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# *The* Turrentine *Letter*

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April 4, 2018

No. 245

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## 2018 TURRENTINE REUNION – Save the Date

**Save the date June 29-July 1<sup>st</sup>** for the 2018 Turrentine Reunion at the Best Western Plus, Loveland, Colorado. This is located at I-25 and Hwy 34. Loveland is near the mouth of the Big Thompson Canyon, the gateway to Estes Park, Colorado and Rocky Mountain National Park. It is conveniently located between Denver, Colorado and Cheyenne, Wyoming. A shuttle service to Denver airport is available. There will be a special room rate for the Turrentine reunion of \$129 for a double Queen.

Included in this newsletter is the registration form. (separate attachment for those with email delivery). It will also be on the internet at: <http://turrentinenews.tripod.com/2018registration.pdf>

I was recently asked how many Turrentine descendants are there? I have no idea. If we could contact them all it would be tens of thousands. Many of those who are descendants of a Turrentine daughter several generations back and have no idea they have a Turrentine ancestor. I do know that for the prior letter, I sent out 45 paper copies and 237 electronic copies, but that is the number of families, not the number of people. I know some people print and share the letter with additional relatives who do not like to read the newsletter on the computer. Because I only mail out the ‘Turrentine Letter’ a few time a year, it does not make people’s list of address changes and I get a few returns every time. So, if a relative says they were missed, please notify me. I keep back copies and I also eventually post copies to the [turrentinenews.tripod.com](http://turrentinenews.tripod.com) website at:

<http://turrentinenews.tripod.com/id22.html>

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Deaths
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Turrentine, Bonnie N. born 30 November 1927 in Upland, NE and died 15 September 2017 in Minneapolis. She grew up in Kearney, NE the youngest of six children. On 7 April 1946, Bonnie married Edgar M. Turrentine #2108, whose career took them to four states before settling in Minneapolis in 1967. Bonnie worked in the Hennepin County Child Support unit, was active in League of Women Voters and volunteered with a number of nonprofits. Preceded in death by husband, Edgar; daughter, Cynthia Daly; sisters, brothers and their spouses. Survived by daughter, Jennifer; son Timothy (Kerry); grandchildren Nicholas Daly; Samuel (Michele) Turrentine; Maxwell (Amber) Turrentine; Timothy Daly; great-grandchildren, Evelyn and Henry Turrentine.

Turrentine, Charles Edward Martin #3034 was born 16 Aug 1929 to Charles James and Pearl June (Turner) Turrentine. He died 21 Oct 2017. Charles was a graduate of Oklahoma A & M (now Oklahoma State University). He served in the US Army. Anthony, Kansas was his home town.

Ransom, Mildred Ruth “Millie” “Pill” born 15 April 1930 to Ernest RAY Stanley and Sarah EVANS Turrentine #1982.03. Millie got her nickname “Pill” at an early age because she was so small and hard to take! Her passion for life was infectious and she touched many people. Millie attended Washburn University in Topeka, KS, where she was a member of Alpha Phi sorority. She moved to Denver in 1969 and became a ski instructor at Loveland Basin. She was also a floral designer, worked in retail at Chico’s in Cherry Creek, sold art supplies at Drummonds Arts and Crafts, and modeled and performed in numerous commercials. She was married and later divorced from William Ransom. Besides skiing, Millie had many interests: travel, gardening, art, politics, painting and karaoke. Very athletic, Millie could still perform her “high kick” well into her 80’s.

### **G. R. Turrentine and the Muleriders**



Left to right: Steve Browning, SAU Athletic Director; Jeanette Bismark & Cathy Adams (representing the Turrentine Family); Dr. Trey Berry, SAU President

G. R. (George Ruford) Turrentine #1399, whom we credit with founding the Turrentine Family Association, was the first president of the Arkansas Genealogical Society, and also an early and very active member in the Arkansas Historical Society. He received a posthumous award from what is now Southern Arkansas University. He was inducted into the Southern Arkansas University Sports Hall of Fame on Friday, October 20, 2017, as 2017 “Honorary Coach”. Jeanie Bismark and Cathy Adams accepted the award on behalf of the G. R. and the Turrentine Family Association. There are no direct line living descendants of G. R.. Jeanie Bismark #2387 lives in Arkansas and is G. R.’s 3<sup>rd</sup> cousin once removed. Cathy Adams #4249.11 is G.R.’s 1<sup>st</sup> cousin 3 times removed.

I am reprinting here the story from the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary program published that weekend. The “mulerider” name and mascot are deeply rooted in Southern Arkansas University history, dating from all the way back to 1912, when the University was known as the Third District Agricultural School (TDAS). In those days, it was convenient for people to ride mules – there were only four automobiles in Columbia County in 1912, and inclement weather often made travel difficult. So, when young men from the football team of TDAS wanted to see their coach, George Ruford Turrentine, at his home north of the campus at Magnolia, they rode mules.

It was shortly after Thanksgiving, and Coach Turrentine had invited the players to dinner at his home. When they dismounted in his yard, Turrentine walked onto his porch and shouted: “My Mule Riders!” Over time, the name “muleriders” became uniquely associated with TDAS and its three successor institutions: magnolia A & M College, Southern State College, and Southern Arkansas University. Today the University’s athletic teams, mascots, students and alumni are symbolized by Muleriders.

The name was not officially adopted until 1922-23, when the school yearbook became *The Mulerider* and the student newspaper *The Bray*. Stories in the newspaper about the origins varied in many details, but a common element remained: the early football teams riding mules to games. The mulerider was a fitting one for TDAs; the mule was a crucial element of Southern agriculture. Though more intelligent and sure-footed than a horse, the mule has a lowly status in Southern culture. It was used in the hard work of growing cotton. The choice of the symbol held new meaning – that TDAs might be lower in the hierarchy of educational institutions, but the sons and daughters of area farmers could rise to the top.

### **Video about Occupational Therapy features Josh Holmes**

Here is a link to a funny video about Occupational Therapy, Josh Holmes is the tall man in navy blue. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dj7-O8wL4Dk&feature=youtu.be> Josh is a descendant of Flossie Florence Turrentine Whitten #1963, the daughter of Martin Frances Turrentine #1002 of Alabama.

### **Y-DNA NEWS**

We had another male take the Y-DNA test. He is a descendant of Alexander Turrentine and is an exact match at 67 markers to a prior tester who is a descendant of Samuel Turrentine. This is exactly what we needed. Now we know the 67 markers for the Y-DNA of the common male Turrentine ancestor! For those Turrentine males with different markers, the different markers become special markers for their specific Turrentine line. For the lines that match all 67 markers, the Y-DNA does not tell them whether they are an Alexander or a Samuel descendant. But for those with the different, special markers it gives them a hint of which line they are in. If enough men tested, we might one day be able to determine the generation where each changed marker started.

Because the old test of a Swiss Turrettini was only 8 markers, we do not know how close he would be to the common male Turrentine ancestor at 67 markers, but he is only one off at 8 markers. Of course, if even 6 more of the remaining 59 markers were different, he would be considered not related.

### **Newspapers.com “old” Turrentine News**

I recently restarted my subscription to Newspapers.com and found some articles about Turrentines from their site.

Margaret Turrentine of Clarksville, Tennessee (12 Aug 1923-11 Jul 2013) was crowned Queen of the National Women Basketball Tournament on 23 March 1943. I never even knew there was such an honor. Her brother Robert Cleveland Turrentine (15 Aug 1925) was the president of Acme Boot Company for many years. They are the children of Chelsey Turrentine (22 July 1902-17 Jan 1987) and Grace E. Woodson (1906). This family has not been placed on the Turrentine tree.

From the Roswell Daily Record (New Mexico) 5 May 1905, p.2, "Turrentine Bros. from Hereford, Texas, arrived in the city this week with a carload of household goods, farming implements, etc. They are moving on their new farm recently purchased west of town. A later article mentions a George P. and Joe D. who bought land at or near Lakewood. This is possibly George P. Turrentine #583 and his brother Joseph David Turrentine #582. They sold the property in July 1906, it was described in the newspaper as "640 acres of land on South Seven Rivers, about five miles southwest of town. About 125 acres of the land is in cultivation, and it has an artesian well, also water from the Seven Rivers, as well as a house and other improvements."

I not yet determined who this couple is: Miss Hattie May Rice, a daughter of Mr. H.C. Rice, of Denmark, was married in Augusta last Friday night to Mr. T. A. Turrentine, formerly of Alabama, but who is now in the employ of the A. T. & T. Co. at Denmark." This was published 24 October 1907, Thursday in the Bamberg Herald (Bamberg, South Carolina.) Let me know if you know the full name of T. A. Turrentine.

From the Daily News-Journal, Murfreesboro, Tennessee, on 5 July 1927: "Lightning struck the home of Tink Turrentine on the Dixie highway and did the so-called "storm caprice," Tearing up the chimney, the bolt descended to the room below, and tore out a door casing, jumped to a metal trunk and burned up the contents before the fire could be extinguished. Fortunately, no was hurt." Any know which Turrentine was nicknamed Tink?

### **Request for information James A. Turrentine – James A. Smith**

James A. Turrentine (aka: James A. Smith) - Birth: December 12, 1875, Boston, Massachusetts; Death: June 25, 1956, Newark, NJ. I was told by my mother that he was raised in the Florida Everglades by his grandparents after his parents died. His wife was: Mary Alice Taylor. They had 3 children: Blanche, James (aka: J. Harry) and Charles Smith. He used the last name of Smith. Please send any information to Mary P. Bryant care of me, Turrentine Historian, Joyce Hodges [jehodges@email.com](mailto:jehodges@email.com) .