

*The  
Scottish  
West  
March*

# REIVER



The Border Reiver

THE NEWSLETTER OF CLAN LITTLE SOCIETY NORTH AMERICA

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Summer 2011

## Biennial General Meeting - September 3, 2011 - Waukesha, WI

Clan Little Society NA national Biennial General Meeting was held at the Wisconsin Highland Games in Waukesha on Saturday, September 3, 2011. Presiding over the meeting was Jim Little of Thomasville, NC, who was the ranking officer present, the steuart being unable to attend. The meeting was opened with a welcome to all those present and a thank you to Troy and Laurie Brooks, hosts of this year's meeting. After an opening prayer by Clayton Little, the minutes of the 2009 BGM were read and approved. A letter from John Little, Steuart, expressing his regrets and Ellen's (mailin) for not being able to attend was read to the members, followed by the treasurer's report supplied by the mailin which detailed the excellent financial standing of the clan society. (See financial report elsewhere in this newsletter.)

A discussion followed about two applicants for scholarships noting that neither of the applicants had direct ties to CLSNA. Troy Brooks entered a motion to limit future awards to Clan Little Society family members, but, since that was not explicit before to award the two applicants. That motion carried unanimously. A further discussion resulted in a motion to allow the new officers to decide the amount to be awarded to each applicant which was approved.



Thomas Little, Steuart; Jim Lyttle, Ph.D., Mailin; and Jim Little, Secrateur at the Waukesha games after their election to offices of Clan Little Society NA

The meeting was then turned over to Clayton Little who had been appointed to count the ballots for election of officers for 2011-13. Thomas Little of Parkville, MO, was elected as Steuart; the Marischal-elect declined the honor; Jim Little was re-elected as Secrateur; and Dr. Jim Lyttle from Madison, WI, was elected Mailin. The proxies were not needed and were therefore not counted in the results. The ballots will be retained for a short period of time and then destroyed. A summary of the results can be obtained from the Secrateur upon request.

A general discussion of processes and procedures followed the meeting before being adjourned.

### HAROLD HANSEN PRESENTS GIFT

After the BGM was adjourned, Harold Hansen (far right) presented to each family a remembrance of their trip to Wisconsin in the form of a beautiful print, numbered and signed depicting a view Sir Walter Scott would have had from his residence in Scotland. Harold is the only artist in the state of Wisconsin who still uses this old method of printing and the recipients of the work of art greatly appreciated his gift. (Maybe we can persuade him to submit an article in the future to the Reiver about this process.) He also designed the shirt he is wearing for the Scottish games in Waukesha.



The BGM for Clan Little Society NA was held at the Wisconsin Highland Games in Waukesha, WI, over Labor Day weekend. Hosts Laurie and Troy Brooks had everything arranged for a wonderful time at the event which began on Friday and ran through Sunday.

On Friday evening an awesome opening ceremony began at 6:00 with the opening of the games and presentation of the Honored Clan Award to Clan Little Society. A color guard presented arms and whistling arrows were fired into the air to signify the gathering of the clans. One by one each clan society then announced their presence at the games (as only the Scots can do). A lighted torch was added to the symbolic cairn to signify the presence of their kinsmen. It was an impressive sight as the flames grew higher and higher as torches were placed in the cairn. After a few speeches and a swordsmanship demonstration, the ceremony adjourned to await the games on Saturday. By 7:00 Saturday morning the wind had already destroyed one of the tents Troy had put up for Clan Little, but a quick trip to McSam's Club and he had another one already up by 9:00 in advance of the 10:00 opening. We needed two tents to showcase all the items he and Laurie had to show as well as



some impressive items from Harold Hansen and Joe Tuzzio. Pam Zangl and her son, Ford, also helped with the displays.



It was a good thing that Sunday was planned because rain threatened throughout the day Saturday, putting the damper on many events and holding up some of the activities. A severe weather advisory sent many of the attendees to shelter where Scottish dance competition was going on as well as a ceremonial foot-washing for a soon-to-be bride by the women of other clans. Laurie and Pam participated in this ceremony

The downpour never did occur and lighting was so far away it was not a bother. Spirits were not watered down, though, and a good time was had by all even

though some of the Southerners present were a little bit chilly while the Northerners were in shirtsleeves. Some of the activities which were to be held on Saturday were postponed until Sunday. The Parade of Tartans led by our own Tom Little, piping, then Mary Queen of Scots (Laurie) and Clan Little Society all of whom were followed around the grounds by the lesser clans

Although windy, a kirkin' o' the tartans service was held afterward, followed by just plain fun meeting people and exchanging stories. Jim Little met a lady from Wisconsin who had graduated from his alma mater in North Carolina. Small world. Many people came by the Clan Little tent and several of them showed an interest in becoming members. All in all, it was a GREAT event and everyone had a wonderful time. Wisconsin is a beautiful state full of wonderful people. The selection of Waukesha was an excellent choice for the BGM. (If you've never been to one of the games in your area, you should go, and maybe set up a tent. It will get into you blood.)



**SUMMARY OF TREASURER'S  
REPORT AS OF  
SEPTEMBER 3, 2011**

SAVINGS	\$2998.59
SCHOLARSHIP	743.44
TARTAN	1411.27
CHECKING	<u>5873.64</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$11026.94</b>
(Full details upon request)	

At the Waukesha Games: Glenn Ramsey, Jim Little, Pat Little, Laurie Brooks, June Little, Clayton Little, Deborah Hansen, Harold Hansen, Joe Tuzzio, Thomas Little, Pam Zangl, Pat Little and Troy Brooks.



Laurie Brooks as Mary, Queen of Scots, with Pam Zangl, Lady-in-waiting.

The Parade of Tartans lead by Thomas Little and Laurie Brooks with the rest of the Littles following.

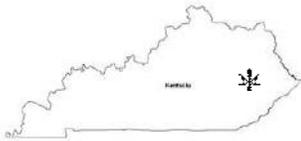


## FLOWERS OF THE FOREST



Just as we were going to press we learned of the death of Clara McEdward on September 1. She and her husband Donald were longtime members of Clan Little Society NA. She was 92. She and Donald had been married for 64 years and 9 months. Originally from Fort Kent, ME, where the funeral services were held, the couple had lived in Phoenix, AZ for some time. She is survived by one son, two daughters, four brothers, three sisters, nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Don and the rest of the family. Donald is still active on the computer corresponding with friends via e-mail. (For more information online go to the Bangor Daily News.)

As promised, another installment of Bad Boys. Ed.



## Bad Boys of Breathitt County, Kentucky.

Tucked away in the rugged eastern portion of Kentucky lies the county of Breathitt, the land of mountain folk who lived among high mountains and wild creatures, some of whom were their fellow human beings. Even today the climb by car to the beautiful high country is a long slow journey. One can hardly imagine the hardships and the isolation endured by these country folk just over a century ago.

Among the families living there then and in nearby counties were Littles, Strongs, Freemans, Burnetts and Aykmans. Jason Little was a handsome young man of twenty-seven years or so and had been locked up for allegedly murdering his young wife in 1878. He claimed it was "dun Axedently" but others thought not and he was jailed in Jackson until he could be tried. That didn't set too kindly with his kinfolk, namely his father James, who resolved to free his son--by violent means if necessary. Jason was

then apparently moved to Lexington, KY for safekeeping.

It really all started in 1874 when Jerry Little shot and killed Curtis Jett who was, in turn, killed by Jett's brother. Lawlessness prevailed and several more mysterious deaths occurred before the governor sent in troops to quell the violence. With federal troops to keep the peace things settled down some until they pulled out. Then J.W. Burnett was elected circuit judge by only eight votes and, being a Republican in a Democratic stronghold, was naturally accused of election fraud. He and Captain William Strong were allied with the Freemans and others. Sheriff Hagin was also elected for a four year term.

Getting back to the murder, one of Sheriff Hagin's deputies, a man named Coombs, formed a posse, and took it upon himself to fetch Jason from the Lexington jail to stand trial in Breathitt. This was unknown to the sheriff who, upon learning of his deputy's escapade, lit out after him with another posse and overtook him (at a local watering hole) before Coombs could set Little free. He then took the accused to Jackson himself.

Judge Burnett swore Jason would be prosecuted to the full extent of the law and was subsequently gunned down by a mob composed of the Little/Aykman faction led by one Tom Little. Captain Strong witnessed the shooting and immediately formed a posse to ferret out the perpetrators, leading to further violence and bloodshed. Hagin's term as sheriff ended about this time and, prudently, he did not seek re-election. With a dead judge and without a sheriff, a gang of 20 or so ranged freely in Breathitt. But a man named Lindon was appointed interim judge to try Little of the crime who, somehow, remained in jail. Apparently Jason was found guilty, but no record was found of his hanging.

Eventually, the governor sent in troops again. It took them five days to reach the town through the primitive country since there were no roads, but they quickly settled things down and the law-abiding folk were able to walk the streets without fear.

As a result of the feud in Breathitt County about 45 people were murdered and 30 were injured but only Jason was ever brought to trial. Robert Little, T.J. Little, and Angeline Little, the woman who was murdered by her husband, were among the dead. (Presumably Jason Little joined them after he was hung.) One of the wounded was William Little.

But all was not bad in Breathitt. In World War One, just 40 years later, Breathitt County, KY, was the only county in all of the United States to supply all of the troops Uncle Sam called for as a result of the draft. Among those serving together were Aykmans, Freemans, Burnetts, Strongs and ...Littles.

# FROM THE STEUART

Editor's note: On the evening of September 3, 2011, a formal Scottish dinner was held in Waukesha, WI for the purpose of installing new officers of Clan Little Society NA. Dr. Jim Lyttle, Mailin, Jim Little, Secrateur, and Thomas Little, Steuart, all accepted their posts for 2011-13. Afterward the new Steuart had these remarks:



It is truly an honor to receive your vote of confidence to serve as Steuart of our Clan. I grew up listening to my grandfather and father share stories of landing in America in 1750, and the various directions our kinsmen ventured off in to find new beginnings and a better life. I doubt we can begin to imagine the quality of life our ancestors endured. It was an incredibly hard life and many perished. But they made the most of what they had. Families were close and friendships were strong. Littles can be found all over the world. We are an adventurous lot. There are many very successful Littles in history and some are famous. We are doctors, lawyers, CEOs, writers, politicians, and artists. I am proud of the whole lot of you and am humbled to be your leader.

So, what are we going to do? I believe many of us are here today because we want to stay connected to our heritage. Frequently, when I encounter a Little or a fellow Clansman I am asked about my lineage and if I might be related. Information is power and we're hungry for it. I would like to see us open those doors: gather stories, share tales, and become a conduit for information.

This won't be easy. Yesterday, one of the event organizers stated that there was a crisis in the clans. We are not growing and the stories of our heritage are not getting passed down. You might think, "this is 2011, the electronic information age." Yet I have found almost half of our members don't have e-mail or computers. Less than 10% of our members participate in social networking. As I sent out letters asking for support in the election, I received back several hand written letters from members asking for more information about my lineage.

I have three main goals: I would like to upgrade our website and make it a robust tool for our members. It should serve as a conduit to provide information to you, the members, and to us, your leaders. We should encourage DNA testing and post those results for others to study. Almost daily, more and more results are being posted in the Little DNA Group. These should be disseminated through the website.

TOAST: The lands of hills, glens, and heroes, where the ptarmagin thrives and water flows freely, the deeds of the brave will be remembered. Health and success for ever. To the lads and lasses of Clan Little!

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## SOMETHING NEW, SOMETHING OLD

Everything is going digital nowadays including addresses and contact information. For those of you with computers and internet, please log on to the website to find out anything you want to know about happenings for CLSNA. There are some of us, though, that prefer the old way and for us here are some addresses of interest:

Laurie Brooks, Quartermaster  
3827 S. 83<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53220  
(414) 543-1307

Jim Little, Secrateur/Marischal  
242 Game Trail  
Thomasville, NC 27360

James Lyttle, PhD., Mailin\*  
7425 Old Sauk Road, Unit 204  
Madison, WI 53717-1252

Thomas Little, Steuart  
600 E. Admiral Blvd #1801  
Kansas City, MO 64106

Note: please see our website for e-mail addresses for these people-- [www.clanlittlesna.com](http://www.clanlittlesna.com)

Current members who would like to go digital are asked to contact the secrateur at [jnpoct23@triad.rr.com](mailto:jnpoct23@triad.rr.com) who will assign you a user name and password which will give you access to all the on line newsletters and genealogical information.

\*Beginning with the next issue, Dr. Jim Lyttle will become the editor of the Reiver. It has been our pleasure to serve CLSNA in that role for the past few years. Jim & Pat Little.

## LAURIE BROOKS STEPS IN TO QUARTERMASTER ROLE

A few days after the BGM, Leroy Little, Clan Little Society Quartermaster notified the steuart that, due to illness of three members of his immediate family, including himself, he felt it best to ask someone else to become the Quartermaster, graciously agreeing to stay on until someone else could be found. In an executive meeting via e-mail it was decided that Laurie Brooks would be an excellent choice for the role given her enthusiasm for Scottish culture and Clan Little Society and obvious organizational skills.

A phone call from the steuart to Laurie resulted in an enthusiastic acceptance of the position and it was done.

In her e-mailed acceptance Laurie said, "Thank you everyone for this opportunity! I look forward to working on getting everyone Clan Little- ized. " In the next few weeks the process of transferring the stock items to Waukesha from Dresden will be accomplished. The web site is already in the process of being updated Laurie will be getting used to her new tasks.

In the near future many other items will be added to the inventory for all of Clan Little Society to purchase and enjoy. Keep an eye on the website for those additions.



## SO WHAT ELSE IS NEW?

As if all of these changes were not enough, a lot more has been going on. In the past few weeks Clan Little Society NA has

- Updated the website to be more user friendly and interactive;
- Begun the process of setting up a PayPal account so that members can pay dues and make purchases on line;
- Designed uniform business cards for use throughout the clan society;
- Made it easier for members to join Clan Little Scotland and Worldwide at a discount price;
- New contact points for officers and quartermaster added to the website: AND
- MORE TO COME, MUCH MORE.

## LITTLE DNA PROJECT

As has been noted in past Reivers, the Little DNA Project is a valuable tool in determining ancestry. Quite often matches are found of folks who had no idea the other existed, but its main purpose is to try to determine our roots. Most other prominent families also have their own DNA projects and, naturally, an administrator. Leo Little was a great one from Texas but died suddenly three years ago leaving the project without an administrator. A year or so later, someone else took over the project until another administrator could be found, but that has not happened. Now he is gone and this important genealogical tool is without direction. You can still do the test, but there is no one in charge. It is a project of the Family Tree, a division of Ancestry.com, and they keep the records, but that's all. What is needed is someone to head up the project. Maybe someone in Clan Little Society NA would be willing to step up to the plate. If so, please contact Tom Little, Steuart, ([steuart@clanlittlesna.com](mailto:steuart@clanlittlesna.com)) and he will put you in touch with FTDNA. We could make this happen as a Clan Society further enhancing our footprint in Scottish society and worldwide. Someone?

If you are worried about the DNA test, you shouldn't be. It's really easy and does not require any kind of blood test like sticking your finger. In fact, it is as easy as brushing your teeth--really! The test kit comes with a swab with which you just sort of brush your teeth and gums for a minute or so then put the whole thing in a tube for the mail and drop it in the box. That's it! No muss, no fuss! Before you know it your DNA sample will be analyzed and you will be linked up with kin you may have never even heard of. Many times these folks are right around the corner or in a nearby town and you didn't even know they were kin. It's an amazing tool and well worth the price, plus you will be adding your lineage to the already known Littles, Lyttles, Lytles,, etc. Now, Folks, this is set up for males only so women will have to find a male relative to do the test, but the results are still amazing. (There is a test for women, but it is not set up that way for these samples. Sorry.)

FROM the on line store.

NOW IS A GREAT TIME TO STOCK UP ON THOSE CLAN LITTLE SOCIETY ITEMS FOR THE BGM IN SEPTEMBER. JUST GO ON LINE TO [www.clanlittlesna.com](http://www.clanlittlesna.com) AND CLICK THE STORE TAB TO REVIEW WHAT IS AVAILABLE. FOR THOSE WITHOUT INTERNET JUST USE THE ORDER FORM BELOW. EACH OF THE ITEMS BELOW SELL FOR \$15 EACH EXCEPT THE REIVER PIN WHICH IS JUST \$5. ADD SHIPPING OF \$2.50 AND HAVE THEM SENT TO YOUR DOOR.

THE LITTLE OF MORTON RIG TARTAN IS THE PRETTIEST TARTAN OF ALL AND IS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE STORE ALSO.



CONTACT the Quartermaster whose contact information can be found on page 4 of this news letter.

Clan Little Society NA  
242 Game Trail  
Thomasville, NC 27360