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JAMES NORMAN ROBERT TURNBULL --1867--1943 .

By his son, Norman Leslie Turnbull.

James , "Jimmy " Turnbull was born in Rosario in the Argentine , S.A. in 1867 . His parents, Reverend George and Mrs Turnbull were Anglican Missionaries to that area in the 1860's. Jimmy was the youngest of a family of seven .He returned to England with his parents when just a lad. During the 1870's the family emigrated to Petrolia , Ontario. I believe my father went to school there as I recall him saying that the school children used to sail wooden chips down the street gutters which were running not with water but with oil and coal-oil !

In the late 1870's emmigration from Ontario to the West was in full swing and people were flocking to Portage La Prairie and points west of that in Manitoba. The town of Rapid City was booming with seven sections of land surveyed for a town site. It was to this area my father came with his parents, and by the time he was sixteen he had finished his education going as far as he could in the school of that time.

About 1881 The Scottish Ontario and Manitoba Land Co. had obtained three townships of land in the Silver Creek area with the intention of putting immigrant settlers on the tract as a colonization project. I suppose news of this had spread widely and my father, hearing of it decided at age sixteen to head North West and have a look. see. He took off on foot in 1882 and headed North West by way of a branch of the Fort Pelly Trail . He eventually landed up at the homestead of Samuel Widdicombe S.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ 6 36 6 18 - 28 W 1 in Ellice Municipality. Mr Widdicombe at that time kept a

"Stopping House " as the branch of the Fort Pelly Traill that my father had followed ran through Samuel Widdicombe's homestead. Here he learned that The Scottish Ontario and Manitoba Land Co.'s plans had been changed. Through an oversight at Ottawa they had not obtained as much land as they had been promised.

It was about that time that homesteading was thrown open to young men of sixteen. It may have been at Mr Widdicombe's suggestion that Jimmy look at the N.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ 36--18--28 of the same section as Widdicombe's and was still open for homesteading. At any rate that was the quarter my father filed upon in 1883. Later he pre-empted the S.W $\frac{1}{4}$ and in 1910 bought Mr Widdicombe's farm when he retired. It was thus that eventually all of Sec 36 18--28 W1 came under the name of James Turnbull.

My father was contemporary with Dave Hall, Mathew and William Scarth, William and Henry Waller, Oswald Inman, Wm. Diamond, Beatty, Hartley, Phizacklea, MacIntosh, Livingstone, Mc Farlane, Moffat, Cooper, Rice and Wallace. All these men were pioneers in the area before the railway came in. James Turnbull hauled his first wheat to Moosomin a distance of sixty miles. The round trip took a week. It now takes an hour with a truck hauling three or four times the quantity of grain.

In the early homesteading days while putting in his required duties on his homestead, Dad got logs for a house and barn. When the house was finished he brought his aged parents from Rapid City and they lived with him until their deaths, his father in 1902 and his mother in 1904. I have heard Dad say that in those early days he would not infrequently look into

his parent's room on winter mornings and see hoar frost fringing the covers on their bed.

Several of my father's winters were spent in logging camps. Mostly in the Riding Mountain area. Many homesteaders did that. Getting out logs and in the spring assisting to run them down the Shell river to Asessippi and Millwood. Summers were spent mostly on homestead duties, establishing buildings, and breaking some acres of land. The latter, initially, with Dad's case, at two oxen and one horse.

There were no power chain saws those early logging days. It was all human muscle power with axe and crosscut saw. The camp cook was the king pin of the camp community. However camp cooks came in different categories in those days as they still do. One of the tales of those early days in the woods was of the cook who was warned repeatedly that he had better clean himself up a bit. Unheeding, he found himself being escorted out to a hole in the ice of a nearby lake. A rope was forcibly tied under his arms and several brawny homesteaders dunked him up and down in the icy waters none saying a word but the victim. A few minutes of the cleansing treatment and he was hauled out, released, and directed toward the camp. All in silence. Scuttlebutt told of his "Getting the Message."

During the early 1890's my father met Cecilia Scarth who, upon the death of her father, had come from Orkney to keep house for her brothers Mathew and William Scarth, who had homesteaded in the extreme South West corner of Silver Creek Municipality. Their sister Cecilia and my father were married in 1898 and in 1900 I was born.

During their early married life my parents home was also the home and jumping off place for several young men and women coming from the Auld Land seeking their fortune. Some of the names I recall are Percy Gooda, G.B Crudge, Violet Woods, A.H (Bert) Cooke and his fiancée Lillian Basket, Charles Thorp and his fiancée . (Both those couples were married from my parents' home.) J.C. Smith (Jack), Desmond Proudly's Uncle, was another young man from England who found our home a home away from home, Jack went on to be manager of the farm for my mother during my fathers long illness. To all these young men my father tried to be both friend and mentor, helping them to adjust to the problems of starting in a new land under pioneering conditions.

Some of James Turnbulls early harvests experienced threshing with horsepower and "bucking" straw away from the separator by hand. Then Dave Hall and some neighbors got together and formed a syndicate and bought the first steam tractor and threshing machine in this area of Silver Creek and Ellice Municipalities. The separator had a blower instead of a "carrier". Whenever a move was made the blower had to be laboriously taken off by hand and hoisted to the top of the separator. In re-setting the process was reversed. I believe my father and two uncles, Mathew and William Scarth were members of the syndicate for several years .

Pioneers of those early days made their own amusements. Winters there were skating parties, snowshoeing parties, dances and card parties at local homes, even debates and boxing bouts. As the gloves usually came after the debates I found my young mind meditating on the fact that one had better be prepared to

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back up his words with a pair of gloves. However I was early advised I had better choose my words first !

Dad belonged to the Binscarth Masonic Lodge . He was one of the early members of the United Grain Growers Grain Co. He was fond of football, tennis, training horses, fishing and hunting. He saw to it that I became proficient with a rifle at an early age and that I learned how to hunt and kill game as humanely as possible.

Jimmy Turnbull left us in 1943 to go on to other "Hunting Grounds." He and my mother, Cecilia (Scarth) Turnbull who predeceased him in 1937 were pioneers in these districts who left their son, his wife and family, a heritage of which to be proud.

THE OSWALD INMAN FAMILY N.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ 6- 19-27 W 1.

Around the mid 1880's Oswald Inman, brother in law of James Turnbull came from England with his family and homesteaded on the N.E. quarter of 6- 19 -27 W 1 of Silver Creek Municipality. He put up a log house and log barn on the South East corner of the quarter section. He also had a dug well that was some forty feet deep, square cribbed with dove-tailed logs. I believe two of their family were born on this homestead one of whom is still living in New Zealand. Two little children, I think a son and a niece, are buried on that site. Victims of a diptheria epidemic that scourged the children of so many homesteaders of those early days.

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Around 1894 Oswald Inman and his family " pulled stakes," left the homestead to the mosquitoes , frost and hail, returned to England and subsequently settled in New Zealand. There he went into business as Ships Provider for the sea traffic between Wellington N.Z. and San Francisco U.S.A.

I understand that there were others of the Inman name that took up land in Silver Creek Municipality, Township 27. Oswald being my Uncle, and he having left Manitoba before I was born, only what was passed on to me by my people leaves me with any clue as to their early history.

NLT.

James Norman Robert Turnbull -1867 - 1943 .

"Jimmy " Turnbull was born in Rosario in the Argentine S.A. in 1867. His parents, Reverend George and Mrs Turnbull were Anglican Missionaries to that area in the 1860's. James was the youngest of a family of seven .When his parents returned to England they brought with them two sons, Mark and James and their three daughters , Ada , Beatrice and Annie, leaving in the Argentine two sons, Charles and George. From England the family emigrated to Petrolia, Ontario. Thence they moved moved to a settlement known as Melendene south west of Rapid City, Manitoba. From there the family moved into the then growing town of Rapid City where for several years my Grandfather was the second Minister to have the charge of St. Thomas Anglican Church.

In 1883 my Father filed on his a homestead in the extreme N. Western corner of Ellice Municipality. He was sixteen at the time. His homestead

Subsequent summers were spent in erecting a log house and barn while his winters were spent in the logging camps in what is now known as the Riding Mountains