

Turnbulls in the News

By LIZ HULL - Daily Mail - 8th February 2007

For much of his life Albert Turnbull believed he was from typical working class stock. Descended from generations of steel workers, miners and fishermen, his family have traditionally earned their living the hard way.

So the 70-year-old was stunned when he discovered he has blue blood in his veins and is, in fact, descended from royalty. He is one of only two people in the country able to trace his roots back



"King" Albert Turnbull

down "commoners" with a potential claim on the throne. Historical experts wanted to locate the ancestors of those who might have succeeded to the monarchy had William the Conqueror not won the Battle of Hastings in 1066.

Of the 150 shortlisted a quarter came from the U.S., while others hailed from Canada, France, Italy, Norway, the Netherlands, Sweden, and Australia. Mr. Turnbull was able to prove his family had links to William the Conqueror and St Margaret - a direct descendent of Alfred the Great, who was also related to Edward the Confessor and Edgar the Aetheling, passed over for the throne in favour of Harold.

hundreds of years to the beginnings of the British monarchy following a worldwide search by English Heritage.

The retired lecturer is the cousin of Prince Charles 23 times removed and can track his family history back 53 generations to King Cerdic, the first King of Wessex, who invaded Britain around 500 AD.

On Thursday night Mr. Turnbull, from Newcastle upon Tyne, said he would not be making a play for the English throne. "I was very surprised that we are related to royalty, but I don't take it too seriously," he said. "There would have to be quite a lot of royals wiped out for the throne to come to me."

"Prince Charles is my cousin 23 times removed. But I don't think I will be popping to Buckingham Palace to visit him anytime soon, although he is welcome for a cup of tea at my house any time."

Mr. Turnbull was one of more than 500 people who sent their family histories to English Heritage as part of a quest to track