

*The
Scottish
West
March*

REIVER



CLAN LITTLE SOCIETY, NORTH AMERICA, LTD.



Long standing members at the 2009 BGM in McPherson, KS. **Front Row:** Pat Maddox, Virginia Russell, Pat Little, John Little, Ellen Little, and June Little. **Back Row:** Jim Little, Thomas Little, Jodi Little, and Clayton "Bud" Little.

BUILDING ON A SOLID FOUNDATION

The Clan Little Society, North America (CLSNA) is making great strides into the future with an improved webpage, PayPal and national banking, a growing inventory of merchandise, and closer ties to Clan Little Society, Scotland and Worldwide. This is an exciting time to be a Little! But your new executive team is only building on the foundation laid by its earlier guardians.

For example, John and Ellen Little have served the

society for many years, most recently as Steuart and Mailin. Leroy Little has kept track of sales and merchandise as our Quartermaster. Jim & Pat Little have set a very high standard as the editors of this publication. All the hustle and bustle of the current rejuvenation would not be possible without the efforts of those builders.

Thank you, one and all !

SCOTTISH BORDER GENE ?

This article touches on recent DNA findings relevant to Littles. We have come a long way since we had to rely on sparse written records and epic poems.

The late Leo Little was very active in genetic research and identified several patterns that could be seen over and over again in the DNA of related people. These patterns got names like L21 and L23: the letter L honoring his contribution. To this day, whenever scientists at Family Tree (FTDNA) come up with a new pattern, it is named in that same way.

Many of us Littles (and Lytles and such) have sent DNA samples

to FTDNA. It turns out that most of us share similar patterns, especially one called L193, with other families from the Scottish borders. Some Littles do not, and they are descended from some other line.

Our DNA looks a lot like that of Elliotts and Glendinnings: no surprise, since their lands were adjacent to our own property at Meikledale (just North of Langholm). In fact, when DNA findings line up so well with what we already know about history/geography, we have reason to think we are on the right track. And it gets even better!

Mike Walsh is a DNA investigator who moderates online groups of people with similar genetic signatures.

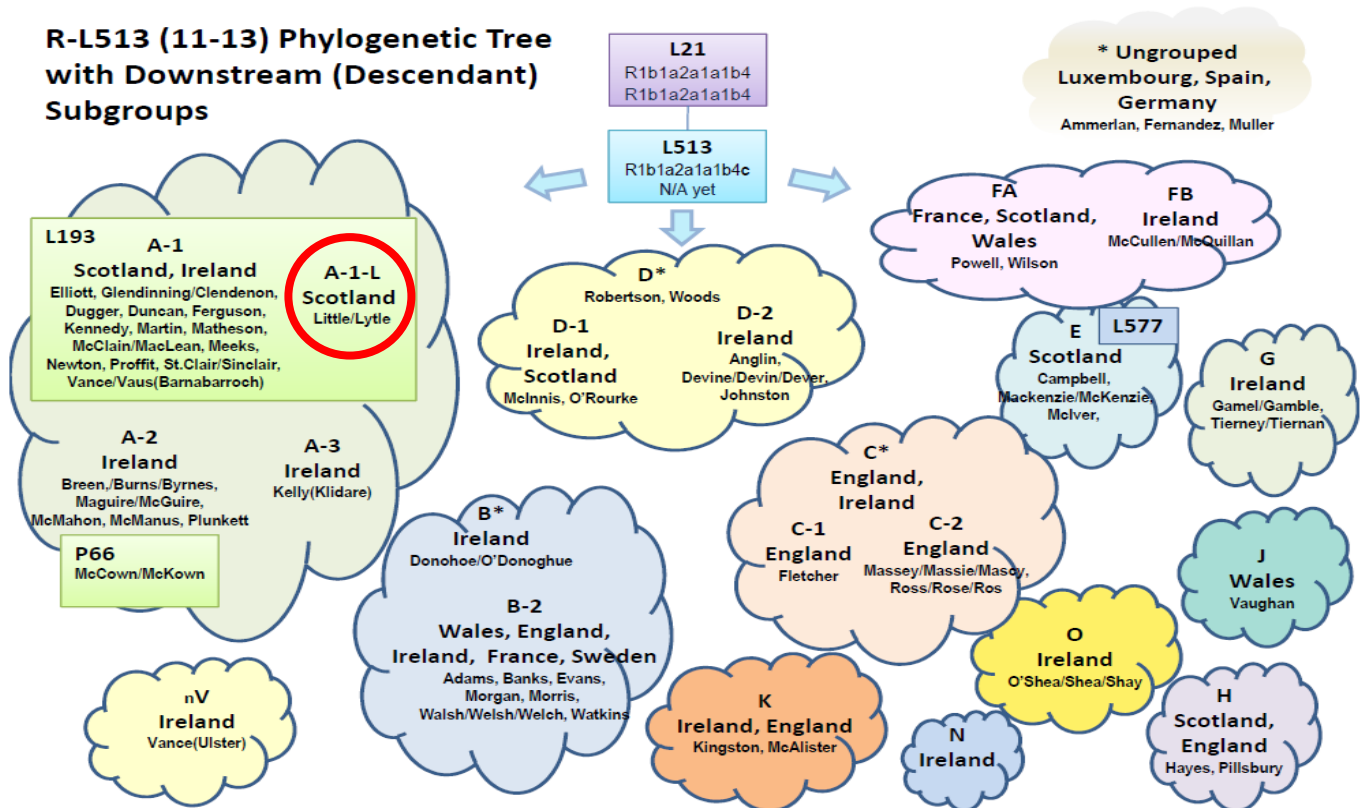
Thanks to his great work, we have noticed an especially informative pair of patterns that are numbered 385a and 385b.

Most people from border families find 11 repeats of 385a and 14 repeats of 385b in their DNA. Only about 2% of them will find 11 repeats of each ... but it turns out that *almost every Little* with Scottish heritage who has ever been tested has 11 repeats of each!

Calculations suggest that this rare circumstance was likely passed down from one common ancestor about 900 years ago (in the 12th Century), which lines up well with what we know.

Stay tuned: we are finding new details almost every month.

R-L513 (11-13) Phylogenetic Tree with Downstream (Descendant) Subgroups



DNA patterns cluster into groups and sub-groups. This diagram illustrates the clustering of current results within one “haplotype,” known as L513. Note the L193 pattern among the people called A-1 at the top-left. There, you can see many of the familiar surnames from the Scottish borders. One clear sub-group is identified as A-1-L on this diagram, and it consists of ... *Hey, that's us!*

F L O W E R S O F T H E F O R E S T

Dorothy Maness Webb, M.A., J.D. (1931-2011)

Dorothy passed away unexpectedly but peacefully in the early hours of December 4, 2011 after a stroke. She was 80 years old and had spent most of her life in her native New Orleans: daughter of Mary Ida Little Maness and Robert William Maness, and granddaughter of Matthew Stonewall Little and Ida May Cotton.

Dorothy taught Spanish language and culture for many years before going back to school to become a lawyer in private practice and a public defender. She was a passionate writer with an interest in family history and genealogy, and collected detailed notes and colorful stories from every branch of her family tree.

Dorothy took particular pride in her Scottish heritage as part of the Clan Little and introduced her family to the tartan. In her new home of Houston, she organized extended family reunions that will continue annually, in her honor.

*Dorothy Webb, on the right
Tulsa, OK 2005*



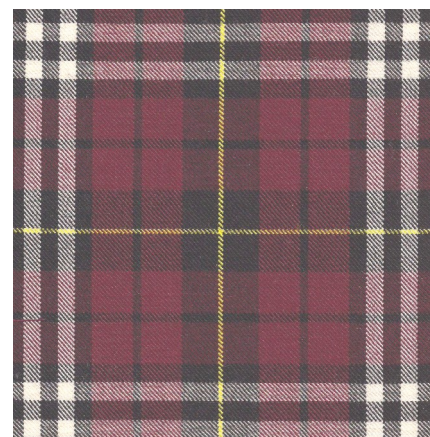
L I T T L E O F M O R T O N R I G

This month, we provided a sample of the Little of Morton Rig tartan to the Keeper of the Scottish Register of Tartans for permanent preservation in the National Records of Scotland (NRS).

The material came from our importer, Great Scot International, and this particular sample consisted of some of the material left-over after making a kilt for the Mailin to wear at the Biennial General Meeting (BGM) in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

The professional conservation staff of the NRS ensures all tartan samples are stored within climate controlled conditions in secure record storerooms using specially sourced textile storage quality materials to ensure long term preservation of this important collection.

The sample will be available for inspection in the Historical Search Room alongside the written history of Scotland.



M E M B E R S H I P : D U A L A N D D O U B L E

Dual Membership

Thanks to the friendly relationship between our Stuart and Ian Little of the home group in Scotland, we are able to offer dual memberships at a reduced rate. Any member of our Clan Little Society, North America can join the original Scottish group (Clan Little Society, Scotland and Worldwide) with no initiation fee, and pay just £7.99 a year (about \$12) instead of the usual rate of £10 per year. This is a wonderful opportunity to keep one foot in each of two camps—a time-honored tradition of the border people.

Double Membership

One of the goals of your new leadership team is to double the number of CLSNA members during 2012. With the rejuvenation that is underway, that should be an easy enough goal to achieve, but we still need your help!

Please let us know of any Little, or anyone interested in the Littles, who you think might be interested in joining or in resuming their lapsed membership. You can contact us through the website, by e-mail, or by mail and we will follow up with the prospective member for you.

F U N N Y L I T T L E A U T H O R

Besides fierce warriors and Highland Games winners, we Littles have always produced our share of intellectuals and ministers. Clement Littil began the library at the University of Edinburgh with the donation of his own large collection. Several members of the clan are authors, such as our own Secratur, Jim Little of North Carolina, and Bud Little (pictured on the front page).

Another of our authors is Robert Little in Scotland. He has recently written two humorous books, which he sells online in Britain through the website Autharium, to raise

money for the Beatson Institute for Cancer Research at Glasgow University.

Research into cancer treatments is important to him, because his wife has unfortunately been diagnosed with that horrid disease. He has already raised more than 600 pounds for the charity, including 80 pounds from our kin at the Clan Little Society, Scotland and Worldwide.

The URLs for his books, and book reviews about them, are listed here. Why not look him up, and offer your support?

<http://www.autharium.com/Ebook/Ebook.aspx?RequestId=100535>

<http://www.autharium.com/Ebook/Ebook.aspx?RequestId=100608>

N E W Q U A R T E R M A S T E R

Our new Quartermaster is Laurie Brooks, who is often seen portraying Mary, Queen of Scots at Wisconsin Scottish games and similar events. Besides actively supporting the Wisconsin Scottish organization (as fundraising director, and now as events coordinator), she is the assistant to the Director at Cricket (wireless) Communications.

With her husband Troy, she serves Commissioner for the North Central region. Troy is an avid knife and sword collector with a very fine selection and much expertise. He has given presentations on the Scottish derrick and Sgian Dubh and participated for many years in the Bristol Renaissance Faire.

Laurie is a volunteer, and cannot zip products out as quickly as Amazon.com, but she is doing her best to provide quick response as many of you order products from our revamped website.

*Laurie Brooks as Mary, Queen of Scots (left)
with member Pam Zangl during the BGM
at the Wisconsin Scottish Games, 2011*



C O M M I S S I O N E R S & C O N V E N O R S

Thank you for helping to keep the heritage alive!

Please be sure to get in touch with our Secratur, Jim Little. His contact information is on the last page. He can help you get set up with the information and products that you will need as the games and festivities season returns in the spring.

He has the experience and knowledge to make your job more fun, easier, and more successful.

C H E C K O U T T H E W E B P A G E !

Why not visit the webpage today? Our webmaster, Don Little, is working hard up in the frozen North (Canada) to provide information and products that might interest you, and new things are being added all the time. There is a members' area with access to the Reiver and public areas to which you can refer your friends and family. www.ClanLittleSNA.com

YOUR SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Clan Little Society NA Scottish scholarship envisioned by past officers John and Ellen Little came to fruition this year with the awarding of two stipends for deserving youngsters.

Haley Davis lives in College Grove, TN, is eleven years old, and has been dancing for seven years. In 2011, she danced in five competitions winning awards in all of them. She also attended workshops in Tucson, Atlanta, the Queen Mary in Long Beach and the Marguerite Reid Memorial workshop in Philadelphia. Even though she had an Achilles tendon injury and had to wear a boot, she passed the British Association of Teachers of Dancing (BATD) oral exam for grade three with honors, the exam for the British Medallion, and was invited to attend the BATD for further testing. Despite the injury she was selected as an alternate and attended the U.S. Inter-Regional Championship representing the Southeast.

Last year, Haley represented her school in the county 4H public speaking demonstration competition. Her project was titled "So You Want to Become a Highland Dancer?" and earned first prize. Broadening her repertoire, she also taught a class on making Scottish short bread and generally helps spread interest in Scottish culture. That's not all: She has danced for the Scottish Society Tea, the St. Andrews Day Luncheon, and the Burns Night Dinner. Next year she is already scheduled to dance for the Tartan Day observance at the Nashville Public Library. She plans to be a dance teacher.

Mary McFarlane is ten years old from Brentwood, TN, and has been dancing for four years. In 2010 she won the Beginner Division and the highland games in Gatlinburg, TN. In Dandridge, TN, she won the Most Promising Dancer Award. She attends summer dance camp where she has won the Most Improved Dancer award. Clan Little Society rules state that only one award will be given, but in discussions at the BGM in September and subsequently among the officers, it was decided to split the scholarship between the two girls. Both are taught by Judy Hackett at the Glengarry Scottish Highland Dance School in Tennessee, and both are highly deserving.

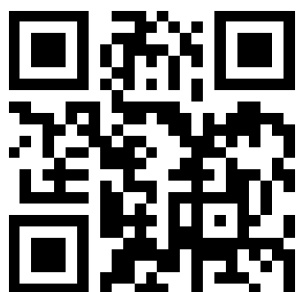
Unknown to the officers of CLSNA at the time, both girls have recently suffered some hardships. Haley is being raised by her grandparents and her grandmother was recently diagnosed with cancer. Mary's mother recently lost her job. Both of the girls will use the money to attend the Marguerite Reid Memorial Highland Dance Workshop in February.

It could not have come at a better time.



Haley Davis, left; Mary McFarlane, right; Teacher Judy Hackett, in the back.

MOBILE TAG / QUICK RESPONSE



Keeping up with the times is an exciting challenge, these days. We have followed the lead of businesses and other kinds of brands by creating this mobile tag, sometimes known as a quick response code. We will use it on business cards and other printed material, including this newsletter. People with cameras in their smartphones, and the appropriate code-reading software, can scan this symbol and be taken to our www.ClanLittleSNA.com website. There, they can learn about the society, the history of the borders, advances in DNA research, and perhaps join the society or buy some of our branded products. If you've never done this, try it yourself.

We are living in an exciting time of quick responses!

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and tales about games and other events
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Concedo Nulli



SOME HISTORICAL READING?

The following list of suggested readings was provided by Dr. Anna Groundwater of the University of Edinburgh. She has done considerable research on the history of the Scottish borders, including a great book on the Middle March (next to our historical home in the West March).

The most accessible book, of course, is *The Steel Bonnets* by George MacDonald Fraser. It talks about border reivers in general and, if you have not already read it, you will enjoy its colorful descriptions. You can find new and used copies of that book easily online, and it will even be available at most local libraries.

The next level of sophistication would be the books by Alistair Moffat, of which three are especially relevant to us. The first is *The Borders: A History of the Borders from Earliest Times*, published in 2002. The second is *The Reivers: The Story of the Border Reivers*, from 2007, and the latest one is *The Scots: A Genetic Journey*. That book was just published this year and is so new that I have not yet read it, and cannot offer any comment on it, yet.

For those with the patience to wade through detailed academic work, there is Dr. Groundwater's 2010 book *The Scottish Middle March, 1573-1625: Power, Kinship, and Allegiance* and the very scholarly *The Administration of the Scottish Frontier, 1513-1603* written by Thomas I. Rae in 1966. These books are a little harder to find, but you will see them in any large university library.

You are also likely to encounter any of about two dozen books that trace the lineage of a specific person such as George Little of Newbury, Massachusetts or Colonel John Little, of Shrewsbury Township. Those books reach as far back into the heritage as possible, and can be found under the Library of Congress classification CS71.L777 although they are rarely available for circulation (checking out). Furthermore, you will find books about the history of the Border regions under the Library of Congress classification DA880.B72 and Dumfries under DA890.D79.

Enjoy finding out even more about your background!

Jim Lyttle, Editor