

*The
Scottish
West
March*

REIVER



The Border Reiver

THE NEWSLETTER OF CLAN LITTLE SOCIETY NORTH AMERICA

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FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

For the past couple of years I have had many pleasant telephone conversations and many interesting e-mails from Richard Little of Danville, PA. He had relatives in North Carolina and promised to call on Pat and me on his next trip to Raleigh. Recently, after I had not heard from him in a while, I went on line to the local Danville paper obituary column and found that my friend had died this past summer. We had never actually met face to face, but he was someone I wanted to meet and have dinner with. Dick was featured in the biography column of the Reiver in Winter-2008.

Jim Little

(From the Danville News) *Richard F. Little, 76, of 245 McCracken Road, passed away Friday, July 23, 2010 at Geisinger Medical Center, Danville....He was associated with many organizations including Clan Little Society, USA; National Rifle Association as a lifetime member, training counselor, certified pistol, rifle, shotgun and home firearm safety instructor; 4-H shooting sports instructor; Youth Field Day, co-founder; Danville Pistol Club, founding member; Northern Montour Sportsman Club; vice-president, president and board of directors; Pennsylvania Farmers Association; Wesley United Methodist Church, Bloomsburg and the Laporte Methodist Church. He was a former member of Kiwanis, Northumberland Gun Club and the Montour-DeLong Fair Board. He received several awards including Pennsylvania Dairyman's Association Extension Award for Valuable and Noteworthy contribution to Pennsylvania Dairy Industry and the Career Guidance Award from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents.*

Richard was a notable leader and educator. He inspired generations of young people through 4-H. He enjoyed working with people, especially teaching young people gun safety. He was an avid hunter and outdoorsman. Richard was also a winemaker.

FROM THE STEUART

Dear Friends,

Another year has come and almost gone. Whew, what a busy, busy year. I am sure we are all extremely busy with work, family and friends and then what time is left to sleep.

We are extremely excited that the Brooks family will be hosting our Meeting in 2011 in Milwaukee, WI Labor Day Weekend in Sept. What an exciting time it will be. Look for all the info in the Reiver. (See Below.)

We have run into a dilemma with our tartan purchases. Over the years we have maintained a steady cost for material, however, the material has gone up as all things do. We, the Clan, have been paying the difference in the cost when it comes time to purchase more material for both the 13 oz. and the 10 oz. After much thought we have decided to raise the price to match the price that it cost us to have the Tartan weaved. This will double the cost and probably cause some concerns. However, at the rate we are going the Clan Funds will be non-existent if we continue on this trend. Please be patient, we are in the process of gathering the exact costs and will show on the Web Site when we have all the total amounts. If you have already placed your orders before November 1, then your cost has not changed. This was the last of the 13 oz and has caused us to really look at the finances

2011 BGM To Be Held in Wisconsin

It is now time to start planning for our BGM. Laurie and Troy Brooks have graciously invited us to join them at the Wisconsin Scottish Games on September 2-4, 2011.

Troy and Laurie have sent a website and names of nearby hotels from which to choose. They can personally recommend the Comfort Suites Lake Country from past experience and also report that the Radisson Pewaukee might be a good place to stay. Both are off the same freeway exit as the games. Restaurants are also convenient. Please check <http://www.wisconsinScottish.org/hotels.php>

CHRISTMAS IN SCOTLAND

One of the reasons most of us join a Clan or Clan Society is that we feel a connection to our ancestors and are intrigued by the past. Those who came before are definitely a part of who we are today.

Since both Jim and both have Scots roots we try to keep at least some of customs alive in our household. The first cold snap brings a large pot from off the shelf soon to be filled the ingredients for making Cock-a-Leekie soup and I must say we make wonderful shortbread.

When we realized we didn't know anything about Scottish Christmas customs I decided to do a little research and was startled by what I found.

In 1647 Christmas was banned by law in Scotland and England. It was the time of the Reformation and Oliver Cromwell's as Lord Protector held bloody reign over all of Britain and Ireland. Taking away Christmas was just another means of control. No formal religious observances were allowed. People were prosecuted and penalized for celebrating. Even certain foods were banned.

The ban was lifted in England after only fifteen years but continued in Scotland for nearly 400. Even after the government eased restrictions on private observances the Scottish Presbyterian Church kept the ban considering Christmas as more of a Catholic festival or a carry over from the midwinter festivals of pagan times.

So with Christmas banned the Scots did concentrate on the winter festivals and Hogmanay (New Years) became the most important celebration of the year. Through the years Christmas was just another work day for adults although some children were given presents. Any acknowledgement of Christ's birth was quiet and reverent.

In 1958 Christmas was once again recognized as a public day holiday and it has gradually evolved into a celebration much like that of ours in America. People once again eat Yule bread (an unleavened oat cake) and Twelfth Night Cake (a concoction of nuts and fruits in pastry soaked with whisky) practices that would have been cause for arrest during the ban. Holly, evergreens and fairy lights now adorn homes. Small token gifts have evolved into presents to be opened the day after Christmas on Boxing Day. The old traditions that existed before the ban have gone the way of folk lore.

This year traditional fruit cake at our house will be called Twelfth Night Cake and we will take time to remember the 400 years that Christmas was banned.

Merry Christmas to all our friends of Clan Little and to all a blessed Hogmanay!

Pat Little



RECEPTION

On September 21, 2010 Jim and Pat Little had the honor of being invited to Raleigh NC to a small reception of about thirty people given by Nelson McCausland, MLA, Northern Ireland's Minister for Culture and his Deputy Aidan Cassidy.

As members of Triad Scottish Society, Jim and Pat attended to see Triad's President James Murray, honored by Minister McCausland and several of his deputies for his work done in North Carolina to promote Scots Irish Culture in NC.

Minister McCausland and his delegation came to North Carolina to work on building strong economic ties between Northern Ireland and NC. He was quite taken by the way North Carolinians have made a conscious effort to maintain their Scots Irish culture and noted that NC's three US Presidents all had their roots in Northern Ireland.

McCausland noted that in the Eighteenth Century a quarter of a million people left his country to help build America. He stated, "That was a lot of people to leave a very small place." He went on to elaborate the major impact those people had on the eighteenth century, the American Revolution and the shaping of America today.

A note of humor, The food at the reception consisted of Chinese, Mexican, Italian and Cajun cuisine.

Scotland County Highland Games

In 2007 the Flora McDonald Highland games in Red Springs, NC ceased to exist. Red Springs had hosted games for 31 years but the Scots in the area have held local games and festivals for over 150 years. Local residents were not about to let their area lose its Scots identity. With help from Bill Caudill director of the Scottish Heritage Center at St. Andrews Presbyterian College in Laurinburg, NC and several councilmen, a new festival was begun in October 2009.

The name chosen was the Scotland County Highland Games. So much for old Flora who had lived in the area for a time after saving Bonnie Prince Charlie from his enemies by dressing him as her maid.

The 2009 event hosted 9,000 people. They had only printed 2000 tickets and ended up stamping hands. This year close to 7,000 attended.

The games were held on the grounds of the John Blue Home and Historical Complex in Laurinburg. Activities began on Friday, October 1, 2010 with a reception for sponsors at the

(Continued on back page.)

Archibald Little (1761-1826):
From County Fermanagh, Ireland to Guernsey County, Ohio

Glenn Ramsey, Winnetka, Illinois
glenn-ramsey@sbcglobal.net

I proudly inherited my Clan Little eligibility from my mother Jean (Little) Ramsey. Mom and her sister Mary (Little) Gault still live in the Licking and Coshocton Counties, Ohio, area where they grew up.

Our branch of Clan Little goes back to County Fermanagh in Northern Ireland, and Pubble townland, near Tempo in Enniskillen Parish. St. Patrick reputedly preached at Pubble in the 5th century, after which one of the monasteries of Fermanagh (“Fear Managh,” Region of the Monks) was located there until around 1600. The Littles arrived by the 1690’s, and Mary Little was renting the east half of Pubble in 1730. Her son William was probably the father of Archibald Little (1761-1826), the ancestral immigrant to Ohio (gt-gt-gt-grandfather of Jean and Mary Little). Archibald married Isabella Potters (1768-1853) in 1788 and they farmed near her family in Drumcullion townland, Magheracross Parish, north of Enniskillen, in a then-strongly Methodist area. Archibald was briefly enlisted in the United Irishmen rebellion in 1797, and found out by the British, but apparently let off. Little is still a common surname in Fermanagh.

Archibald, Isabella, and ten children sailed for America in 1816 with both luck and good timing. They had sold their land lease for \$50,000 in today’s dollars, just before the post-Napoleonic-War economic recession, and just as “The Year Without A Summer” of 1816 was unfolding, causing a premonitory famine. And legend has it their ship sprang a leak, but this proto-Titanic was saved by a ham to plug the hole.

They became the first settlers of “Irish Ridge” in Monroe Twp, Guernsey Co., Ohio. John Little, probably Archibald’s brother, joined them in 1817. Archibald’s children helped found today’s Irish Ridge Methodist Church in 1830. Archibald’s sons William, John, Joseph, Francis, and Edward all lived in Guernsey Co. and at one time owned over 1000 acres. Archibald Jr. (1800-1878) moved on west to Fallsbury Twp, Licking Co., in the 1850’s.

Archibald Jr.’s son Potters Little (1822-1896), named for his grandmother, enlisted in the Civil War in 1864. Many of his Co. F, 135th OH Infantry were captured in West Virginia and taken to the infamous Andersonville, GA POW camp. Potters evaded capture and later became a locksmith and gunsmith. In 1910 his son acquired the Fallsbury Twp farm, still in the Little family after 100 years, where my mother and Aunt Mary grew up.

Other descendants of Archibald Little spread across the country. In 2002 John Little (Abilene, TX, 1936-2008), his brother Gerald Little (Newcomerstown, OH), Vicki Fenton (Aberdeen, WA), Jean (Little) Ramsey, Mary (Little) Gault and other relatives returned to Guernsey Co. to proudly place new markers on the graves of Archibald and Isabella Little, in commemoration of their pioneer Irish-American legacy.

Armed with John Little’s advice to look near Enniskillen, and with some of the Little transatlantic luck in reverse, I located Archibald and Isabella Little in parish records at the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland in Belfast in 2006. With their townland finally in hand, more information was found back home via the Irish Registry of Deeds on LDS Family History Library microfilms.

Today anyone who visits both Counties Fermanagh and Guernsey will notice how similar their rolling glacial hills must have seemed to Archibald and Isabella Little, nearly 200 years ago. Shared appearance, shared heritage. We look forward to discovering more about our branch of Clan Little in America and Ireland.

Scotland’s Land of Clan Little
Glenn Ramsey, Winnetka, Illinois
November 2010
glenn-ramsey@sbcglobal.net

After years of reading about the Scottish origins of my mother’s Clan Little on our web site and elsewhere, I had the chance to visit the Langholm region in the Borders during two days in July 2010. Due to limitations of time and rainy weather, I only scratched the surface of what follows, but perhaps I can give armchair travelers some impressions (and some websites), and inspire some readers to go there and see more.

The Eskdale region just north of Langholm has high, bare hills and scenic isolated valleys (see www.multimap.com satellite view). Much of the area must look the same as it did 500 years ago when the Reivers Littles used the rugged terrain to hide and seek—hide their loot and seek more of it! From the north, the A7 highway approaches Langholm along the Ewes Water river valley. Meikledale, the traditional clan seat, is 5 miles north of Langholm. Clan Little of Scotland placed a stone marker there in 2008 near the former location of the Littles’ tower house/fort. Their tower would have looked like Gilnockie, a few miles away, associated with famous Reiver Johnnie Armstrong. (He was captured along with some Littles and other allies and put to death by the English king in 1530.) For up-close-and-personal viewing of some of Clan Little’s territory, a local walking club has mapped out scenic hiking routes up into the hills from Meikledale (<http://www.langholmwalks.co.uk/map14.htm>).

For more about the Reivers era, visitors can drive the 45-mile Reiver Trail loop with several signposted landmarks (<http://thereivertrail.com/trail.asp>). Besides the Gilnockie tower, there is the Johnnie Armstrong execution site, a museum dedicated to Clan Armstrong, and the imposing Hermitage Castle, reputedly haunted by the ghost of one of “my” Ramsay lords who was locked



in the dungeon in the 14th century. For those with lucky timing or advance planning, Langholm and other Borders towns have annual Common Ridings, reenactments from olden times when mounted riders defended their home turf against raiders and invaders. There is natural history too—within the Reiver Trail loop lies the Langholm and Newcastleton Hills, a vast moorland and nature preserve.

It's interesting to learn that the Little clan lived among many archaeological sites which were already ancient even to them, mapped out today on a short but fascinating driving tour, the Eskdale Prehistoric Trail, north-west of Langholm along B709 toward Eskdalemuir. There are 2000-year-old "hillforts" like the romantically named Castle O'er. Its eroded battlements indeed command a sweeping 360-degree view of the Scottish



Old stone enclosure--Eskdale

countryside, but its only overlord on the day I hiked up there was a red fox pouncing in the grass. Two circles of standing stones along the White Esk stream, the Girdle Stanes and the Loupin' Stanes, could be up to 4000 years old. Information on the Prehistoric Trail and all these other attractions is posted at <http://www.langholm-online.co.uk>.

I picked up several brochures on local history and nature at Langholm's central town hall. This building also houses their library with local and family history holdings. There are other regional sites to learn about family and clan history: the Liddesdale Heritage Centre in Newcastleton is on the Reiver Trail, and north on the A7 in Hawick, the Heritage Hub has an extensive collection

(<http://www.heartofhawick.co.uk/heritagehub>). About 20 miles south of Langholm in Carlisle, England, the Tullie House Museum (<http://www.tulliehouse.co.uk/border-reivers>) has exhibits on the Reivers. Hours are limited for the local centres and visitors should check ahead to confirm opening days and times. On the internet, there are many 19th and 20th-century Littles included in the online trove from the Langholm Archive Group (<http://www.langholmarchive.com>)

For those with more time, other highlights from diverse eras are within easy range. The west end of the Roman Hadrian's Wall is near Carlisle. North of Hawick are the picturesque ruins of Melrose Abbey and the residence of author Walter Scott. West of Langholm just a few miles is Lockerbie, the quiet little town which suffered the fall of Pan Am Flight 103 in a terrorist bombing in 1988. I visited the town's small but poignant, personally guided memorial displays at a local cemetery, a sobering



Gridle Stanes stone circle, Eskdale.

modern-day conclusion to my too-brief visit to the Borders. This historic and picturesque corner of Scotland where the Little clan seat once resided is richly rewarding for travelers who make their way there.

THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

Sometimes I want to pull out what little hair I have left. There is a television commercial that has been airing for the past couple of years about a company which is striving to return Christmas to its “true meaning.” To that end they show a lot of toys, appliances, and sports equipment and say that many are set up so that the family can come in and try them out before buying. While I don’t mind the commercial aspect of the advertisement it is very apparent to me that they have also missed the true meaning of Christmas.

It is a wonderful thing to have a family holiday which is filled with fun and laughter. Most of us have fond memories of Christmases past when the warmth and hospitality of the season was anticipated all year long. Even though the importance of this cannot be overstated, that, too, misses the mark.

So what is Christmas? To me it is all of the things mentioned but most important of all it is the time we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Whether or not you are a Christian, that is the true meaning behind the happy holiday. Everything else is secondary. When I was a young child my family went to church on Christmas eve where there was a Christmas play with wise men, shepherds, Mary and Joseph, and Baby Jesus. I was as wise man once and a shepherd another time. My father made the shepherd’s crooks which were used every year.

Sixty years later I still remember the solemnity of the occasion after which we would sing Christmas Carols the last one always being “Silent Night.” We would then go home to bed and to the certainty that Santa Claus would be visiting that night leaving toys and presents under the tree. Next morning was the most wonderful day of the year as we rushed out to see what he had left us. All of my family were there, my brother and three sisters, and my parents. Oh, how wonderful the memories are! I remember some of the presents I received over the years but most of all I remember the family.

We have a new youth pastor at our church who is not exactly of the same mind-set as me. For the past two years he has been in charge of the Christmas play. Last year it was “A Charlie Brown Christmas” and this year it’s going to be “The Grinch Who Stole Christmas.” The reasoning, of course, is to get and keep children interested in coming to church--and I ask, “What for?” If we are not going to come to church for the proper reason, then why have it at all? The children don’t read the Bible, don’t talk about Jesus, and don’t really know most of the old, old stories.

I’m old enough now to know that all the cartoons in the world have no meaning for me (although I still enjoy Bugs Bunny and Road Runner). I’m also old enough to know that many of the memories I have of growing up have to do with going to church and with the passing years it has become more and more important to me to celebrate the birth of my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ--the “true meaning” of Christmas.

Just my opinion--Jim Little

Author Shamelessly Uses Reiver To Promote New Book

Jim Little, Secreteur and Marischal of Clan Little Society NA has written a new book titled FATHERS OF THE GREATEST GENERATION: THE THOMASVILLE BLUES, which started out as a tribute to his grandfather, but ended up as history of the local Thomasville National Guard unit from 1909-1919. This long forgotten part of American History was partially inspired by a visit to the World War One Monument and Museum in Kansas City, (on the way to the 2009 BGM) which is an amazing place to visit and is highly recommended.

It all started when Jim wanted to put a marker for his grandfather at the local park. He had never know his grandfather, R. O. Little, only that he had served in WWI on the the border with Mexico in 1916-17. After interviewing his older cousins who did know R. O., two trips to the National Archives and Records Administration in College Park, MD, countless hours in the local library, and several more trips to the North Carolina Archives in Raleigh, what unfolded was an amazing story about the North and South Carolina Guard units who were shipped overseas to France in 1918. Four months later the Thirtieth “Old Hickory” Division were in the spearhead of the attack on the supposedly impregnable Hindenburg Line. They were ordered to do what was thought to be impossible--attack and secure that German strong point, one of the last lines of defense on the western front.

Personal accounts and never before published photographs chronicle the beginnings of the Thomasville Blues and the Lexington Rifles, their support of General John J. “Black Jack” Pershing’s pursuit of Pancho Villa in 1916-17, and the long-forgotten history of these local men who fought and died in France in the Great War.

“These men were promised that their deeds would never be forgotten” said the author. “To that end this volume brings to light the patriotism, the suffering, and the valor which these Davidson County boys exemplified in the early part of the twentieth century, almost 100 years ago. This is not just a local story, but one of national interest.”

Copies can be purchased from Jim for \$15.00 plus \$3.00 postage. E-mail to tvillegfathers@triad.rr.com for more information.



KC Scottish Games a Washout--But Just for a Day

Tom and Jodie Little are our newest Clan Little Society Conveors and live in Parkville, MO. The nearby Kansas City Highland Games held in June 2010, were interrupted by some true Scottish weather to which the photos testify. The weather Friday afternoon was perfect for setting up a tent and gave little hint as to what was in store for Saturday (but the weatherman did). There were only a few brave souls holding out hope that someone would arrive to enjoy Scottish hospitality, and a few did. Credit Tom Jodie Little for persevering in this inclement weather even though the top of their tent partially blew off. The couple sought drier environs from which these pictures were made and the displays were kept dry. The storm lasted two hours after which the weather was beautiful and the people came.

Hang in there, Tom and Jodie, even though this was your first time hosting a tent, it's not all bad weather. Next year will be sunny and warm--hopefully.



Friday afternoon at Kansas City Highland Games



The deluge Saturday morning, Clan Little tent in center with top blown over.

AND WHILE WE'RE ON THE SUBJECT OF WEATHER....

A friend, Alan Mitchell, from Braco, Perthshire, in Scotland sent us some pictures taken in late November of his home after a little weather there. We'll bet he's not wearing a kilt on a day like this, although he said one time that the kilt is warmer in the winter than summer. Go figure.



From the Editor

Dear Clan Little Members,

I would like to thank Glenn Ramsey, Tom and Jodie Little, Laurie Brooks, Jim Little, and our Steuart John Little for sending articles in for the Reiver.

As I have written before, I know you folks get tired of hearing about North Carolina. So, please folks, send those articles or suggestions for articles! If someone out there would like to take over as editor that would be great. New ideas keep things fresh.

Clan Little does not have much printed heraldry which isn't wound together with other border clans so it is hard to write those articles. We can only write so many articles about tartans, sporrans, and dirks without boring our readers.

Also let us all put out the call for convenors. Tom and Jodie Little are our newest representatives. Everyone who has set up a tent for Clan Little has enjoyed the experience and have continued doing so. If you set up only one time a year it would be wonderful.

Pat Little, Editor

Torch Light and Stones

If you have attended more than a few Scottish games you have probably witnessed a torch lighting ceremony. Different areas may vary in the way they do things. Just after dark at some of the larger games the torches are placed in the shape of a St. Andrews Cross. Some put the torches on a bonfire.

Were you aware the ceremony comes from our ancestors? In olden times if a clan was in trouble a runner would be sent out to ask neighboring clans to give aid. Sometimes the distance was far and torches were used to light the way.

Upon leaving home the assisting clansmen would take a stone from the hearth and carry it with him. When he arrived at the village in need of aid he would place the stone on a cairn. He would announce the arrival of his clansmen to his neighbors.

If all went well when the crisis was over each clansman would reclaim his own stone from the cairn. When he was safely home the stone was placed back on his own hearth. Any stone left behind became part of a funeral cairn. Take note the next time you attend your local games. Some groups have set aside an area for a cairn for the duration of the gathering.

Cairn: A stack of stones usually conical in shape. Cairns may be used to mark the summit of a mountain, mark pathways, mark a burial site, or as in this case memorialize the dead.

NEW MEMBERS IN 2010

2010 was a pretty good year for new membership in Clan Little Society. Not the best, but still good. We welcome the following:

Frank Ward II	Syracuse, NY
Dennis Little	Wheelersburg, OH
Walter James Little III	Rancho Cordova, CA
Delaine Faris	Lewisville, TX
Ronny Little	Youngstown, FL
David, Marla & MacKenzie Little	Lumberton, NC

Let's keep the ball rolling. If you have friends or relatives who might be interested in joining, why not have a little talk with them.

(continued from page 2) Scottish Heritage Center at St. Andrews. On Saturday Jim and Pat Little set up as Convenors and the weather was beautiful.

During the day we were happy to enroll new members David and Marla Little and their daughter Mackenzie into Clan Little. David is descended from a long line of Duncans Little and a true Cape Fear River Scot.

The day brought the anticipated and cherished activities we love to see. There were heavy athletics, massed bands, border collie demonstrations, guitar and fiddle jams, piping and drumming competitions, and the much anticipated Parade of Tartans. As usual the ladies and kids games were big hits.

The groups Gael Warning, Jamie Laval and Friends, and the St. Andrews Presbyterian College Pipe Band provided entertainment during the day. The kilted Scotland County High School Marching Band gave an exhibition of patriotic music. With Ft. Bragg only a stones throw away the band was an especially big hit with the crowd.

On Saturday evening a Ceilidh was held at the Cypress Bend Vineyards with wine and cheese provided by the vineyard. On Sunday morning church services were held at the historic Old Laurel Hill Presbyterian Church which had been founded by Highlanders in 1797. The ritual of Kirkin' o' the Tartan was a special part of the service.

It was certainly good to get back to heart of Scottish NC.



*Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year
from
Clan Little Society NA*