



Clan Little Society NA, Ltd.

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FROM THE STEUART-THOMAS LITTLE



Blina nua mait agut, which loosely translated means Have a 'good' new year! Greetings from your Steuart. As I look over the past year through the correspondence and various e-mails I realize that Clan Little Society has had a busy year. For a volunteer board, your officers have been active. One of our goals as a leadership team was to bring our organization into the 21st century in regards to our website. Our volunteer WebMaster Don Little from Canada has transformed our

website into a more robust machine that now has pictures of the merchandise that can be purchased from our store. He has made the application process for membership a form that can be filled out on line and submitted electronically (and yes there remains a version that can be printed out and mailed in for those who find computers challenging!) and everything is linked to PayPal for the ease of purchasing memberships, renewals or merchandise.

One of the accomplishments I am most proud of is our relationship with David Lyttle (Florida) who is our clan society genealogist. David joined our team last year with the shared goal of getting our genealogy family trees on line in such a fashion that is easily searched. CLSNA has been collecting family information for over two decades but never had any easy way to share this information. Today, in the Member Only section of the CLSNA website is an electronic, searchable data base of every family tree submitted. David also serves as an administrator to the on line Little DNA Project. So not only can he match people with their family trees, DNA matching is also available. If you need your password to access the Members Only section, please contact our Secreteaur, Jim Little (NC). We partnered with Peter Wilson, "The Scottish Weaver" in North Carolina to be our Quarter-master. He performs this service at no charge. It adds a degree of professionalism to the shipping of our merchandise to those who place orders. The sale of merchandise has been so good, we recently ran out of the 10 ounce Tartan material and we have had to place an order for more. The tartan is specially woven by a weaver in Scotland and takes several months for completion. Please accept our apologies for not being able to complete orders for ties, scarf's and the like. I have personally

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Genealogist's Notes



The Clan Little Society North America, Genealogy Library – Since the origin of CLSNA, the individual genealogy research of our Clan members has been accumulated, catalogued, indexed, and maintained in our Clan reference library. The efforts were initiated by my predecessor, Mrs. Pat Little-Maddox, who meticulously filed and cross-referenced these individual family records, adding to and re-indexing as new submissions mounted. The result of Mrs. Maddox's work and the continuing addition of new members and their files has grown this data resource to what is undoubtedly the largest and most complete compilation of Little family history and ancestral charts, quite possibly on the planet. In addition to the files representing the various **Little** families, the ancestry charts and genealogical information of all CLSNA members and relatives, regardless of surname, are likewise catalogued and indexed for future reference. Our CLSNA Genealogy files are a rich and truly unique resource, and one which will preserve the family histories of our membership for future generations.

An Online Resource – Our Clan Steuart, Thomas Little, presented a vision of not just maintaining and growing the Clan's Genealogy files – but to make this information more readily accessible. Our Webmaster, Don Little, and I were tasked with taking this from vision to reality.

In August of this year we initiated the first phase of the project by scanning the documents. All Clan Little Ancestry Charts, including Littles, relatives of Littles and any Clan member (Little or otherwise) who ever submitted a family tree or Ancestry Chart were digitally scanned. Many of these documents were submitted in the early 1990's by our founding members. Some of the data chronicles family ancestry dating back to the 1500's in Scotland, Ireland or country of origin. In total, some 2,300 documents were scanned from hard copy to digital (PDF) format.

Phase Two - In the months since, our Web-master and I have been busy cleaning up and organizing the scans and turning those results into a searchable database. You will find the data is searchable by Surname/First Name/ Maiden Name, all in alphabetical order.

The Final Phase - Now Open for Business! Don has re-engineered the CLSNA web site home page to add a **GENEALOGY** tab that will link directly to these online files. I'm pleased to announce that with the exception of a few cosmetic tweaks, the documents are now linked, and accessible for research. Access is password controlled, so the files are open only to active Clan members.

For members who never completed a tree or ancestry chart, Don has incorporated a blank tree, or member input chart on the opening page of the GENEALOGY tab. This is a quick path to enter your family ancestry data which will then be uploaded and merged with our Clan Little files. Simply complete the blocks as best you can, and submit the form. Provisions are also in place to incorporate any new member's data as they come onboard.

NOTE: If you have misplaced or forgotten your member ID or password, you can request this information from our Clan Secreteur, Jim Little – jnpoct23@triad.rr.com

We need your help - To continue to expand our files and insure their accuracy requires the assistance of our members. This begins by capturing all the information available on your family, as far into the past as can be accounted for. Speaking with your parents, grand-parents, aunts and uncles, our elders - and discovering your lineage is the first step in the process. Usually one member of each family becomes the "Family Historian". Seek them out and get it down on paper while someone still remembers it. It's an excellent way to fill in the gaps in your records and possibly discover some long lost kin.

Final Note - Additional Genealogy Resources -

The scanned Ancestry Charts represent only a fraction of the materials contained in the CLSNA Library. Family Group Sheets, and Little Study Projects, Magazine Files, and in depth biographies and Books are also a part. At the heart of the library is the CLAN LITTLE INDEX, volumes I & II. The index contains the names, dob, dod, places, spouse and father's names of all persons represented on any chart or document that has passed through the hands of the Clan Genealogist. It is extensive, and though not yet on line, the data is accessible to all active Clan Little Society of North America members through email.

I'm available to assist with your questions or to manually check our files. I welcome you to contact me directly at dna@clanlittlesna.com with any questions/comments or suggestions for improvement.

J. David Lyttle, CLSNA Genealogist

PAT LITTLE MADDOX SERVICE AWARD

As noted in the summer issue of the Reiver, Pat Little Maddox was given the award for meritorious service to Clan Little Society NA. However, she was unable to attend the BGM so there was some delay in actually getting the award to her. Her health, and that of her husband Rex, has been declining somewhat lately and that, combined with other circumstances, meant that she did not actually receive the award until December 18, 2013. Facing the possibility snow, or at least bad weather on the route, CLSNA steuart Thomas Little arrived in Arlington, VA, and received a gracious welcome from the Maddox's. After the actual presentation of the award, Pat was overwhelmed with gratitude and posed for some pictures with Tom.

Pat has been the genealogist for CLSNA since its inception. Due to age and infirmities, she had been looking for a replacement for some time but would not give the files to just anybody. At the BGM held in McPherson, KS in 2009, Pat Little, wife of secrateur Jim Little, agreed to take and protect the records and forms Ms. Maddox had catalogued over the years until a new genealogist could be found. During the time she had the records, Pat Little was highly complementary of the way in which they had been kept. When David Lyttle of Florida agreed to become the clan genealogist, he, too, was amazed at the exceptional job Ms. Maddox had done.

Pat Maddox was not just the clan genealogist--she was very active in all phases of Scottish society often hosting the tent for the St. Andrews Society helping people find their Scottish roots. She was also active in Clan Henderson of which her husband was president for a number of years. And that's just to name a few activities.

Clan Little Society is proud to have Pat Little Maddox as a member and a founding mother,. We wish her and Rex a long and happy retirement.



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taken over the interaction with the Quartermaster to ensure orders are handled as promptly as possible.

Pat Little, Marischal has spent his early retirement touring the Scottish games throughout the country seeking Littles and promoting our Clan Society. It is important to keep our heritage and our involvement active so our traditions and ways are not lost. Although we really have not lost numbers in memberships, we aren't growing either. Through our Involvement with COSCA we learned that all Clan Societies are challenged with keeping the membership active and growing. Our futures lie with our children and keeping the stories and traditions visible and memorable.

Our Mailin (Treasurer) resigned last year and we are in search of a volunteer who may have some accounting experience and would like to be part of a robust team of fellow Clans people. You will track our books (pretty easy), pay our bills (not many), receipt our money(hopefully there will be more!) and provide insight and participation in to the management structure of our Clan Society. Please contact me directly. (See ad on page 7.)

Over the sea in Scotland, there has been a great deal of activity with the Clan Little Society World Wide (CLSWW), The Steuart, Ian Little has resigned and the whole organization is being restructured. I have been active in consulting with them both prior to the re-organization and after. Crawford Little, Guardian of the Clan Little Society has also been involved. Several of our Scottish members are also CLSWW members are taking an active leadership role in the re-structure and perhaps we should soon see our Scottish brethren revive UK Clan Little Society. (See story on page 6.)

I am pleased to share that in the New Zealand and Australia region, brother Allen Little has taken the Steuart role in Clan Little, NZ or www.clanlittle.net. This organization was established in 1991 and has just registered themselves as an official Chartible Trust organization. They have a FaceBook page called Clan Little South Pacific.

Thank you for your membership and your fellowship. Remember, Clan Little is organized as a non-profit 501(c) (7) social organization under the IRS laws of the United States of America.--Thomas Little, Steuart

NOT JUST A GENEALOGIST

In 1996 the Clan Little Society NA genealogist David Lyttle, of Jacksonville, FL put down the attache, took off the tie, and said good bye to the corporate world. With his wife's blessings, he followed his interest in woodworking and took off in pursuit of growing his own shop and starting his own woodworking and cabinetry business.

Looking for ideas for spec pieces he began visiting some designer show rooms. He encountered a designer and owner of an up-scale design group who contracted a piece to be built from a photo image, and specifications he provided. He wanted to change the dimensions, the species, tones, and a few other things that the original manufacturer would not accommodate. This is where David found his niche.

He wishes he had started taking images from the very beginning, but working in a small confined shop, he was too busy working stuff out the door for delivery to pause for photos.

With the furniture building you have to take in every aspect of species recognition and strengths/uses for hardwoods,



A ladies writing desk built on a modern French design. The home this piece sits in was the feature article in Architectural Design magazine,



This dark walnut desk with those massive turned legs is a joint design effort between David and a client - based on an 18th century English factory seamstress table.



This table with the crazy cabriole legs is a re-design of a bed side table. The designer up-scaled all the dimensions for use as a living room table, and added a drawer, and changed the species from cherry to mahogany.



This arched-bonnet dining cabinet was built to designer specs, including a wine rack and arched doors - and interesting venture into circular work.



This painted TV cabinet was a collaboration between himself and an old client for her beach front condo.

veneers, burls etc. All the tooling techniques both hand and motorized, as well as tool maintenance and sharpening. he still rely a lot on hand planes and wood rasps and the like. Joinery and glues and clamping techniques is a science unto itself as is the staining and finishing process.

The Stickley TV cabinet and chairs (page one) are his creation, building on original Gustav Stickley dimensions from his 1912 catalog. They didn't have TV cabinets in the day, so he had to alter designs for a library book case, and it gave him the opportunity to learn to work with stained and leaded glass. The hefty joinery and engineering of Stickley and the Arts & Crafts movement are his personal preference.

Langholm Common Riding

Just two miles from the English border sits the town of Langholm, Dumfrieshire, which is populated with large percentage of Littles. The rolling hills surrounding the town are typical of the lowlands and the quaint streets of the town are normally quiet year round. However, come the last Friday in July every year, the solitude changes to merriment as tens of thousands fill the avenues to witness the day-long event known as Langholm Common Riding. Beginning with a herald from the cornet at 5:00 a.m. the festival opens with a flute band parading though the town



carrying the flag and ends promptly at 9:30 p.m. with the same cornet and return of the flag to the town hall. Like many of the customs in the old country, the Common Riding has a storied beginning. It seems that about 250 years ago the three landowners squared off in a civil action at the Court of Session in Edinburgh over the disputed Ten Merk Lands of Langholm just outside

the town. Not stopping at distributing the land among the litigants, the court held that some of the land was to be held in common for the people of Langholm and that the boundaries as such must be clearly defined. Much of this land was called the Common Moss and Kilngreen. The areas were marked off by cairns, pits, and beacons and a man was responsible each year to go out and make sure



these markers were well maintained.

So much for the boring stuff.

That event has grown into one of the most thrilling and entertaining event in all of Scotland. Mostly it's about horses, horses, and more horses--and the pipe bands. All day long there are games, good food, and proclamations from horseback.

Quaint emblems are carried in the processions, too. The Barley Bannock is, get this, a salted herring fastened to a wooden platter by a "twal-penny nail" at the top of a pole carried by a costumed townsman.

Next, there is a spade or



shovel which obviously symbolizes the maintenance of the boundaries. This is the most important symbol of all.

A gigantic thistle, symbol of Scotland, has no real significance except that of pride of country. And lastly, the floral crown which has nothing to do with the festival itself, just a nod to the monarchy.

After a long day of partying, revelry, great food, and countless events the flag is returned to town hall to await the ever-growing festival's next happening.



2013 WAS QUITE A YEAR FOR CLS

To say it has been an eventful year for Clan Little Society and our kindred societies would be an understatement. There is no one person who is able to chronicle exactly what happened, because there are so many points of view, so we will not try to do so in this article. There can be a bare bones accounting of what has been going on since late 2011 which we will highlight as best we can.

Sometime in the fall of 2011, Ian Little, steuart of Clan Little Scotland and Worldwide, CLSWW, made overtures to Clan Little Society North America, CLSNA, and Clan Little Society New Zealand and Australia, CLSNZA, to support him in his bid to become chief of Clan Little. (Clan Little is an armigerous clan society--a "heidless" clan as are most modern clans.) Our last clan chief was the Earl of Meikeldale, who had seven daughters and whose brother was lost at sea. Either the daughters were not eligible or, through marriage, were no longer Littles, and the direct line was lost.

And that is the way it remained until the early 1990s when Dr. Johnnie Little of Morton Rig revived the clan as a genealogy and history organization. CLSNA was born about this time and has remained active. After Dr. Johnnie's death in 2007, his son Crawford had no real interest in the day to day workings of the clan society and eventually gave way to Ian Little, treasurer at the time. Ian was very active promoting CLSWW, dropping the requirement that members have proven Scottish ancestry, adding many new products to the quartermaster store, and generally making the society better known.

It was a good thing, at least on the surface. At the 2009 BGM in Wisconsin, CLSNA voted to promote closer ties to the Scottish society and the fact that many CLSNA members had dual membership with CLSWW was proof of the good will.

But it all ended when Ian began his push to become clan chief, even proposing to bypass the age-old regulations set forth in the office of the Lord Lyon, which is the only office that can bestow the title of clan chief on an individual. He wanted to circumvent the ten year vetting period required for all pretenders to the office.

(CLSNA, in its by-laws and on its application allows members to contribute funds to search for a new chief. Although there is very little money in that portion of the account, it is part of our goals. No money has ever been sent to Ian or anyone else for this purpose.)

The effect on CLSNA was tremendous, nevertheless. Our treasurer, Dr. Jim Lyttle, of Wisconsin, decided to openly support Ian's quest, but was advised not to do so by our president, Thomas Little of Kansas City, who counseled all membership to remain neutral. As was his prerogative, Dr. Jim chose to stay his course and voluntarily resigned to avoid a conflict of interest. (Dr. Jim maintained the bank account without a hitch until December 31, 2013, when it was turned over to the steuart.)



Crawford Little



Allen Little, CLSNZA

Meanwhile, Crawford Little, son of Dr. Johnnie, in whom the title of "guardian" is vested, had had enough. Even though he, at the time, had no interest in running a clan society, he was legally still the clan guardian, and would be by-passed if Ian were granted the office of chief. This actually could not happen since there are procedures enforced by law in Scotland. In other words, the proposal by Ian was clearly against established Scottish law and could not happen with or without the support of the various Clan Little Societies. (So, our steuart, Thomas Little, was exactly right in asking everyone to remain neutral.)

In a nutshell, that's about it. If the reader wants to find out the details he or she may be able to research exact timelines and postings on the CLSWW facebook page. It is not the purpose of this article to point fingers or place blame on anyone, just to print the facts as known.

So, where are we now? The situation in Scotland is not good. Crawford has established to everyone that he is the legal guardian of Clan Little Society and has even made proposals to CLSNA and CLSNZA to recognize that fact. Ian has resigned and declared that he is no longer associated with CLSWW in any manner. There is the wee matter of the bank account which is still pending.

In late 2013, after Ian resigned, Crawford proposed a worldwide organization of Clan Little Society with him as head. The officers of CLSNA have agreed to this proposal in principle, but insists on remaining independent, to which Crawford agreed. (Proposals of this kind can only be finalized by a vote of the membership.)

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WANTED – MAILIN (Treasurer)

The Clan Little Society of North America (CLSNA) is in search of an able volunteer to serve as the Society's treasurer. This is normally an elected position. However with the recent resignation of our Mailin, we will appoint a Mailin until our next election cycle. The Mailin is responsible for monitoring the PayPal account and forwarding notices of membership payments to the Secretaur, orders for merchandise to the Quartermaster, pays any outstanding bills that come due, provides an annual accounting of the treasury and files our non-profit annual tax return. Our executive team operates as a leadership team and you will be actively involved in the decision tree of this organization. The work load is not difficult nor complex. If you have any interest, please contact the Steuart, Thomas Little at tlittle2004@yahoo.com or call him at 816-853-8911 to discuss the position.



(continued from page 6) As for CLSNA, we are just as strong as ever, maybe stronger. We suffered very little, except for the loss of our treasurer, but the ties with Crawford and with CLSNZA were strengthened during this difficult period. Thomas, Crawford, and Alan Little (CLSNZA steuart) have forged strong ties through all this which will be of benefit to all members here and overseas.