

(From the School book of John Turnbull)

DEATH OF AN OLD BORDER SHEPHERD

Mr. John Turnbull, who has passed the evening of his days at the East Lodge, Weens, and has for many years looked after the parks on the estate, passed away after a short illness at the ripe age of 85 years. His grandfather was shepherd at Templehall, Rulewater, and his oldest son was John, who married Agnes, daughter of Robert Telfer, shepherd, and with several other bairns, they had the above named John, born at Hawick in 1824. He married Margaret Elliot, from Newcastleton, who predeceased him seventeen years ago. When quite a young man, in the forties, old Henry Elliot took a fancy to him. He was then tenant of Gatehousecote, and afterwards at Westerhouses with him and his son, Henry Elliot, junior, he remained thirty-eight years, until they both died at Greenriver. For three years he was with Mr. Balfour at Westerhouses, and for five years with Bell Brothers, butchers, and tenants of Town O'Rule. Latterly he took charge of Weens Grass Parks and made himself useful until he was compelled to stay indoors with a cold, from which he did not recover. He was a man of unblemished character and of the true Border type--strictly honest. It may be truly said of him that he was faithful unto death and now reaps his reward. He has two sons, John, in the United States, and Thomas, a carpenter, in British Columbia, who learned his trade with Mr. Inglis of Jedburgh. Both sons are married, with families. He has a daughter married to Mr. Robson, coal merchant, Hawick. His youngest daughter has kept house for him since her mother's death. Mr. Turnbull's cousin, the late John Turnbull, tenant of Wiltonburn, at one time drove the Hawick and Carlisle coach. John comes of the Swanshiel people, who can trace their pedigree to the days of Queen Elizabeth.