

*The
Scottish
West
March*

REIVER



THE NEWSLETTER OF CLAN LITTLE SOCIETY NORTH AMERICA

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Winter 2008

Flowers of the Forest

It is with great sadness that we received the news of the passing of James Kleparek of Freeland, WA. He had been in failing health since 2007 from cancer. Jim was an active man. In early 2007 he rode his bicycle from his home state of Washington with a group to Washington, DC to raise money for cancer research and cure. Later that same year he fell victim to that same dread disease.



According to his wife Lois, "He had suffered for several months with this cancer. He is now out of pain and can breathe again in the spirit world."

As past quartermaster for Clan Little Society, Jim was very active in all aspects of its activities. Our prayers and sympathy go out to Lois and the rest of the family. He will be greatly missed.

Funeral was held on December 5. Condolences may be sent to P O Box 451, Freeland, WA 98249-0451.

(When we met him in Tulsa, OK in 2005, we were impressed by his outlook, his generosity and his enthusiasm for the clan. Ed.)

Highlander Magazine

For those of you who subscribe to the Highland Magazine, check out the September/October issue. On the last page is a picture of a celebration for Scottish Heritage month showing Jim and Pat Little suitably attired in Scottish garb. Jim is wearing the Little tartan while Pat is in her Stewart skirt.

REIVER ON LINE

Once again we are asking for each member to consider getting the Reiver on line rather than by mail, due to the cost of publication and mailings. It's easy and fast. Just email us at jnpoct23@triad.rr.com to get a user name and password by return mail..

FROM THE STEUART

Dear Members,

The last year has flown and we are now looking at a new year coming around the corner. This brings us to start working on the BGM games for 2009. We are needing volunteers to take on the responsibility of getting out the nomination forms for the officers-President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. The current officers are not to participate in this. All that is required is for a couple of members to get the ballots printed up and mailed (Clan will reimburse). One of the volunteers would be responsible for the return of the ballots and for bringing them to the meeting and counting them there. (If not able to attend they could get the ballots to an officer before the BGM.) Now the harder part. We need to determine where we are having the BGM meeting (location and month). That should be our first order of business. When that has been established then the ballots will have the exact information for the BGM. One of the volunteers would take on the responsibility of getting names of those who would like to continue to run for their current position and/or for a different position or not at all. Then they would need to try and get a list of the members that would be interested in running for a position. In the past this has been the hardest thing to get someone to commit to. Our current officers are holding more than one position due to no one wants to step up and say, "Hey, I would be happy to help." Leroy our newest member and volunteer to assist us took on the job of the Quartermaster. (we are really grateful that he and Theresa did)

This brings me to a sad item to share, James Kleparek our previous Quartermaster had to step down due to some health issues and we have been informed he lost his battle on 11/30/08. We ask that each member who knew the Kleparek family and those who did not to say a prayer for them. They

have lost a father, husband and great friend to all those who knew him. He was well organized and efficient. He did a lot of fundraising efforts. The last one was the bike trip he took to raise money for cancer research. I believe it was the last one before he became too ill to do any of the things he enjoyed. He continued on as quartermaster until it was too much. He was strong and will be greatly missed. The Society has sent flowers on behalf of the Clan Little Society NA.

Now, we are encouraging each member to dig down into their box of goodies and send pictures, stories or information regarding your family histories, family events or what ever you would like to share to Pat Little. She is always looking for a few tidbits to put in the Reiver. She is not asking for much but for something that you would like to share. Everyone has something so please send Pat a little something to keep the Reiver interesting.

I and my family would like for you and yours to have a very Blessed Holiday Season.

Merry Christmas
Aye,

John E Little-Stewart
Clan Little Society NA

HOMEcomings SCOTLAND 2009

For a couple of years now, Scotland has been promoting homecoming in their country. Designed to attract attention and visitors throughout the world, it is a celebration of Scottish culture beginning January 1, 2009 and running all year long. Each month a different theme will be celebrated beginning with the literature of Robert Burns in January. As every Scot knows, "Rabbie" Burns (25 January 1759 – 21 July 1796) was Scotland's favorite son, the Ploughman Poet, the Bard of Ayrshire or as in Scotland, simply The Bard. He is widely regarded as the national poet of Scotland, and is celebrated worldwide.

Later in the year Edinburgh will celebrate with a Scottish gathering wherein clans from all over the world will be able to set up their tent just as we do in North America. Also, representatives from different clans will be presented at Holyrood, the Scottish parliament.

For more information check out the website at www.homecomingscotland.com.

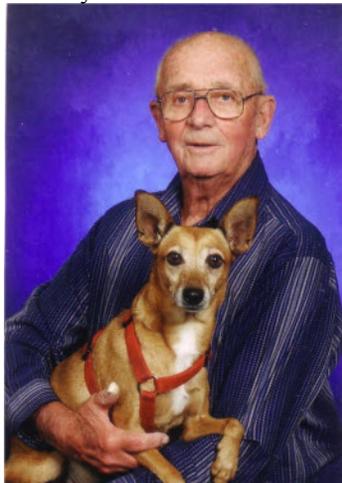
BIOGRAPHY COLUMN Murray R. Little, Sr.

My name is Murray Reed Little, Sr, I was born Feb. 23, 1928, in Pueblo, Colorado at the old Corwin-C.F. & I. Hospital.

In 1925 my grandfather Joseph Little was the foreman at the Butler ranch and he had a bad stroke, so my father Murray W. Little took over as foreman of the ranch.

To me as I look back, it was the happiest time of my life. I had a lot of chores to do when I was small and getting a little older was taught by my father how to drive a team of horses or mules; cutting hay; raking hay; moving hay to the stacker; plowing the ground; cultivating the corn; doing the round-up of

Murray Little and Tootsie Roll



1,000 cows with their calves; branding; vaccinating; castration of the bull calves; removing the horn buds so that horns would not grow; notching the ears with and ear mark.

My grandfather before he died taught me how to cut off a chicken's head, pick the feathers off after putting the chicken into very hot water. Then my mother taught me how to dress a chicken by taking all the innards out of the chicken, then cutting the chicken into pieces so it may be cooked. We also raised turkeys, geese, ducks, guinea hens, rabbits, and pigs, which we butchered, curing the meat with Morton's curing salt.

I went to Doyle School, a rural school that my grandmother Grace had attended. My father Murray W had also attended there. The school building was built in 1836 out of [a]dobe mud bricks. A family by the name of Doyle built the school across a road from their [a]dobe mud fort, which had a 3 story house inside of the fort. When I attended school grades 1 through 8, at noon time we would go across to the old fort and play around it. Doyle School is still standing [and is] on the historical archives of the State of Colorado.

On the Butler ranch there was built in 1845 or 1846 a large ranch house named the "Hermosilla." The house was built of adobe mud and is still being lived

in today. I has walls 16” deep, has fireplaces (8) for heat. Being built out of adobe mud, it did not need much heating in the summer, no cooling at all.

For my eight years of schooling at Doyle, I was very lucky to have the same teacher for all eight years. She had grown up on her father’s ranch about eight miles from Doyle School. Her parents sent her to Pueblo for her high years which she graduated from the 12th grade in 1928. She went to the Pueblo County Court House, took an exam and was given teaching credentials. In 1929 she married Frank Cox, a son of ranchers Sherman and Louise Cox when she was only two miles from school. She was a wonderful teacher. When I started school in 1934, there was 16 kids in school. When I graduated from the school in grade 8, there were only 9 children in school. My folks sent me to Pueblo, living with relatives, during the week to attend high school. I graduated from high in 1946.

About this time Dad had selected to quit the ranch so I started working. All during my 4 years at high I worked after school at a local automotive garage, learning the repair of engines, transmissions & everything about fixing broken automobiles. This garage was owned by a friend of my father’s, John Morgan.

In 1948 I married a young lady named Sadie Melton. I went to work on the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad as a carman apprentice. In August 1950 I was called to the Korean War, because I was a member of the Colorado National Guard. We were shipped to Fort Hood, Texas. In June of 1951 I was promoted to first sergeant in charge of an army company of 200 draftees. I was discharged on April 24, 1952, the day after my son Murray Reed Little, Jr was born in Pueblo, Colorado.

I returned to Pueblo, went back to work on the railroad. Somewhat unsatisfied I took the Pueblo civil service examination for the local fire department.. I went to the fire department December 1, 1952. I then sought out part time work because on the fire department I worked 24 hours on duty and 24 hours off duty. I went to work part time for a local small automotive repair shop on Feb. 1, 1953. On Jan. 1, 1960, I was promoted to fire engineer driving a fire truck & operating the pump at a fire.

My daughter was born on Sept. 27, 1956, named Melody Ann Little.

I quit the auto repair job & went to work at the local fire equipment store in April 1964, selling fire equipment, recharging & test[ing] fire extinguishers, & all related to the fire equipment.

On May 15, 1964, I was promoted to Fire Captain on the fire department. I was assigned to the 85’ aerial truck. I worked only for 3 years, then I was assigned to a pumper truck, house captain on Engine 1, Central Fire Station. In 1975 I slipped at a fire and broke my right heel underneath & it could not be fixed, so in 1976 I was put out to pasture on a disability pension. It was not right for me because I was not ready for a pension.

My son Reed graduated from high school in 1970 (same high school as I did). [He]graduated from the University of Colorado, Boulder, with a degree in computer science in Aug 1974. Off to California with TRW, moving to Pittsburg, PA where he works with Carnegie-Mellon University in 1987. He has no children because of having contracted multiple sclerosis.

My daughter Melody graduated in 1974, got married right away. One son Coribin who was killed getting hit by an automobile in May 1982. He was 6 years old. Them my daughter had two more sons, Jacob and Willie.

I moved to Oregon to watch them grow up in 1990. They were both married in 2007, so I decided to move back to Pueblo, Colorado, where my roots are. I have a bad back, left leg, diabetes & now shingles.

My dog Tootsie Roll & I live together & get along very good, the two of us. I am now 80 years old and would like to live to be 100 years old.

Respectfully Submitted,

Murray R. Little

CLAN LITTLE ON LINE

Don’t forget to check out the Clan Little web site at www.clanlittlesna.com. The site is maintained by Don Little of Enderby, B.C and has a lot of great features. One of those is the Members Only tab which is for Clan Little members. After entering that area of the web site you can view the latest Reiver an post messages for other members. This will be particularly helpful for those who wish to post their ancestry for others to see. In this way, members can compare notes and maybe even come up with a missing link or find previously unknown cousins. You will need a password issued by Jim Little at jnpoct23@triad.rr.com. Currently there is very little there, but over time it will grow so that it will be a very beneficial tool for all of us. Join us, won’t you?

Hogmanay

Auld Years Night or Hogmanay is Scottish for the last day of the year.

From torchlight processions up the hills to swinging balls of fire, Scots celebrate in a big way. Customs from the Gaelic celebration of Samhain and the Norse celebration of Winter Solstice have been brought together over the ages to become the celebration of Hogmanay.

In the past before the celebrating started preparations were made. Effort was made to do away with anything that might cause bad luck in the coming year. Outstanding debts had to be paid. The house was cleaned and polished from top to bottom. Even the ashes from the fireplace were cleaned away.

Certain elements placed in the home were assumed to bring good luck. Mistletoe was thought to prevent illness, holly kept the faeries away, and Rowan branches atop the door brought good luck. Yew and hazel brought protection from evil. Burning yew and juniper throughout the house then opening the house to the fresh air of the New Year completed the preparation for celebration.

It was considered bad luck to have visitors before midnight. If anyone came early they were chased away so they would take any bad luck with them. At midnight the head of the house opened all the doors to let the old year out and the new year in. Salt might have been thrown on the newly lit fire and lots of noise and commotion made to chase off evil spirits.

The most commonly held custom was called "first footing". The first person to come calling after midnight was to bring a gift. Food items like salt, black bun (a type of fruit cake), short bread and whisky were all common and thought to bring good luck. It was considered luckier still if any of these items were brought by a tall, dark-haired handsome man. If the man was dark he was probably a Scotsman. If he had blonde or red hair he might be an unwelcome Norseman.

Many of these old customs have fallen by the way side but some still are still observed. Hogmanay is still celebrated enthusiastically in Scotland. The traditional meal of Steak Pie is still eaten and Auld Lang Syne is rousingly sung.

And there's a hand my trusty fere!

And gie's a hand o thine,!

And we'll tak' a right guid-willie waught,

For auld lang syne.

(The editor suggests looking at the many on line sites for details on Scottish customs and traditions.)

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

Wouldn't it be great if each member of clan Little Society would attend at least one Scottish game or festival in 2009? After all, the aim of the Society is to observe Scottish customs and traditions. Don't know where to go? For those with internet access, just log on to www.asgf.org. There you will find all the games in the United States listed by month.

Just in the last year there have been two alone. The long running Flora MacDonald ended its run after thirty-four years. also lost its venue and is hopefully re-

Your support of other games will go a long way toward ensuring that we do not lose the wonderful events.



festivals lost in North Carolina Highland Games and Festival has Waxhaw Highland Games has cating after twenty-nine years.

way toward ensuring that we do

Scottish American Military Society

It has come to the attention of the editor that there are members of Clan Little who are not familiar with the Scottish American Military Society. The following article is printed with the permission of SAMS. Several members of Clan Little are members of SAMS including Former Adjutant General Alan Burke, Deb Burke, Robert Krause, past commander Patrick Ferguson Post 1775, Lois Krause and Jim Little.

The Scottish American Military Society (1)provides a forum for exchange of military history and genealogical information; (2) conducts public education programs; (3)presents military student honor awards ; (4)supports Scottish activities at highland games; (5)makes contributions to qualified scholarship funds or institutions; (6)makes appropriate charitable contributions; and (7)provides a fraternal atmosphere for members.

History of the Scottish-American Military Society A number of U.S. war veterans were attending the July, 1980, Grandfather Mountain Highland Games (GMHG) in North Carolina, USA. These veterans had been friends for a number of years, and had over the years attended various highland games as members of Scottish Clans. When not participating in clan activities, these veterans (along with other veterans they would meet) would discuss things of mutual interest including military history, current military affairs, and individual war stories. Among this group of veterans were Randy Downey, Jim Kilpatrick, Patterson Little (one of the founders of Clan Little), Hal Morrison, and Doug Talley.

The meeting of veterans was special in that some of them met again that evening at the home of Alvera Morrison of nearby Pineola, NC. Alvera Morrison was Hal Morrison's mother, both veterans. As these veterans talked, they discussed their long held view that there needed to be some type of formal group, or organization to represent veterans who were attending highland games. They felt such a group would provide an ongoing "clan" type arrangement for veterans to meet at games and exchange military information and stories. This would also provide a focus or location at games to have educational material on Scottish and American military history for the general public.

All agreed they needed to form such a group. Randy Downey proposed that the group be called The Scottish-American Military Society or as it was to become known as SAMS or SAMS-OWN (referring of course to Uncle Sam from the famous poster "I Want You for the U.S. Army"). Over the next nine months, the organizers developed the organizational structure of the group including formal Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, membership structure, and its purposes.

On April 12, 1981, SAMS was incorporated as a voluntary, non-political, non-sectarian and non-profit, war veterans' organization under the laws of the State of North Carolina, dedicated to the preservation and promotion of Scottish and American Armed Forces customs, traditions, and heritage. Subsequently, SAMS filed for and received U.S. Government Internal Revenue Service recognition as a IRS Code Section 501 (c) 19 Organization of War Veterans of the United States (see Background on SAMS for additional information). Randy Downey served as National Commander on the corporate organizational papers.

The first official membership meeting of SAMS was held on July 11, 1981, at the GMHG just one year from the meeting in Pineola. Charter Life (CL) and Charter Regular (CR) membership were accepted and officers were introduced. William Wright (CL-2) served as the first elected National Commander.

Over the years, SAMS has expanded in its membership and has become a nationwide organization. In 1982, The Patriot, SAMS' newsletter was started. In 1986, the bylaws were changed to permit the establishment of local SAMS Posts or Chapters. In 1987, The Patriot was awarded "First Place" for Service to Special Audiences in the 2nd Annual Newsletter Competition held by The Scottish American (newspaper) and the Council of Scottish Clans and Associations. Also in 1987, SAMS (perhaps the nation's smallest war veterans organization) allied itself with the Joint Veterans Committee (including the American Legion, VFW, and other large national groups) for the bicentennial observance of the U.S. Constitution in Philadelphia, PA. Not only did it participate, SAMS was chosen by the committee to lead the Parade of Americans section of the parade supported by their guests The Black Watch Pipes and Drums of Canada.

In 1988, SAMS achieved its membership goal set in 1981 by surpassing the 1000 member mark. Also in 1988, SAMS was participating in 36 games in 22 states out of a total of 74 games in the annual calendar for that year, and establishing regional commanders to assist posts and post development. By 1989, SAMS was providing scholarships for piping students, had designed and released to SAMS Posts its National SAMS Flag, and was accepting U.S. Medal of Honor and U.K Victoria Cross awardees as Honored Life Members (HLM). By 1995, SAMS had organized 10 Regions, and 22 Posts in 16 states.

Through the later 1990s, SAMS continued to expand. Membership applications continued to be issued, and member ID numbers had been issued through #2500. Sadly, many of our WWII members had passed on, but current membership had been maintained at the 900 level by the end of 1999 and the number of posts remained at 22. SAMS, through The Patriot, continued its early relationship with the Scots-at-War Trust in the UK.

The years between 2000 and 2005 saw not only an expansion of SAMS in both its number of members and posts, but also in its influence in the Scottish-American community. In 2000, The Patriot was expanded to a 50 page quarterly magazine. In 2000, SAMS provided the Color Guard and Color Party, and coordinated the participation of the USAFRCB Pipes and Drums for the National Tartan Day (NTD) ceremonies on the U.S. Capitol steps and participated in the related The Scottish Gathering on the Mall in Washington, D.C. In 2000, SAMS established its website www.S-A-M-S.org

In 2001, SAMS would again organize the NTD Colors and the Pipes and Drums on the Capitol Steps, and this time SAMS would organize the Gathering on the Mall. Honorary Memberships were accepted by Members of the Scottish Parliament Ben Wallace, Kay Ullrich, and Andrew Wilson. Honorary memberships were also accepted by a number of Members of the U.S. Senate who were active the establishment of NTD or have supported the U.S. military in various ways.

In 2002, SAMS was invited to join in The Scottish Coalition (TSC). TSC is a group of eight nationally recognized Scottish-American organizations. TSC was instrumental in bringing about NTD and developing other national programs. By 2004, SAMS was participating in most of the Scottish games in the U.S. This participation included Color Parties and Post tents providing educational information.

By 2005, SAMS posts were meeting throughout the country and awarding SAMS achievement medals to JROTC students as well as issuing financial grants to local non-profit or military organizations. National SAMS continues to issue awards to university ROTC students for exceptional performance, and is currently developing an associated not-for-profit organization to accept scholarship donations. Membership now approximates 1100 and 34 posts have been established across the United States with new posts being developed at a rate of four to five each year.



SAMS at Triad Highland Games.
Alan Burke is 5th from left wearing Clan Little Tartan.