

NOV 1999

*The West
Scottish
March*

REIVER



THE NEWSLETTER OF CLAN LITTLE SOCIETY, NORTH AMERICA, LTD.

New national officers elected at Annual General Meeting In Michigan

Proxies forwarded by members allow election to take place

SALINE, MI - On July 10, 1999 the Society AGM was held in Saline, Michigan in conjunction with the Saline Celtic Festival. Although a quorum was not present, enough proxies were presented to allow the election to take place.

New elected officers are:

President (Steuart):

Richard L. Holt; **Vice President**

(Marischal): Ross A. Little;

Secretary (Secratur): Ellen Conn

Treasure (Mailin): Bryon Little.

Appointed positions were:

Commissioner, E. Canada:

Trevor Little; **Genealogist:**

Patricia Maddox; **Membership**

Secretary: Ellen Conn; **Reiver**

Editor: Charles R. Lytle; and

later **Quartermaster:** Harry

Fiske. **Volunteers** for Conven-

ers and vacant Commissioner

Regions are solicited. Please

see the **How To Contact Your**

Officers section on Page Four

One hundredth reunion of the descendants of Theophilus Little

Three national officers attend reunion near Eagles Mere, PA in August

NORDMONT, PA - On August 14, 1999 the descendants of Theophilus Little held their 100th consecutive reunion outside the tiny village of Nordmont, close to the resort of Eagles Mere in the western Poconos of Pennsylvania. The meeting was attended by Richard Holt, Clan Society Steuart, Ross Little, Clan Society Marischal, and Charles Lytle, editor of The Reiver.

Over three hundred descendants and friends gathered for an informal picnic and meeting, which was preceded by a graveside ceremony complete with piper. Guest of honor for the occasion was Dr.

Johnnie Little of Morton Rigs, Dumfries, Scotland, founder of the Clan Little Society of Scotland and Little genealogist.

A highlight of the reunion was the opportunity to interview Dr. Johnnie for The Reiver. The interview lasted for over an hour and was captured both on audio cassette and on 8mm video. At the end of the interview, Dr. Johnnie shared a genealogical chart on which he is working that traces the Little name back to the kings of Sweden in the 400's. For a separate story on the interview, turn to Page 3.

Theophilus Little was the grandson of Judge John Little, Sr., who immigrated from Greta, Scotland in the early 1700's and was active in the Revolutionary War.

Editor's Column...

As your new Riever editor, I would like to introduce myself to the membership. I was born and raised in central Pennsylvania, attended Juniata College, Purdue University, and Portland State University, and have lived in the Pacific Northwest since 1971. My wife Lynn, son Peter, and I try to attend as many games as possible in the NW, and my son is just beginning to study the bagpipes. We were introduced to the Society by Richard Holt and Ross Little in 1996.

I enjoy amateur genealogy and have been able to trace my particular branch of the Lyles back to the very early 1700's in western Lancaster County, PA. I have a particular interest in eighteenth and nineteenth century books dealing with what was then called the "Eastern Frontier."

This summer, my family helped represent the Society at three highland gatherings in the NW.

I encourage anyone who has a story to tell or information to share with the Society to contact me via e-mail. Snapshots can be scanned and then returned. I look forward to future, expanded editions of The Reiver.

THE STEUART'S HERALD:

The good news is our officers are doing a wonderful job & communications within our membership is moving forward. This year has moved quite fast for many of us because of all the country we covered, for myself, I made two residential moves plus flying back & forth across our country kept me busy too.

The 3rd annual Haggis Dinner was a big success with about 38 people attending to share near 13 lbs. haggis, steaks & food to go with it. We had the pleasure of our Canadian Little members and members from California, Oregon and Washington all sitting at one long fellowship table for a feast of food and fun.

The year 2000, we will be hosting the AGM in Enumclaw, Washington. I will be sending out information on all the Seattle area and entertainment in the next REIVER news letters. I have an idea from what information we have Clan Little will have a record AGM attendance. It would be good to make your reservation early.

In meeting with the membership & Little's from Canada to Scotland, (more than 300 people) it is their thoughts that we can agree to disagree but **COMMUNICATE** with one another.

It is my goal to expand our membership and look to our younger members for leadership & to have the **REIVER** sent out four times a year. Also the Council is moving in making changes, which will be coming out soon in the **REIVER** news letters.

We all know there must have been many hardships to our members back East in those bad weather areas and please let us know how you are doing and if we can help.

Aye,
Richard Holt

Mini-Reiver

This mini-version of The Reiver is not intended to be a format change for the newsletter. General interest articles and photos and an expanded format will return with the next issue. Delays due to time overcommitments necessitated getting this issue out as quickly as possible. Sorry for the delay.

...The Editor

An interview with Dr. Johnnie Little, founder of the Clan Little Society of Scotland and Little genealogist

Dr. Johnnie expounds on the Clan Tartan, two Societies, and the importance of having "arms."

NORDMONT, PA – The following is a paraphrase of comments made to the Riever editor by Dr. Johnnie Little during the 100th reunion of the decendants of Theophilus Little on August 14, 1999. These comments are extracted from a ninety minute interview captured on video tape.

Dr. Johnnie began collecting information on his ancestors back in 1969. After a few years, he began writing a book about the Littles in Scotland. Although the book is unfinished, parts of it appeared in 1988 in the *Scottish Genealogist* as "A Thousand Years – The Littles and Their Forebears."

Independent of Dr. Johnnie, Pat Little of Savannah, Georgia was interested in forming a Clan Little Society, and, after several correspondances with Dr. Johnnie and the announcement that the first-ever "gathering of the border clans" was to take place in May 1993 ("Roots '93"), the original Clan Little Society was inaugu-

rated on November 30, 1991 in Scotland.

In 1994, the Clan Little Society of North America split away from the original group due to philosophical differences between the more formal approach taken in Scotland and the informal clan society structures prevalent in the United States.

Dr. Johnnie stressed that a society is not a clan. Clan members are for the most part of the same surname. The Little Clan of old has no chief, there being no known male descendant past the brothers Simon and Mathew Little in the mid-1700's. In the absence of a chief, a captain or commander can be recommended to the Lord Lyon. This captain would have to stand down if a hereditary chief became known.

The "Clan Little" tartan as we see it today was actually designed by and registered to Dr. Johnnie as his personal tartan. It has no historical antecedent with the Clan Little of old. In response to a general desire amongst Society members to have an identifiable tartan, Dr. Johnnie decided to let his tartan be used by the membership, with a royalty going to the

Society treasury.

Dr. Johnnie stressed that clan tartans are mostly a fashion far dating from the Victorian era and that much more important is having a grant of arms (coat of arms). Anyone can apply for a grant of arms in the name of an ancestor, providing they can prove lineage back to Scotland. Arms are specific to a family and can be bequeathed to the oldest son down through the generations with small modifications to make each generation's arms unique.

The Little ancestral home, Meikeldale Farm, is still standing. It is now owned by someone outside the clans of the region (Littles, Armstrongs, Beaties, Scotts), who does not live there but who visits it periodically for upkeep.

For those interested, the entire ninety-minute interview is available in VHS format from the Riever editor on a made-to-order basis. Please send \$5 for priority mailing and the cost of the blank tape. E-mail first with any questions.

How to contact your Society officers. Below is a list of the elected and appointed officers for the Clan Society. Please feel free to e-mail, phone or fax. officers if you have more immediate concerns or questions.

President(Steuart): Richard L. Holt, 1511 N.18th Ave., Pasco, WA 99301. (509)542-1966, Fax.(509)542-1967 ,E-mail, clanlittle@aol.com

Vice President(Marischal): Ross A. Little, 4819 S. Land Park Dr. Sacramento, CA 95822-1643, (916)446-3909,Fax.(916)446-4945, E-mail; ralwcomish@aol.com

Secretary(Secratur): Ellen Conn, 3401 71st Ave.NW, Gig Harbor, WA.98335,(253)265-2876, Fax.(253)265-3506, E-mail; eldanski@harbornet.com

Treasurer (Mailin): Bryan Little, 2381 Horsley Drive, Richmond, VA 23233

Genealogist: Patricia Maddox, 7504 Range Road, Alexandria, VA 22306-2422

Membership Secretary: Ellen Conn (as above)

Publications: Charles R. Lytle, 2006 Conestoga Lane, West Linn, OR 97068 (crlytle@aol.com)

Quartermaster: Harry Fiske, 3263 Vineyard Ave #51, Pleasanton, CA 94566

Commissioner, Eastern Canada Region: Trevor Little (Central & Western Regions vacant)

Commissioner, Mid-West USA: Martin West (NE & SE USA vacant)

Commissioner, Western USA: Ross A. Lytle (Conveners: Carla Little, Jan Cathey, Jim Litel)

Commissioner, NW USA: Richard L. Holt

Commissioner, SW USA: Don L. Lytle

The Reiver

Ellen Conn
3401 71st Avenue NW
Gig Harbor, QA 98335



Ross A. & Phyllis M.J. Little
Clan Little Society North America
4819 S. Land Park Drive
Sacramento, CA 95822-1643