

*The Scottish West  
March*

# REIVER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CLAN LITTLE SOCIETY, USA, LTD.



November, 1997

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## PRESIDENT'S PODIUM

Greetings from your new president, George Little. We're off to a great start, and I would like to thank everyone for their support. Special thanks go out to Bob, Ginny, Ross, and Phyllis for their dedication and hard work over the past two years. We plan to continue to work to make the Clan Little Society successful.

First, I'd like to introduce myself. I'm 44 years old, and a native Georgian, currently living in Savannah with my wife Debby. I work for Skidaway Institute of Oceanography as a Skilled Trades Worker. My involvement with the Clan Little Society began in 1992 when I went to the Savannah Scottish Games and found the Clan Little tent. Pat and Sally Little spoke with me about the Society and signed me up.

We have an extremely full agenda of things to accomplish to make your Society better and stronger, so get ready for some pretty exciting times! First, you will note that this edition of *The Reiver* contains an insert printed on a different colored sheet of paper. Take a minute to look at it closely. You will notice two things. First, it contains a membership renewal form for 1998. Take a moment out to complete it, please. And don't forget to send a check for your renewal! We can't continue to send bulletins out to members whose dues aren't up to date - it's just too much of a burden on our already tightly-stretched budget. In fact, if you're not paid up for 1998, this will be your *last Reiver* if we don't hear from you by the next publication date in February, so don't hesitate!

Second, note on the renewal form there is a ballot regarding a name change for the Society. We are proposing to call ourselves the Clan Little Society of North America, Ltd., and need a two-thirds majority membership approval to legally make the change. We're taking this step in order to involve our Canadian cousins in the Society. Make certain you mark your vote before sending in the membership renewal.

As many of you are aware, this year's officer elections were fraught with problems and glitches. To make a long story short, the Society By-Laws need to be updated to better spell out the details of holding and validating officer elections. To take care of this issue, among others, our *Reiver* editor Bill Little, Vice President Pat Little, and I have undertaken the effort to review and revise our by-laws as necessary. If you would like to help in this effort, feel free to contact any of us with your ideas. We will appreciate the help. We'll keep you posted on our effort, and put our amendments up to a vote of the full membership when we finish.

In closing, let me say that we are growing and need your help. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact me or any of the Council members. There's a lot to do, and we'll be glad for any and all volunteers! It takes all of us pulling together to make our Society grow and thrive, so renew your 1998 membership now, and let's get to work!

*George Little*

Clan Little Society USA, LTD.

Officers:

President/Steuart: George Little (912)927-4756

Vice President/Marischal: Patrick Little (313)429-2038

Treasurer/Sillarman: Dr. Clary Little

Secretary/Secratur:

Committee Heads:

Quartermaster: Mike Little

Editor: William Little (407)639-2789

Membership Secretary:

Chaplain: Rev. William Youngblood

Commissioners:

Northeast: Patrick Little

Southeast: Dr. Michael Little

West: Ross Little

Midwest: Patrick Little

Southwest: Don Lytle (318)981-2308

Send all submissions to.

William Little  
946 Tope Street  
Port St. John, FL 32927  
email: littleb@tng.net

<http://www.geocities.com/MotorCity/2824/Little.htm>  
Courtesy Bryan Little of Richmond, VA

## APPOINTMENTS

We are pleased to announce the following appointments:

Reverend William Youngblood of Boulder, Colorado has consented to become our Society Chaplain - a welcome addition to a Clan of Reivers! Bill is a retired Methodist minister, and is married to Betty. We look forward to hearing from them in the future.

Dr. Michael Little, recently returned from a tour in Italy with the Navy, has been appointed our Southeastern Region Commissioner. Mike and wife Sharon now live in Virginia and will fill a much needed position on the Council.

Mike Little of Livermore, California has agreed to take the position of Quartermaster, and will begin those duties as soon as our new merchandise arrives. In addition to Quartermaster duties, Mike will head up our Product Review Board. Mike and his wife Lori have been active in the Pleasanton, California Games for the past few years.

## NEWS BITS & PIECES

From the Greensboro (NC) Patriot, Wednesday,  
January 21, 1903:

"At his home in Lanesboro Township, Mr. Merrimon Little after a short illness of pneumonia, died last Saturday (10<sup>th</sup>). Mr. Little, who was 76 years of age, was well known in upper Anson and Union Counties. *The Messenger-Intelligencer* is informed by several reliable parties that Mr. Little was, at one time, a member of the famous Jesse James Gang, the history of which is well known to everyone. Just how long he followed the daring James boys, or why he left them, is not known, as Mr. Little, of course, was always reticent in regard to the matter. He, however, imbibed some of the daring spirit of his leader, as many of his neighbors well knew, and some of them to their sorrow. But whatever his past may have been, we bow our heads and say 'Peace to his ashes.'

"With thanks to the Carolinas Genealogical Society, PO Box 397, Monroe, NC 28111."



Ms. Felicity Little, daughter of Nigel and Elizabeth Little of Cary, NC, at Loch Norman, April, 1997. Glé mhath!

## 1998 Annual General Meeting

We're already looking ahead and planning our 1998 AGM. We've tentatively selected the Highland Games at Williamsburg, Virginia in late September for the site of the meeting. We'll pass more information and details along to you as we get it. Plan to attend!

## FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

James A. Little, Jr.: b. 1922, Atmore, AL; d. 02-19-97, Gulf Breeze, FL. Son of James and Katie Little; brother to Cecil and Harvey Little, all deceased. Mr. Little is survived by his wife Christina; daughter Margaret Lenett; son and daughter-in-law James I. and Brenda Little; grandchildren Tracey and Benny Lenett; brother Floyd Little; sisters Ruth Nall and Norma Lee Mackey.

Mr. Little served his country in World War II, and made his civilian career in the Federal Aviation Administration. He was a member of the All Saints United Episcopal Church, the American Legion, the St. Andrew's Society, and the British West Floridians.

Services were held Saturday, February 22, 1997, at All Saints United Episcopal Church, Pensacola. Mr. Little was laid to rest at Pensacola Memorial Gardens. Memorial contributions may be made to All Saints United Episcopal Church or Hospice of Northwest Florida.

Julia H. Patterson: b. 10-04-48, Warrenton, VA; d. 08-24-97, Harrisonburg, VA. Daughter of Lyman Patterson, deceased, and Mary Ann Gray Day. Ms. Patterson is also survived by her husband Richard E. Little (son of Ross A. Little, CLSUSA Vice President emeritus); stepfather Jim Day; stepson Douglas Little; sisters Karen Walton, Teresa Sanchez, and Mary Kellogge Tarr.

Ms. Patterson received a bachelor's degree from James Madison University, and was employed at Page Memorial Hospital, Luray, VA, as the director of Dietary Services. She was a member of the Warrenton United Methodist Church, Warrenton, VA. She was also involved in the Virginia Organ Procurement Program.

Services were held Wednesday, August 27, 1997, at Grace Episcopal Church, Casanova, VA. Memorial contributions may be made to any local rescue squad or the Virginia Organ Procurement Agency, 11505 Allecingie Parkway, Richmond, VA 23235.

## ELECTION RESULTS

As our new President mentioned in his premier message, the elections for the 1998 Slate of Officers were somewhat of a mess. However, the results were quite clear, and here is the final tally:

Total ballots sent:	235
Total ballots returned:	39
Turnout percentage:	17%

Of the ballots returned, all were clearly marked for the recommended candidates. There were no write-ins. Thus, the slate of officers recommended for the 1998-99 term

are declared winners by acclamation, with the exception of the post of Secretary. Unfortunately, that post is still open, owing to the recent birth of Di Norkus' first child.

The ballot for correction to the By-Laws fared a little poorer. There were a total of seven YES votes returned, and no NO votes. As our By-Laws make no provision for minimum numbers of write-in votes returned on any given issue, the amendment to Article 4, Section 4.1 of the Clan Little Society USA By-Laws to replace the name Incorporators with initial Board of Directors is passed.

All ballots will be sent to the Edna Payne Odom Family Library, Moultrie, GA for archival purposes, where they will be made available for inspection on request.

## THE EDITOR'S DESK

Bill Little

First, many thanks for all the kind words on the August issue of the Reiver! It was quite a task, but I enjoyed doing it, and I'm glad to hear that you were pleased with the results. I will make every effort to keep up the good work. I've also received a **bunch** of stuff from folks, and will do my best to get as much of it as I can into print. If you don't see your contribution in print in this issue, fear not. It will likely show up in February's Reiver. And don't hesitate to send in more! Remember, the Reiver is for you and about you, so please help me make it *by* you.

Next, please note the special insert containing the membership renewal form and the special election ballot concerning the name change for the society. Please, please, *please* fill out the renewal, write a check, cast your ballots (note there is space for spouses to vote), and send it all back to me. It is EXTREMELY important that you renew your membership if you wish to continue receiving the Reiver. At the end of the year, we will purge the membership rolls of names of people who haven't paid their 1998 dues, and that will be it! Publishing and mailing the Reiver is an expensive task, and we just can't afford to keep sending it out to folks who haven't paid their dues in several years; it isn't fair to the dues-paying members. So don't let your membership lapse - get out that checkbook **NOW** and renew that membership!

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Clary Little

Balance 01-01-97:	\$2966.21		
Revenues	\$1495.00	Expenses	\$2040.08
(Membership, Inventory, Fixed Assets)		(Stationary, Reiver, Organizations)	
Balance 08-29-97:	\$2421.13		

## OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ginny and I would like to thank everyone for their help and confidence these past two years. Without the help of so many good Littles, the Society could not have accomplished half the things that were done.

In the relatively short time that we have been in existence, the Clan Little Society has become a major player in the world of the Scottish Games. We're gaining recognition among the Clans and the Celtic community. We're on the internet with our own home page, thanks to Mark Little of Fresno, California, and have produced our first "USA/International Member's Directory". Our membership has increased substantially, and we have maintained a consistent balance in our treasury while outfitting our Commissioners and Conveners with the equipment to do their jobs. Captain Mike Little is our new Southeast Region Commissioner, filling a long needed spot on the East Coast. Two new pipers, Mark Little and Robert Burns, now make a threesome with our world class piper Chris Lytle. Chaplain Reverend Bill Youngblood is an excellent addition who will give us all much needed council. Our new Quartermaster, Mark Little, promises to help our treasury grow with merchandise sales. A Product Review Board has been formed to assure the quality of authorized Society merchandise, with a view to offering new items.

We're still searching for a Chief, while working to maintain relationships with all Littles and organizations representing Littles. These are important and ongoing projects, ones we intend to pursue with diligence and care.

Finally, I would like to thank some special folks who made my job easy. Thanks to A. Pat Little for his advice and guidance (you too, Sally), and Clary Little for helping keep our treasury intact in spite of our need to spend. Thanks also to George Little, our new President, for bringing excellence out of the chaos of our record keeping, despite inadequate computer support. Thanks to Pat Maddox for her advice and devotion to our Little genealogy work, and to Laura Lee Bossie for her graphic talent and help when it was needed. Thanks to Bill Little for stepping in and reviving the Reiver, and Don Lytle for his support, help, and encouragement. To all of our Commissioners and Conveners, who play such an important roll in our Society, and to all those not mentioned here, a very special thanks. Lastly, my special appreciation and affection for Ginny, my wife of 46 years, who has represented our Society so well, with her brand of elegance. Without her spirit, counsel and compassion I'm not sure it could all have happened.

After I step down, Ginny and I will be moving to Texas with the knowledge that we will be leaving you in the best of hands with a group of officers who will serve you well. Thank you all for a very special two years and "may ye all be jist as happy as ye wish ye aye to be."

Bob and Ginny Little

## SOCIETY UPDATES

With the growth of the Society in the West and the naming of our new Southeast Region Commissioner, it has become necessary to realign our Regions somewhat. In order to accommodate Dr. Mike Little, we are hereby moving the state of Virginia from the Northeastern Region to the Southeastern Region. The states of Colorado and New Mexico have been moved from the Western Region to the Southwestern Region to take some of the workload off Ross Little, our Western Commissioner.

As new President George's message stated, there is a feeling among several Society staff members that a review and update of the Society By-Laws is long past due. George, Vice President Pat Little, and Reiver editor Bill Little have begun that process, and we will be reporting some of the ideas and recommendations that have come up:

- that the Membership Secretary and Reiver Editor be officially named as members of the Council;
- that lifetime memberships be added to the list of Society membership definitions.

There will be much more to come in future editions of the Reiver on this issue.

There has been a fair amount of traffic lately on the split between the Scottish Society and the U.S. Society. We will keep a sharp eye on this ongoing issue, and report back to you on any updates. For the sake of new members who might not know about the Society's short but somewhat turbulent history, see the article enclosed below in this edition.

We would like to include in the Reiver a calendar of events in which Society members are planning to participate. If you have a Highland Games or other event in which you are planning to attend as a representative of the Society, please let us know about it, and we will put it in our publication. Just send the name of the event, the location and the date, your name and phone number (or other means to let members contact you). And, of course, once the event has taken place, we would certainly like to receive a report from you. Let's all keep one another informed of what we are doing!

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CLAN LITTLE AND ITS SOCIETIES

At the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, the great Scottish patriot William Wallace mounted a campaign to drive the English from his home, and end the tyrannical reign of Edward I. Among Wallace's allies he counted his nephew Edward Little, the founder and first Chief of the Clan Little. The clan survived until late in the 17<sup>th</sup> century when David



(continued from previous page)

Little of Meikledale, the last recognized chief, died without producing a male heir. Since that time, the clan has been headless (headless).

On Saint Andrew's Day, November 11, 1991, a group met in Dumfries, Scotland, to inaugurate the Clan Little Society. Among the attendees from America were A. Patterson and Sally Little of Savannah, Georgia. At that founding event, Dr. J. C. Little of Dumfries was elected Guardian (international President), and an interim constitution was adopted. The group agreed to hold the Society's first Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the Roots '93 Gathering, the first-ever gathering in 1993 of the Border and Lowland clans and families.

At Roots '93, it became evident, due to the large turnout, that the problems of running an international society needed to be resolved by a meeting between the Society Stuarts (area representatives) and the Guardian. The American contingent, led by Pat Little, had three main concerns relative to the interim constitution: the search for a Clan Chief, incorporation of the U.S. organization as a non-profit entity, and voting rights of Society members:

While some members were intent on making a vigilant effort to find an hereditary Chief, the constitution apparently made no provision for such an effort, and the Guardian seemed unwilling or unable to support that effort.

The drive to incorporate the U.S. contingent as a non-profit entity was an effort to protect the U.S. officers from liability. Again, the constitution made no provision for dealing with that concern.

The third issue, that of voting rights, was apparently the thorniest to resolve. The constitution was apparently written to reflect the traditional definitions of membership within a Scottish clan, that only those who could prove their ancestry in the clan had full voting rights; all others enjoyed lesser rights and privileges. (As this author has found, proving a lineage that traces itself back to the Western Marches is, at best, a difficult task, and many Littles in the U.S. have yet to be successful at finding that link.) Also, the constitution put the final authority for all decision making in the hands of the Guardian, who could, if he so desired, reverse the votes of the Stuarts.

At the conclusion of that meeting, a Memorandum of Agreement was drawn up to address those three issues. That document was signed by the Guardian and the Stuarts.

It became clear in the months following the meeting that the Guardian had exercised his constitutional right to reverse the agreement between himself and the Stuarts. This action alienated many of the Stuarts, who began to resign their posts. Pat Little the U.S. Stuart, approached

the U.S. members with the plan to break away from the international Society and form the Clan Little Society USA, Ltd. Thus, in August 1994, the Clan Little Society USA, Ltd. came into being.

Since that time, there have been many letters and visits across the Atlantic between the U.S. and Scotland in an ongoing effort to resolve the split. To date, no real resolution has come to light. The personalities involved are strong ones, as are the opinions. What the ultimate outcome will be is anyone's guess. For the present, the two Societies will continue as separate entities.

#### References:

Gray, D. J. William Wallace: The King's Enemy © D. J. Gray 1991; Robert Hale London

Fraser, G. M. The Steel Bonnets: The Story of the Anglo-Scottish Border Reivers © George McDonald Frazer 1971; Harper Collins Publishers

Little, J. D. A Little Genesis unpublished manuscript, 1996

Little, J. C. unpublished letters to R. Little, 1997

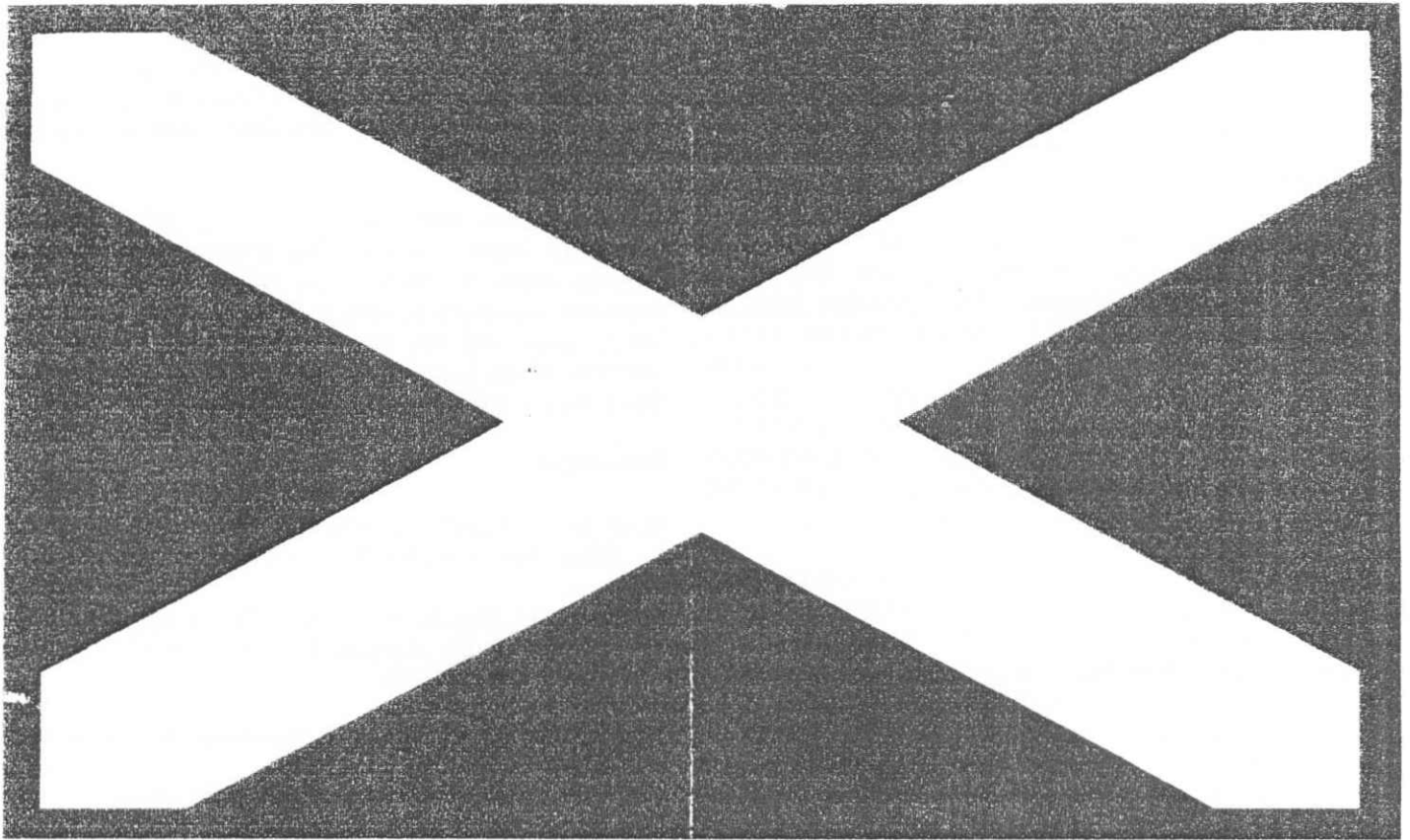
## CLAN LITTLE GENEALOGIST Pat Maddox

(While we're waiting on Pat to get online and start mailing us genealogical reports, we thought we'd start the ball rolling on sharing the information we've dug up during our research, and make a request for assistance. - Ed.)

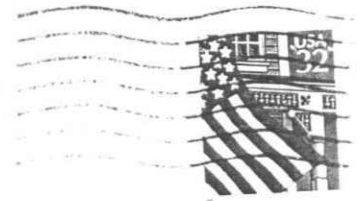
I've been able to trace my Little ancestry back a mere four generations, to one Thomas Little. My great-great grandfather seems to have been particularly adept at confusing the Census takers, and keeping himself out of the public record. Here's what I do know about him:

Depending on which U.S. Census record I cite, Thomas Little was born sometime between 1812 (1870 Census, Milton County, GA) and 1818 (1850 Census, Forsyth County, GA) in Alabama. The 1880 Census for Milton County, GA lists his birthplace as Tennessee. He was a farmer by trade. His wife was named Elizabeth, born sometime between 1819 and 1824 in Georgia. I have been unable to find her maiden name. They were married in approximately 1834, judging from the age of their eldest daughter. They produced 11 children: Elizabeth (b. ca. 1835), Sally, Josephine, Emma, Robert, Jernigan (b. ca. 1843), David (b. ca. 1845), William T. (my great-grandfather, b. 02-08-1848), George W. (b. ca. 1849), Dematris (b. ca. 1859), and Alonzo (b. ca. 1859).

Thomas died sometime between the 1880 census and the end of 1882, in Milton County, GA, I presume. It's not a lot to go on, but if any Society members in the Duluth, GA area know any more about him, or can point me in the right direction, please write or email me. I'm all ears!



L William L. Little  
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Cocoa, FL 32927-5162



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USA, LTD.

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