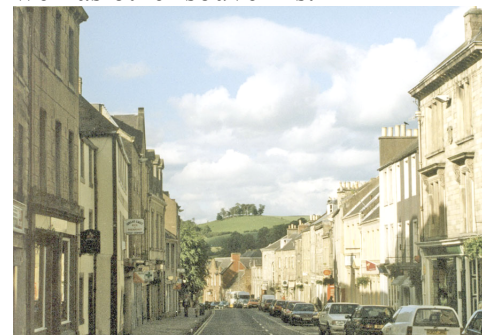
The poet Thomas Turnbull (1797-1882) was born in Jedburgh. He later came to America with his mother Sarah Wood and settled in the Scottish settlement of Rossie in New York State.

Interesting facts: The original settlement is thought to have been a post Roman capital of the Geddewrd. It became one of the most powerful religious centers in the Borders in the 1100's due to the development of an abbey by David I.

Jedburgh was frequently invaded by and more than once occupied by the English. The local men defended themselves against these raids with the famous “Jeddart staff”, a long pole with a metal hook at the tip.

The abbey was destroyed by the English in 1544. In 1548, the French army occupied the town briefly in an effort to help the Scots defend themselves against the English.

Sights to see: Places to see include the Jedburgh Abbey, Jedburgh Castle and Jail with museum, Mary Queen of Scots house, and the Montieviot House Gardens. The Jedburgh Woolen Mill Outlet is a good place to find fine woolen and sewn items as well as other souvenirs.



High Street