

TURNBULL, NORMAN LESLIE, & FAMILY. 1900 -----

Norman, only child of James and Cecilia Turnbull, was born to them at Grip Fast Farm, N.W. 1/4 - 36-18-28, Ellice Municipality. He started to Balmerino school in 1907. Summers saw him walking the three mile distance between school and home or riding his pony. Winters saw considerable walking on snow shoes along with his two cousins, Robert and William Scarth. He obtained his Grade Eight at Balmerino and went to High School in Binscarth for two months. Then, because of bad winter roads and a five mile drive his parents sent him to St. Johns College School in Winnipeg. There he obtained his Junior Matriculation, Grade Eleven. In the spring of 1916, due to ill health he did not return to St. Johns but stayed home and worked on the farm along with his mother, Cecilia Turnbull. The winter of 1919 - 20 was spent at Manitoba Agricultural College taking First Year degree. The following year he did not return to College but continued to farm with his mother. From her, due to her experience in banking and business with her father, Robert Scarth of Binscarth Farm in Orkney, Norman obtained a practical education in farm management that he could not have obtained at College in the early twenties.

In 1924 Norman met Ellen Grace Atkinson of Hamiota. Their friendship continued to grow and in June of 1926 they were married. They lived on Grip Fast Farm east of Binscarth until the spring of 1927 when they moved to Hamiota Farm, Grace's home. From there Norman continued to help manage the farm at Binscarth and did so until the fall of 1928 when Mr. and Mrs. A.H. Cooke came from Marquis, Saskatchewan, and purchased the W. 1/2 - 36-18-28 from Cecilia Turnbull. A.H. (Bert) Cooke had worked for James Turnbull in 1906 and '07 and had obtained much of his farming knowledge from Norman's father. Bert's fiancée, Lilian Basket, came out from England in 1910 and in August of that year they were married at Grip Fast Farm.

By 1928 : Norman was renting the E 1/2-36-18-28 from the Administrators of his father's estate. This he kept on doing for several years working in

TURNBULL, NORMAN LESLIE, & FAMILY

1900-----

co-operation with Bert Cooke farming the whole of 36-18-28. Those were the years of 'The Great Depression' of the nineteen thirties. In two years the price of Street wheat fell from \$1.40 per bushel to .20 cents. Well established farmers were going under. It was particularly hard on the younger men who were just starting out on their own. Sections of the best land in the West were being offered for sale from eight to ten thousand dollars with no takers.

In the fall of 1931 Norman obtained employment with G.W.Spearman , owner and operator of The Hamiota Flour Mills. He carried on with the farm at Hamiota until 1934 when he and Grace sold out and moved into Hamiota. For the ensuing nine years he continued with the mill business as well as helping out on the farm at Binscarth. During that time he learned the milling trade, the management and operation of the mill and obtained his license to operate with steam. Those nine years also saw him enter the political field and in 1936 the Constituency of Hamiota sent him to the Manitoba Legislature under the Social Credit banner. He was returned to two succeeding Legislatures, representing Hamiota for twelve years, five of them as Minister without Portfolio in the Coalition Government of John Bracken and his successor Stuart Garson. During his final term in the Legislature he resigned his government position and sat as an Independant

During the twenty three years they lived in the Municipality and town of Hamiota six children were born to Norman and Grace ; Robert Orison [Bob], Georgina Constance [Connie], Ida May Cecilia [May], Jessie Hope, [Jessie], Leslie Blanche, [Leslie] and Violet Heather [Heather] . The three oldest took their Elementary and High School at Hamiota, Jessie , Leslie and Heather at Binscarth and Russell. Norman and Grace and the family had moved back to the old farm in the municipality of Ellice by the time their last two daughters, Leslie and Heather started to school

In 1940 Norman took a more active part on the farm in Ellice Municipality.

He had always maintained a tenant's interest in the E 1/2 36-18-28 and in the spring of 1940 he came up from Hamiota during seeding and harvest and helped farm the whole of 36-18-28 in partnership with Bert Cooke. In 1942, following the death of G.W. Spearman and the succession to the Hamiota Mill by George Spearman Jr., Norman gave up the milling business and turned his whole attention to the farm in Ellice and his legislative position for the constituency of Hamiota. During summer holidays in the forties all the family came up to the farm and lived in the old log house built by Samuel Widdicombe in the 1880's. Those were the years when the children learned to love the land. Those were also the years before electric power was brought to the farms, so the family did get a little taste of pioneering which did them no harm.

After the death of his father, James Turnbull in 1943, Norman purchased the E 1/2 36-18-28 from the administrators of his father's estate. In 1950 the family moved back from Hamiota and since that time have made their permanent home on the farm. Prior to the family returning, the old log house in which Norman and son Bob were temporarily batching burned down while both men were away. This was in June of 1949. The loss of the house put a stop to the family plans for some months. However the Pool Elevator Board at Chillon made the Turnbulls an offer to sell them the old house at Chillon Elevator site which they accepted and the house was moved to the Turnbull farm by Wm. Fenty and Son of Hamiota in the late summer of 1949. Norman and Grace added two rooms and full sized basement to the house. This gave them needed room for the family still at home.

In 1950 when Bert Cooke retired, he sold the S.W. 1/4 of the farm back to Norman. Jim Orr who was at that time farming the N. 1/2 35-18-28, purchased the N.W. 1/4 36-18-28. Previous to Bert Cooke's retirement Bob Turnbull had leased the W 1/2 5-27-19 in Silver Creek Municipality immediately north of Ellice. This land was owned by Jack Griffiths a Civil Engineer with the Department of Public Works in the Manitoba Government. The three men, Norman and Bob Turnbull and

TURNBULL, NORMAN LESLIE, & FAMILY. 1900-----

Jim Orr continued to farm as they had done before Bert Cooke retired, namely co-operatively. This they continued to do until they became fully established on their farms.

In 1951 Bob Turnbull and Ivy Eulah Hall of Foxwarren were married. They set up housekeeping on Jack Griffith's farm. They lived there for twelve years when they built their present home on the S.E. 1/4 of 36-18-28 in Ellice and in the same yard as Norman and Grace. In 1967 Bob took over the management and ownership of the Grip Fast Farms and Norman and Grace retired from active farming. The senior Turnbolls consider themselves lucky in that during the fifty seven years of their married life, their family of six, one son and five daughters have never been farther away than a few hours drive.

Since this history was started Bob Turnbull took seriously ill in December of 1982 and after a debilitating battle with sickness that lasted all through the winter months he left his family and parents to take that other journey in life that each man must make alone. He was within a few days of his fifty sixth birthday when he died on May 16th. 1983. Bob predeceased his second eldest son, Kenneth, who had come home to help take off the harvest and who died from injuries received in a motorcycle accident on July 28th 1983. Ken was twenty two.

Norman and Grace's five daughters live not too far away. Connie, Mrs Wm. Choptuik, on the farm at Isabella. May, Mrs Wm. Deller at Neepawa. Jessie, Mrs Jack Woodhouse on their farm north of Binscarth. Leslie, Mrs Dennis Wrightson, at Neepawa, Heather, Mrs Gordon Thurston at Wetaskiwin, Alberta. and Ivy their daughter in law, Bob's widow, managing Grip Fast Farms with the help of her two youngest sons, Douglas and Donald.

Although the Senior Turnbulls have had their families close for these many years, it will be different for the grandchildren. They are spreading their wings in all directions in search of opportunity and achievement. That is as it should be.

Submitted by,

Norman L. Turnbull



21

Norman & Grace Turnbull

1980

(1.) *The Turnbells Story*
Return to: *Ellice*
N. & G. Turnbull
Binscarth
Manitoba R0J 0G0

NORMAN & GRACE TURNBULL
CIRCA 1980



(3) TURNBULL. Norman Leslie.

The house that burned. The S.Widdicombe home built circa 1885 - '90.

S.E. 36-18-28 Ellice Mun.

The Turnbull's Story Elsie
Return to: mem.

N. & G. Turnbull

Binscarth

Manitoba R07090

Story

And

Picture Nos.

No. 1
Page 2
par. 4

No. 3
Page 2/ in
sequence.

No. 2
Page 2
Par. 4?

No. 4
Page 4.

The TURNBULL *3-* Norman Leslie

Card No. 1

Story

And

Picture Nos.

Page ¹ 2.

² Page 4.

3-PAGE 4

4 PAGE 5

Page 2
Paragraph 2.

Para . 2

PAR. 1

LAST PAR.

Negatives. James Turnbull -- Cecilia (Scarth) Turnbull
The Turnbull's Story. Ellice Municipality.

TURNBULL... James N.R. Page 3. Paragraph 2.

THE TURNBULLS.
Return to: Ellice man

N. & G. Turnbull

Binscarth

Manitoba R0J 0G0