

The Canadian Connection

John Turnbull was born "in New Brunswick in 1894, He had one year of university before joining the Canadian army on the outbreak of the war in 1914. After some strenuous training, he was sent to the front in France with the 26th battalion where he saw a lot of action, was wounded at Vimy Ridge and awarded the Military Medal for Gallantry.

He was brought back to the Canadian Military Hospital, Bramshott. It was while there recovering from his wounds that he met a young Scottish girl, Jean Craik who was doing voluntary work at the hospital. She and her mother had rented a house near Bramshott not far from the camp. On Sundays Mrs. Craik used to invite Canadian soldiers including John to the house for lunch, Jean and John fell in love and eventually married.

In 1919 they returned to Canada living for three years in Toronto while John obtained his degree in forestry. A daughter was born to them in 1920 and a son Norman in 1921 and another son in 1923. John was working hard and constantly searching for a property for the family. Eventually in 1930 he bought a fifty year old farm house in an idyllic lakeside setting on a farm of 385 acres and they decided to call it Bramshott after where they met.

The family lived in the old house while John built a new one. The farm had Percheron Dray Horses and also thoroughbred race horses, as well as sheep, cattle and of course poultry. Norman grew up on the farm, then studied forestry before enlisting in the Canadian Army in May 1941 at the age of twenty. He was unfortunately struck down with meningitis and whilst in hospital at Orillia he met a nursing sister Jean Givens. When his health had improved he was shipped by the army to Aldershot, England in 1943. Meanwhile Jean Givens had joined up and was posted coincidentally to Bramshott hospital where she and Norman had the chance to meet each other several times.

Serving with the Queens' Own Rifles he landed at Normandy shortly after D-Day, June, 1944 and served throughout Holland and Belgium. After being wounded in September 1944 he was sent to hospital in France to recuperate.

On returning to Hampshire he married Jean in Farnborough in 1945 and they both sailed on the same troopship back to Canada.

Norman resumed his university studies and obtained a degree in forestry, working at this occupation until he retired.

John Turnbull subdivided the farm and sold lots through the fifties and sixties until only 10 acres still remained of the farm. He died in 1963 aged 69 and left a lot to his son Norman who still lives there and is in good health, and son Jim and daughter Isabella (Tibbie) who have cottages there.



The Old House and Barn



The New House in which John's son, Norman occupied



John Turnbull with a Bramshott Farm sheep.



Christmas Dinner at Bramshott Camp 1916



Larry & Carole Watson



Signs on the new highway



*Part of
Ordnance
in the
Baronship
of Severn.*

*The house near Bramshott
where Mrs Cook
invited the soldiers
to Sunday
lunch.*

