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Wisconsin Scottish
Genealogy

Special Report:
Dr. Johnnie and the
Littles of Morton Rig

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THE LITTLES OF MORTON RIG

James Crawford Little of Morton Rig MD, FRCP (Edinburgh), FRCPsych, DPM (Durham) FSA (Scot) who was known to one and all as “Dr Johnnie,” died in May 2007, just days before his 85th birthday. Some have expressed regret that they were unable to attend his funeral, if only to learn about the man himself. We know about Dr Johnnie as the Founder of the Clan Little Society, but what of Johnnie the doctor, Johnnie the family man, and Johnnie the close and ever loyal friend?



*“Dr. Johnnie” in 2002
with Jamie, his eldest
grandson- now James
Crawford Little, Younger
of Morton Rig.*

PEDIGREE OF THE LITTLES OF MORTON RIG

Thomas Little 1541-1652*
in Redkirk
Maisie Dalgliesh

|
John Little d. 1639
in Graitnay
Barbara Johnstone

|
John Little 1670-1728
in Loanwath
Janet Irving

|
John Little 1698-1745
in Hagtown
Janet Little

|
John Little 1743-1791
in Surrone
Margaret Richardson

|
John Little 1779-1845
in Guards Mill
Jean Birrell

|
James Little 1831-1897
in Tower of Sark
Janet Murray

|
George Birrell Little 1863-1939

——— Margaret Little 1853-1921
in Beckhall

|
James Little 1891-1969
born in Beckhall
Janet Crawford 1886-1943

|
James Crawford Little of Morton Rig 1922-2007
Catherine Eliza Salt 1926-2000

|
Andrew Crawford Little of Morton Rig b.1954
Carolyn Christina Bendon b.1956

|
James Crawford Little b.1981
Younger of Morton Rig,
Susan Traill

|
David John Little b.1982

|
Justin Henry Little b.1992

|
Jack Crawford Little b.2012

James Little c. 1707-1787
in Milntown of Sark
Agnes Fischer

|
James Little c.1749-1820
in Milntown of Sark
Jannet Johnston

|
John Little 1776-1835
in Beckhall
Elizabeth Irving

|
James Little 1814-1888
in Beckhall
Mary Ferguson

PEDIGREE NOTES ...

The listed farms, from Redkirk and Milntown of Sark through to Tower of Sark and Beckhall, all lie in the four parishes of Renpatrick (Redkirk), Gretna, Kirkandrews on Esk, and Canonbie.

* Thomas Little in Redkirk 1541-1652

From the Dedication Page to *Union of Crowns – The Forging of Europe’s Most Independent State* by Crawford Little (Andrew Crawford Little of Morton Rig), Neil Wilson Publishing (NWP), 2003.

I trace my descent in the male line through eleven generations of Scottish Borderers to Thomas Little of the Parish of Renpatrick. Born in 1541 when Henry VIII of England’s troops burned Roxburgh and Kelso, he was three years old when they returned to plunder Edinburgh before marching through the Borders, killing and burning as they went, destroying seven monasteries and 240 towns and villages. He was in his teens when Mary Queen of Scots returned from France, and matured in a world of reiving, raiding and tit-for-tat killings, but unlike many of his family and neighbours, he survived both steel and rope.

Thomas was a man of 62 when the Crowns of Scotland and England were united. Already old by the standards of the time, he learnt to adapt to the ways of peace and lived the rest of his life in comparative comfort. His gravestone states that he was 111 years old when he died. What tales he might have told...

THE CLAN LITTLE SOCIETY REPRESENTED ONCE AGAIN AT WISCONSIN SCOTTISH



Pictured, from left, are Laurie Brooks, Troy Brooks, Pam Zangl, Joseph Tuzzio, Harold E. Hansen, and Debbie Hansen.

Here is another fine example of the dedication of our great members. Like our cousins out on the West coast, these folks show up year after year, pay for a site out of their own pockets, set up all the equipment, and represent our clan in a way that is both historically accurate and a whole lot of fun for everyone!

In 2011, they hosted our Biennial General Meeting. We are lucky indeed to have great people like this (and it makes me feel guilty every year, hounding them for a \$20 fee).

GENEALOGY



David Lyttle, Clan Genealogist

One of our main priorities, along with Scottish games, is the tracking of our ancestors. Each of us submits what we know about our ancestors when we join the Clan Little Society. All of these submissions have been collected together, double-checked, and indexed by Pat Little Maddox. Then the records were lovingly preserved by Pat Little, wife of Secretary Jim Little in North Carolina. Now, the process of transferring all of this knowledge to electronic form has begun. The records, and their indexing, will be digitized and gradually brought online at (www.ClanLittleSNA.com).

Members will be able to look through and verify, or perhaps update, their own records. They will also be able to access the records of other members, so they can compare notes. Genealogist David Lyttle has not only gathered together the records of all our members, but has also acquired overseas records from the other Clan Little Societies. We are fortunate to be able to offer this entitlement to those who might want to join the Clan Society.

SPECIAL REPORT:

Dr Johnnie’s funeral was conducted by the Reverend Joan Marr, in The Church of St John in Dumfries. Among the many attending were representatives of The Office of the Lord Lyon King of Arms, The Heraldry Society of Scotland, The Society of Scottish Armigers, The Nobiliary Fraternity of Niadh Nasc, The Royal Celtic Society, The Saltire Society, The Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, The Dumfries and Galloway Antiquarian Society, and medical and charitable organisations.

Mentor and Colleague

Early in the service, Reverend Marr read out some memories of Johnnie’s childhood years in Dumfries and the Scottish Borders, provided by his sister Marjorie. The First Eulogy was then presented by Dr Alan Kerr, who highlighted the regard and respect Dr Johnnie earned from his patients and medical colleagues.

“Since we heard of Johnnie’s death a week ago, my wife Carol and I have felt a deep sense of loss and sadness... Our relationship with Johnnie started 45 years ago. I had been both impressed and inspired by Johnnie’s lectures on psychiatry to us medical students at Leeds University. I joined his team as Senior House Officer, and so began a three year apprentice-



Coat of Arms granted to “Dr. Johnnie” in 1993.

REMEMBERING DR. JOHNNIE

ship in which my eyes were opened as to how clinical psychiatry should be practised. With high standards of diagnostic assessment and treatment coupled with personal involvement and continuity of care, and respect and regard for the individual patient.

“At the same time, I became increasingly aware of Johnnie’s independent-mindedness, courage and medico-political interests. He espoused the development of psychiatry within general hospitals, and the demise of mental hospitals. He was also a driving force behind the Society of Clinical Psychiatrists and put his weight firmly behind the democratisation of the specialty and the dismantling of the hierarchical Medical Superintendent system. He was prepared to cope with the strong reaction this would provoke - because he knew he was right.

“Johnnie completed his Doctorate of Psychological Medicine thesis on *The Athletes’ Neurosis*. This consisted of a novel observation of certain apparently normal men who placed excessive importance on their physical fitness and integrity, and became neurotically incapacitated when this was threatened.”

This group included some who had suffered injuries while serving with elite regiments or special forces. Dr Johnnie’s research achievements led to a lecture tour in America, contact with a number of organizations including the United States Military, and to him taking up the post of Director of Clinical Research and Consultant Psychiatrist at the Crichton Royal Hospital until his retirement from the National Health Service.

A Son Remembers...

The following are extracts from the Second Eulogy spoken by Dr Johnnie’s son, on behalf of the family.

“Looking at so many of his friends in the congregation today, I know that many of you will remember my Dad as a very sociable and friendly man, which he was. At the same time, he could be happy

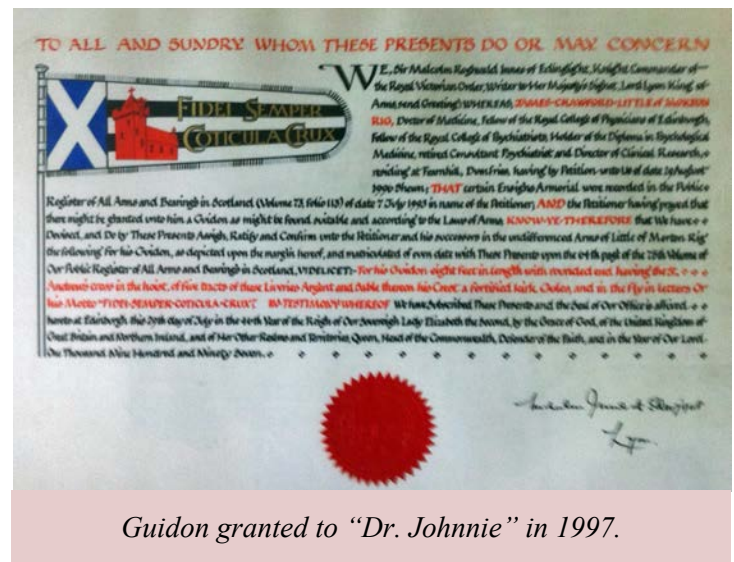
on his own - usually with his head in a mountain of papers and books. He made the distinction between spending time alone, which he said was often a pleasure, and feeling lonely, which was not.

“Dad opted for retirement in the early 1980s - partly in order to care for my mother, Catherine, who had suffered a series of cerebral haemorrhages. Of course, it wasn’t too long before he found the routine of cooking, house-keeping, and taking Mum for drives in the country to be somewhat restricting. So he dug out some papers written many years previously by his father, my grandfather, James Little.

“Those papers provided the foundations for a new programme of research - this time into our family history going back through generations of Border farmers to what my mother sometimes described as ‘that awful gang of cut-throats and cattle thieves.’

“His researches brought him into contact with many other Littles. Some encouraged him to start the Clan Little Society, despite the fact that by then he was nearly in his seventies, a full time caregiver, and not enjoying the best of health.

“He started out with a full complement of knowledgeable and supportive officers. Over the



Guidon granted to “Dr. Johnnie” in 1997.

SPECIAL REPORT:

years, however, good help became increasingly difficult to find. Sometimes exhausted, but unwilling to throw in the towel, Dad struggled with a multitude of clerical and administrative duties, while organising meetings and outings until well after his 80th birthday. He remained active right to the end. Active, enthusiastic and fiercely independent.

“He was a member of many Scottish societies and fraternities, which are very well represented today, and looked forward to any event where he could simply relax and enjoy himself in the company of his many friends. Sometimes dancing into the wee small hours - as many of the ladies here can testify - before driving himself home.

“He was deeply interested in the history of Scotland as a whole, and the Borders in particular. In addition to his Fellowships of the Royal College of Physicians and the Royal College of Psychiatrists, he was delighted to be nominated to become a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.

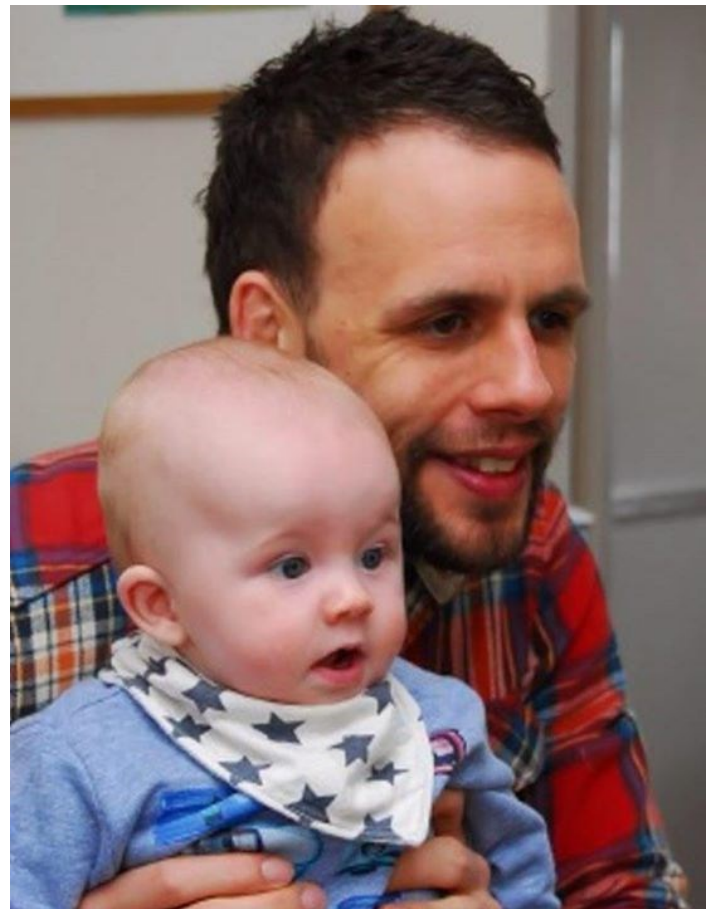
“The Duke of Buccleuch graciously granted him land at Morton Rig, near Canonbie where generations of our family had farmed. Thereafter, he was proud to be known as Johnnie Little of Morton Rig. In addition to the original grant of his Ensigns Armorial (Coat of Arms) in 1993, he was further honoured with a Guidon in 1997. A Guidon is rarely assigned by the Lord Lyon, and only to those individuals who qualify for a grant of supporters to their Arms and to other individuals who occupy a position of leadership or a long-term official position commanding the loyalty of a significant group of people.”

Passing of a Fine Gentleman

Margaret Saint Claire of the Heraldry Society of Scotland spoke of “the passing of a fine

gentleman who brought grace to many society events.” In similar vein, Susan Skinner of the Saltire Society described him as: “Such a kind and thoughtful gentleman.” One medical colleague spoke for many in stating he, “felt privileged to have known Johnnie Little - to have enjoyed his considerable intellect and learning, his wisdom and advice and his affection and sense of humour.”

His close friend, Charles McKerrell of Hillhouse, said, “Johnnie was a gentle and kindly man who made friends easily, and enjoyed his membership of many societies, and was always happy to go to a meeting, dinner or outing. Often his time clock was not at one with the rest of the world, and a frail, slightly bent figure, wrapped in a shepherd’s plaid,



The youngest generations: Jack Crawford Little with his dad Jamie - James Crawford Little, Younger of Morton Rig.

REMEMBERING DR. JOHNNIE

wearing his eagle feathered bonnet, would usually arrive later than others. Sometimes a lot later! That aside - he was above all a family man, taking great pride in his son and daughter and the achievements of his five grandchildren, and his wider family of Clan Little. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends.”

An Heraldic Funeral

Dr Johnnie’s funeral was described in the Journal of the Scottish Heraldry Society.

“It was felt by many that the passing of James Crawford Little of Morton Rig required an heraldic funeral. With the agreement of the family, this was arranged. The coffin resting overnight in the Church of St John in Dumfries was draped with an heraldic banner of the Morton Rig Arms impaled by those of the Clan Little Society. At the beginning of the service, Little of Morton Rig’s personal Banner and Guidon; together with his crested and eagle-feathered bonnet resting on a shepherd’s plaid cushion; were paraded down the aisle towards the coffin. The two heraldic ensigns with black bows tied to the banner pole finial were placed behind the coffin, and his bonnet on top of the coffin. The banner bearers (retired military) saluted the coffin before retiring to the congregation. After the service the coffin was taken to the churchyard at Caerlaverock Church where it was met by the banner bearers holding the Banner and Guidon aloft in the breeze, leading the cortege to the grave. During the service of internment the Banner and Guidon were held at rest. A border piper played as members of the family and friends left the graveyard where Johnnie had been laid to rest with his wife, Catherine. The banners were then taken away and the black bows removed, to be returned to his son, Andrew Crawford, now the second holder of the title Little of Morton Rig.”



Pictured here is Andrew Crawford Little of Morton Rig, the current holder of the arms granted to his father.

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A Scottish Clan Society should be fun (social) and authentic (historical). The past few years have been an attempt to correct what I saw as an imbalance in those priorities. The original article by "Dr. Johnnie" that got this all started (not a link, but the actual document) was posted on Facebook, along with an obituary for Leo Little and an interview of the U.S.A. branch's founder, to illustrate why the two groups went their separate ways.

The ancient book "Fragmented Memories" was retrieved and excerpted, along with an interview of modern day clan chiefs, a pardon from 1585 (listing the names of many Border Littles), Ann Stambarger's research on the Littles in Scotland, and an authoritative D.N.A. report on the likely 11th Century beginnings of the **R-L193** clade (Elliotts, Glendinnings, Littles, McClains, and Vances who are descended from the clans of the Scottish borders).

A link to the Lord Lyon's site was posted so we knew how a chief could be named, and surveys were conducted to find out how people felt about the priorities of the Clan Society going forward. All of this was meant to replace opinions, wishes, and speculation with facts.

There were Reiver articles about the real source of the phrase "Concedo Nul-li," noting that it is **not** an imperative statement ("Yield to no one"), but simply a declarative one ("I yield to no one"). Our founders, "Dr. Johnnie" and A. Patterson Little III, were profiled.

Our notions about Eduuard Litill (riding with William Wallace and then founding the Clan Little) have been revealed as tentative, at best. People will hold on to their stories and dreams and hopes, of course. However, as a scholar by trade, I could not rest until the truth had been set down in writing.

Certainly the most important change has been the re-introduction of Andrew Crawford Little of Morton Rig and his heirs to the Society. All of these efforts have been in service of trying to set the record straight or, to put it another way, to get the facts out there.

My work here is done.

— *Jim Lyttle, Ph.D.*

Previously, I supported the bid of Ian Little, home clan guardian, to be named chief—partly so the process could unearth any blood relatives, and partly to recognize his hard work on our behalf. My position has changed. I now think we should wait and explore the emerging alternatives.