BULLSEYE
A TURNBULL CLAN PUBLICATION
Serving Turnbulls Worldwide
Volume 27 September - October Issue 5

HALLOWE'EN – SCOTTISH MYTHS WITCHES AND LEGENDS

Millions of people world wide celebrate Hallowe'en on the last day of October, but few are aware of its origins and the Celtic roots in the Samhain festival (known in Scottish Gaelic as Sauin or Samhuinn). This was the day that marked the end of summer and the harvest, the beginning of the dark, cold winter and was also often associated with their ancestors.

Scottish, Irish and parts of Britain's family's ancestors were honoured and invited home, whilst harmful spirits were warded off. People wore costumes and masks to disguise themselves as harmful spirits to avoid mischief. Bonfires and food also played a large part in the festivities.

The bones of slaughtered livestock were cast into a communal fire, while household fires were extinguished and started again from the shared fire.

Food was prepared for the living . . . *and the dead*, while their ancestors who were in no position to eat, the food was ritually shared with the less well off. Pagan dancing, fire festivals and witches with brooms became entwined in the celebrations. Every Halloween today children *(and adults)* across Scotland still grab their broomsticks and dress up as pointy hat witches.

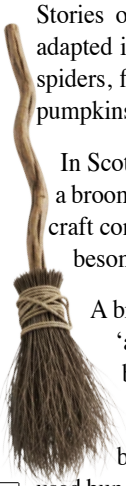
Suggestions that the association between witches and brooms may have roots in a pagan fertility ritual, where rural farmers would leap and dance astride poles, pitchforks or brooms in the light of the full moon to encourage the growth of their crops. This "broomstick dance," it seems, became confused with common accounts of evil witches flying through the night on their way to orgies and other illicit pagan meetings.

Broomsticks were also thought to be the perfect vehicles for the special ointments and salves that witches brewed up to give themselves their ability to fly.

At the beginning of the 17th century, records of witches using broomsticks to fly up and out of chimneys became more commonplace.



Stories of scary flying witches continued and over time, they were adapted into the traditional games of Halloween, with the added scary spiders, flying bats, human skulls, black cats and the carved candle-lit pumpkins . . . the time to embrace all things spooky!



In Scottish folklore and history, the iconic image of a witch flying on a broomstick is largely a theatrical myth, though actual Scottish witchcraft confessions reference everyday household objects like straw and besoms for mystical travel.

A broomstick left outside the home, has also been associated with 'ale wives', the name originating for women who brewed weak beer, indicating that their ale was available for sale.

It's not clear exactly when the broom itself was first invented, but the act of sweeping goes back to ancient times when people used bunches of thin sticks, reeds and other natural fibres to sweep aside dust or ash from a fire or hearth.

Perhaps witchcraft is alive and well in Scotland today. We know that Scottish witches were not old cackling crones in long pointy hats riding broomsticks with black cats perched on the end, or stooped over a boiling cauldron, throwing eye of newt and tongue of frog into a bubbling, green distilment.



We also know that they were generally accused of relatively harmless crimes. Not every Scottish witch story portrays them as forces of evil and were just as likely to help as they were to hinder.

It was not so long ago, acting like a Scottish witch was nothing to joke about! In the 16th and 17th centuries, thousands of women were accused of witchcraft, with many tried and executed during mass witch hunts. North Berwick and Edinburgh were notorious for these dark trials.

Hallowe'en festivities or an event to share?



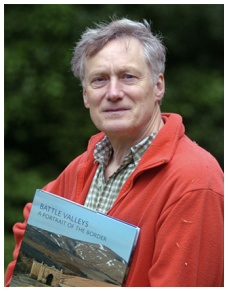
How about submitting a photo of your celebration or an event that you'd like to share with the 2,000+ Turnbull Clan readers. Please let us know. We'd love to share.

You can send photos and information or stories of your adventures along to . . . editor@turnbullclan.com

Authors Corner



Ronald Turnbull

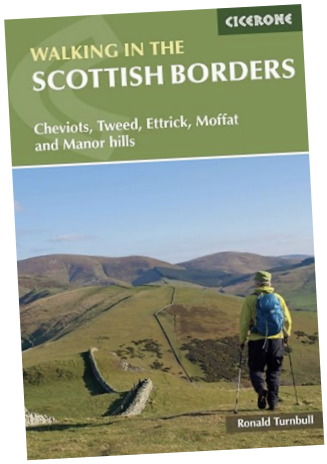


The rich history of the Scottish Borders, where rolling hills, peaceful river valleys and rugged coastal scenery, present one of southern Scotland's most rewarding walking regions.

Walking in the Scottish Borders is a comprehensive and Cicerone guidebook featuring 45 day walks and one long-distance route exploring the best of this diverse region. Written by experienced guidebook author Ronald Turnbull, the guide explores landscapes from the Cheviot Hills to the Tweed valley.

There is a 1:50,000 Ordnance Survey map accompanying every walk, with clear route descriptions and downloadable GPX files to help you navigate confidently across the remote hills and valleys of southern Scotland.

The walks pass historic landmarks and natural highlights, including the Eildon Hills, Grey Mare's Tail waterfall and the bird-rich cliffs of St Abbs Head. Peaceful riverside paths and historic abbey towns also add to long days on the grassy hills of the Cheviots.



This book offers walkers an inspiring blend of natural beauty and heritage with detailed route descriptions, clear mapping and expertly chosen routes.

Walking in the Scottish Borders provides everything you need to discover some of the finest walks in this captivating corner of southern Scotland.

4.8 ★★★★★

Available via: amazon.co.uk/Walking-Scottish-Borders

BULLSEYE

The Bullseye, is the Turnbull Clan Association Worldwide (TCA) newsletter published six times a year at: 5216 Tahoe Dr. Durham, NC 27713 U.S.A.

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BEDRULE CHURCH UPDATE

We have now completed our series of 5 historical talks at Bedrule Church, and last week hosted a day-long workshop run by Development Trusts Association Scotland and the Society for Preservation of Ancient Buildings titled **"An introduction to Community Ownership of former places of worship"** that attracted 30 delegates from southern Scotland. It went well, learning about regulatory framework, building maintenance, the value of history to the business plan etc.

This summer also saw further excavations by Archaeology Scotland at Bedrule Castle. They hope to leave some of the Castle stonework footings exposed this time, for people to get a clearer understanding of the layout. Thus emboldened, we are starting to plan for next year, starting with more meetings with SBC officers about ensuring they improve the upkeep of the graveyard, and discussing the detail of how to provide footpath access from the graveyard to Bedrule Castle.

Alan Bailey
Board Member / Chair

BEDRULE KIRK

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Scottish Borders TD9 8TE

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Flowers of the Forest

Remembering

Joshua E. Turnbull

27th April 1986 - 14th October 2026



Joshua Eli Turnbull, 40, of Latrobe, Pennsylvania, USA, was a son of Thomas R. Turnbull Jr. and Laurie A. (Stipanovich) Turnbull. As a 2004 graduate of Greater Latrobe Semior High School, Joshua proudly earned a bachelor's degree in English from Dartmouth University.

His love of writing prompted him to apply his writing skills as a journalist for the Latrobe Bulletin for several years. Later, in 2021, he earned his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Pittsburgh, School of Law. After a number of years living away and battling addiction, he was excited to move home and start anew and hoped to pursue a career practicing law.

Josh was preceded in death by his grandparents, Thomas R. Sr. and Sue Ann Turnbull and Eli and Jean Stipanovich; uncles, Lewis Stipanovich and Barry Harr; aunt, Linda Zabish; and a cousin, Lee Jacob Stipanovich. In addition to his parents, Josh is survived by one brother, Thomas R. Turnbull III (Melissa), of Latrobe; his nephews, Griffin & Greyson; several aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Sharing and Caring

With the sad passing of Joshua E. Turnbull, the families appreciate all your thoughts and prayers.



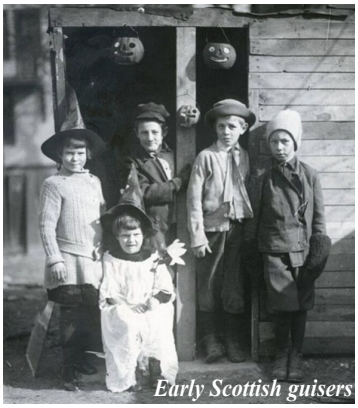
Congratulations - Bragging rights go to Sandy Turnbull of Auburn, Alabama USA, for finding the 'Little Bull'

Can you find the other hidden 'Bullseye Bull' in this issue?

Hallowe'en's traditional celebrations . . . over time

Hallowe'en began as a Celtic harvest festival called Samhain (pronounced sow-in) the solstices were important to the early peoples in Scotland, England and Ireland. The summer and winter solstices were easy to measure and could be used as the basis of early calendars along with the lunar cycles. Celebrating Samhain was the most important of all; it marked the end of harvest. It was also the start of the Celtic New Year. Samhain was also a time of communing with the dead and warding against harmful spirits.

People believed that ghosts roamed on Halloween night. Children would disguise themselves as evil spirits by blackening their faces and dressing in old clothes and venture out safely without being detected by malevolent spirits. In time, masks replaced the blackened faces and costumes began to be worn. However, these guisers simply could not knock on their neighbours' doors and shout 'Trick-or-treat'. They had to earn their treat by telling a joke, reciting a poem or singing a song. Many traditional Scottish celebrations continue around the world today!



Early Scottish guisers



Traditional mask celebrations - 2025

DAE YE KEN?

(do you know)

Mary Queen of Scots was born on the 8th December 1542. Sadly, when she was only six days old, her father, King James V died. Mary then ascended to the Scottish throne as Queen. Because of her age and for protection, she was taken to France where she spent most of her childhood in her mother's native country. Mary Queen of Scots returned to Scotland and took up the throne in 1561.

On 24th February 1923 the London and North Eastern Railway placed the Flying Scotsman into service between London and Edinburgh. It was the first steam train to reach speeds of 100 mph.

On the 1st February 1708, a Scottish sailor Alexander Selkirk from Fife, was rescued from the remote island of Juan Fernandez, 400 miles off the coast of Chile after being marooned there for four years. This inspired the author Daniel Defoe to write the novel 'Robinson Crusoe'.

John Boyd Dunlop a Scotsman from Ayrshire, on the 5th February 1846, patented the first practical and commercial pneumatic tyre.

On the 11th February 1895, the coldest ever temperature was recorded in Braemar, Scotland. The temperature dropped to -27.2C (16.96F).

Robert Burns original manuscripts were very much in demand. So much so, that many of his hand written works were copied and fraudulently passed off as being genuine. Researchers from the University of Glasgow are now able to authenticate these ancient documents. One such notorious forger was Alexander Smith.

Robert Burns (1759-1796) published his first book in order to gather enough money to emigrate to Jamaica for a plantation manager's job. It was only due to the books success that he stayed in Scotland.

Hear Ye, Hear Ye!



ANNOUNCING
Turnbul Clan Association
Annual General Meeting

If you haven't been able to travel to attend a Turnbull Clan Association (TCA) Annual General Meeting in the past, this is your year!

Join us virtually on 12th December, 2026, at the times listed below, from wherever you are in the world.

Meet our officers, hear highlights of 2026, review the annual treasurer's report, and learn what's ahead for our association. With the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Turnbull Clan Association coming up in 2027, you won't want to miss hearing about our plans to celebrate this special milestone!

Mark your calendars and plan to join us! Stay tuned for details and a link to participate via Zoom or Facebook Live. We look forward to seeing you there!

AGM online connections times . . .

Location	Local time
US Eastern	Saturday 5:00 PM
US Central	Saturday 4:00 PM
US Mountain	Saturday 3:00 PM
US Pacific	Saturday 2:00 PM
Scotland	Saturday 10:00 PM
Brisbane, Australia	Sunday 8:00 AM
Sydney/Melbourne	Sunday 9:00 AM

TCA'S CAMERA LENS INTERNATIONAL . . .

The 2026 World Pipe Band Champions held in Glasgow, has a mentoion as did TCA clan members and interested friends. Several TCA representations have been very active over the last few weeks . . .



Simon Fraser of the University Pipe band from Vancouver, led by Alan Beva became the 2026 Grade 1 World Champions in August.



Another clan showing their very young mascot (right)



TCA hosted by Fiona Turnbull at the Annan Highland Games in August, southern Scotland



TCA with Katherine Turnbull and two friends at the Virginia Scottish Games, USA



TCA hosted by Jeff Goody at Long's Peak Scottish-Irish Highland Games held at Estes Park in Colorado, USA



TCA hosted by Richard Dalton and Kyle Hall, daughter Kit and boyfriend Jack at Pleasanton, California Scottish Highland Games in early September



Fiona Turnbull setting up to host TCA at the Stirling Highland Games, Scotland



In September, Sonya Trent hosted her first TCA in South-west Missouri and met a lot of great people. TCA was voted by all the other clans to be the honoured Clan for 2027!!!

One of to organizers, Clan Keith, was the 2026 Highland Chief who presented the banner to her.



Christy Meiers with a heritage of Turnbull at the Estes Park Scottish Highlands Clan Parade - 2017

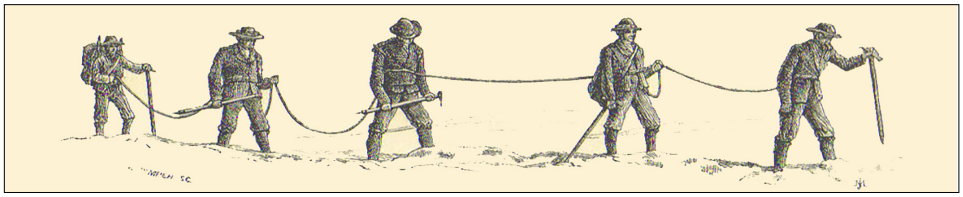


Host Kit Turnbull stands with her parents Sande and Kyle at the Pleasanton, California Scottish Highland Games



Richard Dalton with Audrianna Raymod and spouse Deolinda Turnbull & daughter at the Pleasanton Highland Games in September





By Ronald Turnbull
"About Mountains" - walking across them, climbing & writing about them

THROUGH THE LAIRIG GHRU

AN EARLY SEASON WALK THROUGH SCOTLAND'S HIGHEST, WILDEST MOUNTAIN PASS - 18 MILES (30 KM) SOUTH-EAST OF INVERNESS

"It looks sunny just now," said the man on the Aberdeen bus. "But – " And went on to tell me just how nasty the weather was going to get over the next few hours. Cloud, and wind, and wet snow; followed for the second half of the night by a hard frost.

The Lairig Ghru pass, 28 miles from Braemar to Aviemore, cuts right through the heart of the Cairngorms. It is higher, at its top, than most of the hill summits of England. High, but also historic.

Unfortunately, that light drizzle was coming at about 50 kph on a nasty wind. The dramatic sunrise-to-sunset sleep out seemed unlikely to be fun underneath such vigorous drizzle and on top of an inch or two of flowing meltwater.

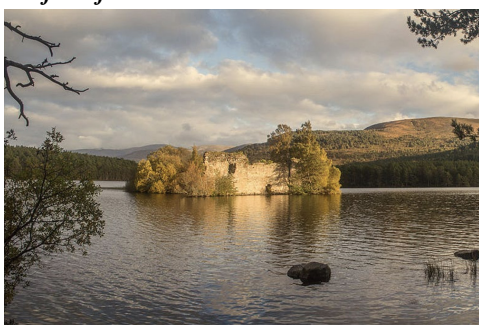
But… it was only half past four. My plan was to cross right through the pass in the dark, aided by the new torch whose light-emitting diodes wouldn't run out for another 99 hours. Even though drizzly and grey, it was not particularly cold.



The Lairig Ghru is a natural pass line through the high Cairngorm plateau. View from the north, Cairn Gorm itself on the far left.







The Tailors' Stone (near Corrour bothy) below Braeriach • Descending from the Lairig to Ghru Rothiemurchus Forest • Loch an Eilein, as seen by daylight

In fact, it was particularly warm. My feet sank deep into the snow patches. Meltwater was streaming down a dozen brown waterfalls and running ankle-deep across the path. Over across to the Dee, the wet slates of 'Corrour bothy' *(a hut)* gleamed invitingly.

A mile past the 'bothy' I saw a spark of life: three Irish walkers coming down the pass. "Is the bothy really there?" they asked. I pointed to its roof gleaming in the distance.

The top of the pass was a narrow stone-field between slopes that rose, grey snow and black boulders, into the dark cloud not far above. A solitary ptarmigan, *(a grouse)* wandered across the stones, sampling the newly exposed damp moss. Behind the bird, a streak of neon orange was the lights of Aviemore, ten miles away and two thousand feet below.

The chill of the oncoming night was making some of the snow almost firm enough to walk on. But between the snow patches were darkening boulder fields, interrupted by the youthful and boisterous Allt Druidh stream. The path appeared briefly, then vanished into a temporary Pool of Druidh – there aren't usually any pools on the Aviemore side of the pass. I hurried downhill. Thing is, there's a point where the path crosses a mighty pile of boulders with the Allt Druidh flowing through underneath. I wanted to pass that point before it got dark: especially if, in the snowmelt, the Allt Druidh should be flowing over, rather than below, the boulders.

The boulders were still managing to be bigger than the river. In half-darkness I clambered from rock to rock, with river noise coming out of the black spaces between. On the path below, I hunted out my new torch and switched it on, the darkness rushed in and the world shrank from massive dim hills to just one pale patch of path. A metaphor, for eliminating the wilderness.

After half an hour, the edges of the torchlight showed heather stalks rather than stones. Pine tree shapes stood black against the still-distant glow of Aviemore. Wind in the branches paradoxically made the weather sound worse even as I entered the shelter.

Soon I reached the path junction Piccadilly, so named because of being very busy, but for now it's only the wind and the river half a mile away . . . and an owl.

The miles are smooth, and would be easy enough if not for the twenty-three or so of them already behind me. As you go, you think about thieves in the night, passing silently between the trees two centuries ago on their way to Ryvoan and the fat cows of Aberdeen.

Lights shine on the other side. I haven't booked my Youth Hostel ahead, but perhaps it isn't actually full up?

What but 28 miles of forest and mountain, and two great rivers – the ptarmigan and the owl – and the island castle under the moon. The hostel was even quieter than Rothiemurchus Forest.

Next edition: Hermitage Castle - Borders blood and fire

Turnbull Clan Association Worldwide

News from around the world

by Kenneth Turnbull - International News Editor



Australia – Online Trading new Head

A global online trading provider, Pepperstone, serving clients in more than 160 countries, has appointed Andrew Turnbull as Head of Africa, strengthening its focus on one of the world's fastest-evolving online trading regions. He brings more than 20 years of experience in financial services, including senior roles at ODL Securities and FXCM Europe, where he led institutional sales and partnerships. "Kenya's traders were among the first in Africa to get a properly regulated market to trade in," he said. "I'm looking forward to building on Pepperstone's presence here and working with our teams and partners across the trading communities in Africa." he added.

Canada - The creative industry



Tyler Turnbull has shared his vision over the last six months, for the creative industry's role in fixing the 'growth crisis'. Omnicom completed its takeover of IPG last year, the storied agency FCB *(a creative and Marketing Agency)* disappeared overnight, as it was incorporated into another advertising network. Turnbull is still based out of his native Toronto, though he's confident in claiming a top spot among Air Canada's most frequent fliers. Turnbull's clear priority is to communicate respect and enduring commitment to McCann "At 113 years old, we're probably the largest and last remaining iconic creative brand in the world, in terms of legacy,"

UK - Inspiring nine-year-old takes on Junior Great North Run



Isla Turnbull underwent a first-of-its-kind operation five years ago and is raising funds for Alan Shearer Foundation that have supported her family. Five years ago, brave little Isla Turnbull from Kenton, Newcastle on Tyne, underwent a life-changing operation. In July 2021, doctors at Newcastle's royal Victoria Infirmary turned to a surgery normally only used on children with severe neurological issues nearing the end of their lives. The condition had left her small and struggling to put on weight and in need of frequent medical interventions. Now aged nine-years-old, mum Caroline says Isla has "massively" improved health wise. The youngster took on her first Junior Great North in early September, raising £950.



Australia -Representing South Australiua Harness Racing



Jett Turnbull represented the state at the 2026 Australian Drivers Championship in South Australia on 3rd October. It was the first of two major Harness Racing representative honours in little more than a month, with the young reinsman, also selected to represent New South Wales at the 2026 Australasian Young Drivers Championship in New Zealand from 3rd-10th November. He continued that form throughout 2026 compiling an impressive list of achievements, including becoming the youngest Australian driver to reach 100 career wins.

Scotland - Image of Vesuvius erupting sold for £25,000



A dramatic painting of Mount Vesuvius erupting in 1774 by Jacob Philipp Hackert, a German artist who witnessed the eruption, has sold for more than £25,000 at the Lyon & Turnbull auction in May. The artist recorded a series of sketches and used them as a reference when painting the scene when he returned to Rome. Flames and molten lava had burst from the crater with thick clouds of smoke billowing into the night sky.

USA - Blind Veteran takes up water skiing again



In mid-September, Major Jonathan Turnbull, a veteran gravely injured in an ISIS suicide bombing who hasn't water skied in over 20 years, skied again with the help of Cypress Gardens Water Ski members Barbara Muren, Frank Beaulieu and Steve Cary. For Turnbull, who grew up water skiing, it will be his first time back on skis since becoming visually impaired. "I really like the idea of doing something that makes people go, *'How do you do that?'* It motivates me, but it really highlights that resiliency piece." Muren prepared Turnbull, now aged 40, for the crouch start on water skis and full stand and hold of the tow boat. He was towed around the lake a few times and returned to shore as Winter Haven Nazarene Pastor Jason Crum watched nearby, along with Turnbull's wife, Samantha. He emerged light hearted with shaky legs.

UK-Call for early diagnosis clinics



Corinne Turnbull, from Hove, was diagnosed with osteoporosis at 39, following a fall that resulted in the discovery of a pelvic fracture and seven spinal compression fractures. She said: "My experience has made me passionate about improving understanding of osteoporosis and bone health. All too often osteoporosis is still perceived as a usual part of ageing or a condition affecting only older women. It isn't. Earlier awareness of risk factors, timely diagnosis, access to appropriate treatment and services with more Fracture Liaison Services can make a profound difference to people's lives."

Vanuatu – Emergency Survival kits



Dr Mark Turnbull is calling for a simple emergency survival kit to be developed for people stranded at sea, drawing on lessons from the MV Matui incident and other maritime rescues. The kit could contain basic items that could be dropped to people in the water while they wait for rescue, including drinking water, large plastic bags, floating streamers and lights. Dr Turnbull said people stranded at sea face serious risks from cold water and dehydration, making access to basic survival items critical. "The two biggest things to do is to provide flotation, something to keep them warm, and some water," he said.

FOR THE YOUNGER TURNBULLS . . .

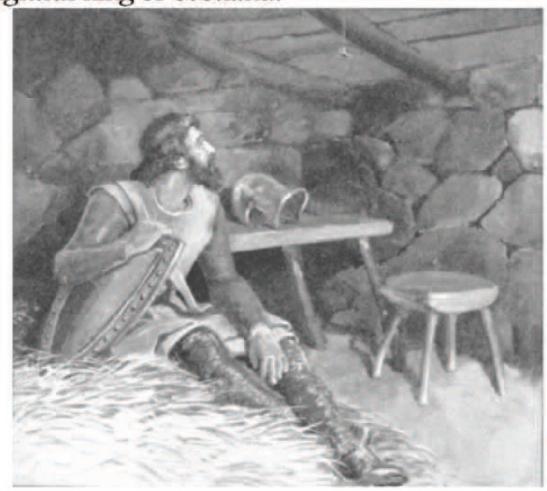
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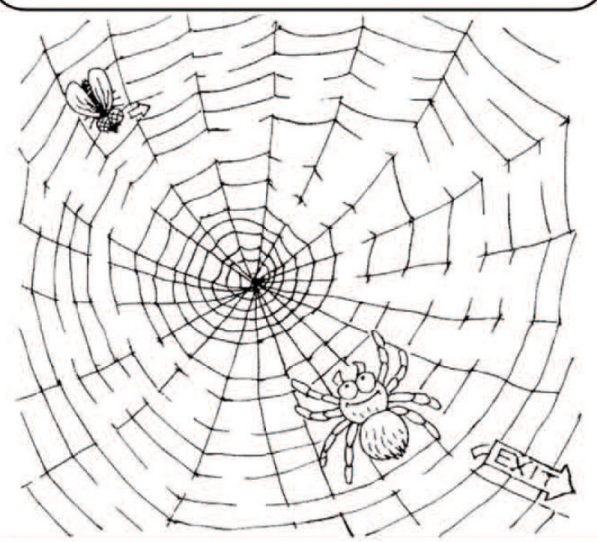
Bitty Bulls

Even the creepiest of crawlies can teach us important lessons.

Robert the Bruce

Legend has it that in the early days of Robert the Bruce's reign of Scotland he was fighting against the English and was driven to find safety in a cave. While hiding in the cave and feeling very discouraged he watched a tiny spider trying to make a web. Time after time the spider would fall and then slowly climb back up and start again. Finally after the seventh try the spider was able to attach her thread and weave a web. Robert the Bruce said to himself that he too had tried to defeat the English six times, but like the spider he must show perseverance and try again. He went on to lead his army to defeat the English at the Battle of Bannockburn and be recognized as the rightful king of Scotland.





What do spiders eat in Paris?

French flies!

Why did the spider buy a computer?

She wanted a website!

What did one spider say to another?

"Time's fun when you are having flies!"

PERSEVERANCE

noun: sticking with something even when hard
synonyms: diligence, determination, persistence

Has there been a time when you have had ***perseverance***? Write to Bitty Bull and let us know how you have been a "stick-with-it" kid. All stories and pictures will appear in the next issue.

bittybulls@turnbullclan.com

Book Nook~ Books about Perseverance

Sally Jean, the Bicycle Queen by Cari Best (picture book, ages 4+)
Sally Jean is determined to earn enough money for a bigger bike and adventures follow. A fun book for young readers about perseverance.

Wilma Unlimited by Kathleen Krull (44 pages, ages 4+)
Inspirational story of Wilma Rudolph who was born premature and was paralyzed from polio at the age of five. Through much determination she became the first US woman to win 3 Olympic gold medals.

The Boy Who Invented TV: The Story of Philo Farnsworth by Kathleen Krull (40 pages, ages 5+) The true story of boy genius Philo Farnsworth who developed the idea of moving pictures while plowing his potato field in the 1920's. Through much imagination and diligence he created the first television as a young adult.

Charlotte's Web by E.B. White (192 pages, ages 8+)
The kindly spider Charlotte is determined to save her barnyard pal Wilbur from becoming bacon. This is a classic story of friendship, selflessness, and determination.

EEEEK!

- Spiders are arachnids, not insects.
- They have eight legs while insects have six.
- Fried spiders taste like nuts.
- Some male spiders pluck their webs like a guitar to attract female spiders.
- Tarantulas are large and hairy spiders. The largest kind have been known to kill mice, lizards, and birds.

Did You Know?

Mining the Turnbull Clan Web

Welcome back to our series that invites you to connect to the rich legacy that links us all through the Turnbull name.
Turnbull Clan website is a remarkable gateway—home to hundreds of articles, historical accounts, and fascinating facts. We invite you to explore.

John Turnbull: Indian Trader

The story of the Turnbull family in early America reaches into the history of the Native American peoples of the Gulf Coast and the south-eastern United States. Through trade, family relationships, and later generations, the Turnbulls became connected with both the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations.

John Turnbull, believed to have been born in Scotland around 1736, was reportedly a trader who travelled among Native American communities in the Mobile region and surrounding territories. His business involved goods and furs, and he worked in areas that would later become parts of Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. During this period, the region was shaped by competing European colonial interests, expanding trade networks, and the established presence of Native American nations.

Family accounts describe John as having relationships with Native American women and fathering several children. Among those attributed to him were George and William Turnbull, reportedly sons of a Chickasaw woman.

The descendants attributed to these unions became part of the broader history of the Choctaw and Chickasaw peoples. Later generations carried the Turnbull name into the Choctaw Nation and Indian Territory, where some members of the family were involved in farming, law, education, and tribal government.

These connections unfolded during a period of profound change for Native American nations. Treaties, the loss of ancestral lands, and the forced removal of south-eastern tribes to Indian Territory, reshaped families and communities throughout the nineteenth century. Turnbull descendants who lived within these nations were part of that larger history.

The story of John Turnbull, the eighteenth-century Scottish Indian trader, did not end with his own generation. According to Turnbull family histories, his son George, born to a Chickasaw woman, began a family line that continued through Turner Brashears Turnbull Sr. and eventually led to one of the family's most distinguished descendants, First Lieutenant Turner Brashears Turnbull III. Born in Oklahoma in 1921, Turner III carried both Scottish family ancestry and a deep connection to the Choctaw Nation. During World War II, he served with the 82nd Airborne Division and parachuted into Normandy on D-Day. On June 7, 1944, he was killed while leading his platoon against German forces. He was posthumously awarded the Silver Star for his gallantry. Across more than a century and a half, the family story connects Scotland, the Chickasaw and Choctaw peoples, and the battlefields of Europe—a remarkable legacy of cultural connections, family continuity, and sacrifice.

Other descendants reportedly served in public office and contributed to the educational and civic life of their communities.

Our Clan ▾ Happenings ▾ History ▾ Genealogy ▾ Resources ▾ Log in ▾

This excerpt you've just read from the original story is only a small glimpse of the fascinating history preserved in the Turnbull Clan Association's Clan Prints in the Sand collection. Curious to learn more? We challenge you to visit the TCA website, explore the archives, and see if you can find the original article from which this excerpt was taken. You may be surprised by what you discover—not only about this story, but also about the remarkable wealth of Turnbull history, family connections, and research waiting to be explored! And if you do find it, let us know at ***editor@turnbullclan.com*** *for a shout out in the next issue.*

Now you know!

SCOTTISH INVENTIONS: ROBERT WATSON-WATT – THE RADAR

Researched and compiled by Kenneth Turnbull

Scottish entrepreneurs, geniuses and eccentric inventors and their ability to think outside the square, have helped to change our everyday lives throughout the world for the better. Here is yet another example of Scottish imaginative foresight that has ultimately influenced the world.

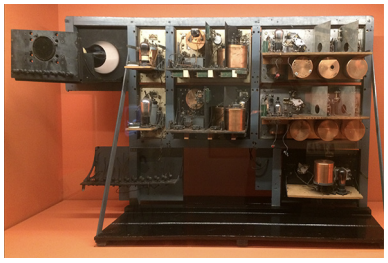


Sir Robert Watson-Watt

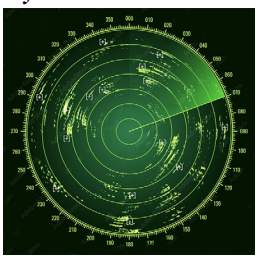
Scottish born in Brechin, Forfarshire, 1892, Robert Watson-Watt, began with a career in Radio Physics, working in the Meteorologic Office. With reports that Hitler's Germany was developing a *'death ray'* as their secret weapon, he began looking for accurate ways to track thunderstorms using radio waves given off by lightning. This *'death ray'* concept was viewed as science fiction and eventually concluded to be false.

His 1930's experiments led to an important discovery when, with war in mind, he developed a system later known as the **Detection of Aircraft by radio methods;** or known as **Radar** *(Radio detection and Ranging)*.

Radar was effectively invented with war in mind. As leader of the team, Robert Watson-Watt realised that although this system could not destroy an aircraft, but could be used to detect where it was, how far away and how fast it was moving.



The first workable radar construction by the Watson-Watt team



Radar screen monitoring system, used for visual control and detection

This was vital information when identifying German aircraft. However, this system's enormous military potential wasn't developed until 1937 when the first three stations were put to the test.

The system also had two antennas built as a decoy to cover incoming signals from other angles. It was so secret, that only three people witnessed the successful demonstration. This experiment resulted in 17 additional stations were immediately commissioned and built along the eastern coastline and operating by 1938.

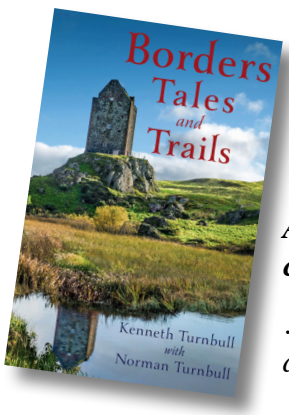
The basic principles of how it works are fairly simple. Initially, a dish reflects and transmits pulses of electromagnetic energy, such as radio waves or microwaves into the air. These pulses bounce off any object such as an aircraft into its path. This reflected energy is picked up by another dish where scientists can then calculate the time it took for the waves to be reflected. The information can then be shown visually as a circular image on a TV screen.

By 1940, the second world war had been declared. It has often been said that if it wasn't for Watson-Watt's Radar system, then Britain might have lost the war. He received many honours for his great achievements. Radar has now become a vital and essential tool of the world's transport and communications network.

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