



Clan Little Society NA, Ltd.  
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# REIVER

Winter 2017

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## FROM THE STEUART-JEFF BOSEN



### Brief Introduction

My name is Jeff Bosen, your new Steuart. My mother is Nadine Little Bosen. I have 4 children, 2 of which are married with 7 grandchildren. My wife and I live in Southern California. I have been self-employed for 33 years and have been involved in running several businesses. My passion outside of family and work has been genealogy and history.

### Genealogy and Family History

As stated this has been my passion. Through it I've learned my heritage has a great deal of Scottish ancestry. Not only is my mother a Little, but

also on my father's side my grandmother is of Scottish descent. Here is a picture of her in Scottish costume. Her and her sister performed dances as part of a vaudeville troop. I've learned I had ancestors on the Mayflower. I've learned my ancestors where at Concord and Lexington on the morning the British troops marched there. I'm related to the Irish Monroe or Munro's, one killed in Concord before the British marched to Lexington where my ancestors where part of the Lexington militia when the "Shot heard round the world" started the Revolutionary War.

My Little ancestry is traced back to a Thomas Little of Edinburgh. My grandfather, Harvey Little was the first to come to California. His father, Edwin Sobieski Little, settled Driggs Idaho, one the west side of the Grand Tetons His father, George Little was a pony express rider and also helped settle Driggs His father, Edwin Sobieski Little, born in New York started the emigration to the West.

Continued next page

His father, James Little, came to America from Ireland at the age of about 10 with his father, William Little in about 1800.

His father was also William Little, and his father, Thomas Little, born in Edinburgh, Scotland, fought for William III (Dutch Prince of Orange) in the Battle of Boyne in Ireland. At the age of 25, his leadership in the battle resulted in a grant of land in Ireland.

His father was William Littell 1665-1711 born in Edinburgh, married Margaret Craig

His father was William Littell 1623-1656 born in Edinburgh, married Catherine Ingles

His father was William Little 1578-1631 born in Edinburgh, married Isobel Richardsone

His father was John Little 1562-1619 born in Edinburgh, married Margaret Bruce

And his father was Thomas Little 1542-1590.

## Writing Family Histories

I'm thankful to those that wrote and recorded these events in my ancestor's lives, because without it, as they say, if it is not written down, it did not happen. So I'm a big fan of writing a personal history and recording as much as we know about our ancestors, because once we are gone, if we have not written it down, it maybe lost forever. There are sources out there that can make this happen. Make a movie, digitize photos, but most important, write it down.

### Goal #1

David Lytle and Don Little have done a fabulous job of assembling genealogies of many Clan Little members. I would like to take it a step further by using [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) to assemble all our ancestors into one big family tree. This is a free program that I have used since it was started. There have been huge improvements in the website program and I am a huge fan of it. Ancestry.com and other websites also do a great job but are expensive to all but the avid genealogist. So where do we start. For those that have done genealogy, please register and start recording your tree here by bringing your information from your sources.

For beginners, please register and begin by listing yourself and as many ancestors, parents and grandparents as you know of. As others add their information, soon you will find you tie into family lines done by others that will greatly expand your tree. Then we will begin to put a family connection to one another on paper (or recorded on the website). As each name is added, there are sections where histories can be written, photos and documents added and sources can be attached.

Another section allows you to record your own personal history.

David Lytle, others and myself can help you starting to gather your family lines.

## Clans are Special

Over the past several weeks, I've realized how special clans are. Nowhere else in the world is there such a group of people who honor their family heritage, except maybe the Italian mafia (we won't go there). Each clan has special items like, tartans, and mottos, seals, which help distinguish them. We, by our common name can easily establish our membership into that clan.

The Clan Little is special because they were one of the clans established by Scottish law. The Clan Little have lived in the same area of Scotland for over 400 years. Even when our ancestors left Scotland to spread throughout the world, we can feel a kinship with our homeland.



## CLSNA Past Steuart Report...Thomas Little

I became interested in the Clan Little Society as my father was researching our family history trying to validate that we came from Scotland and how we came here in the 1750's. I attended my 1<sup>st</sup> Highland game in Kansas and met John Little, Steuart and Jim Little, Secretaur. I was encouraged to become involved and active in the organization. I found the organization had grown stagnant and was losing members. There were no longer regional Commissioners or local Conveners. In Wisconsin, at the BGM I ran for Steuart and won. I had several goals for my term.

1. Reconnect with Scotland and strengthen our ties with the Little Clan Society in the UK
2. Work with the WebMaster to make our website more robust and make joining the organization easier to join
3. Create a formal relationship with the professional organizations that do genealogy and tie the Little DNA project to our organization
4. To be active in the national and world clan organizations

The mission of CLSNA was to promote the Scottish heritage through various festivals and to provide materials, merchandise and support for anyone who wanted to explore their "Little" background.

In November, 2012, I appointed David Lyttle as our Genealogist. David had connections on the national scene for genealogy as well as the Little DNA project with FamilyTree. At that time CLSNA had around 50 pedigrees and ancestry charts. Today, with the help of our very talented WebMaster Don Little, the CLSNA website has a very interactive search engine capable of looking up just under 500 family charts by several different methods.

By 2013, I had established relationships with Ian Little, Steuart for CLSWW in Scotland and Alan Little, Steuart for CLSNZ&A down under. I offered their members reciprocal access to our website and we shared newsletters. Dr. Wendy Dirks set up and organized the Clan Little Face Book group that today boasts a membership of over 750 members. I am the primary Admin for the FB group today and supervise the activities. In 2014, the UK leadership of CLSWW resigned due to internal issues and closed their organization. I offered all the members of CLSWW membership in CLSNA for a year and accepted their LifeTime members as our Lifetime members. In trying to salvage some aspect of CLSWW, myself, Alan and Crawford Little (UK) were working on a way to bring the three organizations under an umbrella with the UK clan taking the lead. Interest in the UK waned and the project lost momentum.

The executive committee created our first Meritorious Service Award and awarded it to Pat Little Maddox and renamed it the Pat Little Maddox Meritorious Service Award for her work in genealogy and research on behalf of Littles and the Clan Society.

In 2016 it became apparent that the organization again was becoming stagnant. We elected to drop collecting membership dues as we felt we really weren't providing any real services worth the fees. A lot of the clan activities had picked up a life on the FaceBook group and one could engage in real time discussion through that forum. Since the FB group was a closed group which requires admission, we chose to make that our membership and began communicating CLSNA business more frequently on line.

Which brings us to 2017, election time brought a new slate of officers with new energy and focus. I have really enjoyed a group of dedicated individuals who conspired, conspired and brain stormed our way along over the years. Our Secretaur Jim Little (NC) was a main stay and historian. He was my rock and voice of reason when I needed help. Pat Little our Marischal worked hard to go out and visit festivals and meet people spreading the story about Littles. WebMaster Don Little is a miracle worker and always took my ideas as a challenge and made them happen on line and at the website. David Lyttle continues to be a resource to members regarding trying to match families and provide information. There were so many folks who participate and continue to carry forward the mission and helpfulness we are so well known for, I thank you! I believe the organization is in better shape today than when I took it over in 2011. As now "Past Steuart", I will remain in the background but available to work through the transition of office.

## *Thoughts from the New Marischal--John Buckler*

*My name is John Buckler and I am your new Clan Little Society of North America Vice President.*

*Some of you know me but as a way of introduction I am 53 years old. I'm married and have two step-sons and five grandchildren. I am an eighth generation Kentuckian, a member of the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels. I am a 31 year postal employee and have a family farming operation in Woodford County Kentucky. I've served the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association in several capacities, mostly on the State Association level.*

*My Little connections are through my paternal grandmother, Mary Rose Lytle Buckler from Harlan County Kentucky.*

*This is an exciting time for our society. A new term brings new and experienced leaders. Initial conversations and correspondence promise the opportunity for growth and fun. If anyone has any questions or suggestions please feel free to contact me through Facebook. The officers are looking for ways to grow our association's membership and presence.*

*Your Friend, John.*



This is the Galashiels Reiver, symbol of Clan Little Society NA. Reivers were border raiders, both English and Scottish and their “reiving” paid no loyalty to either nationality. They were considered to be the “finest light cavalry” in the entire world, but they were also a lawless and recognized no king or queen as their master. Both countries simultaneously decried and promoted their activities, depending on which side they seemed to favor at any given time.

After hundreds of years both countries began to realize that they needed to rein in the reivers, so that they eventually appointed “wardens” to oversee their adventurous forays. This was the beginning of the end for the horsemen.

For more information on the phenomenon of the Border Reivers check on line for videos especially the Armstrong Reiver Trail or videos on Youtube.com.

*FROM THE SECRATEUR/MAILIN-JIM LYTTLE, Phd.*

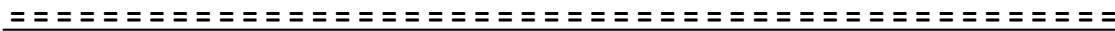
I am Jim Lyttle, a Canadian who came to "the States" in 2001 as a New York City University professor. My ancestors came from Northern Ireland, but it was a surprise to learn that they had originally come over from the Borders Region of Scotland. In fact, my genetic haplotype is Z17296, which is the same as Dr. Johnnie's haplotype.



Thus began my longtime membership in the Clan Little Society, Scotland and World-wide (CLSSW). As a Life Member of the Clan Little Society, North America, Ltd. (CLSNA), I become its Mailin (Treasurer) in 2011 and set up bookkeeping and other systems to make our finances efficient and transparent.

Then I stepped down to work with Crawford Little (Dr. Johnnie's eldest son) to assert his position as the legitimate Guardian of the Clan Little Society. That situation has now been corrected. However, his focus is strictly on historical study and publishing, instead of social activity. We have welcomed all the members of the former CLSSW to join us as we gather and share on our Facebook page.

Thank you all for the opportunity of taking on the role of Secretary/Treasurer. I will try (in vain) to fill the shoes of Jim Little from North Carolina, as he steps down to spend his retirement with his lovely bride, Pat. Please feel free to contact me anytime using jim@jimlyttle.com or just visit JimLyttle.com to browse around.



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Clan Little Society NA

Ever since the brutal Pacification of the border in the early 1600's clansfolk have been forced out, by political persecution in the early years, but more commonly and persistently by rural overcrowding and poverty. It is estimated that there are today some 70,000 Littles scattered across the English-speaking world. The dispersed clansfolk are coming together again. The Clan Little Society USA, Ltd. was founded in June, 1994, with over 100 charter members from all parts of the United States of America. The Society is non-sectarian, non-political and non-profit; its officers are unpaid.

The interim Clan Badge is the crest of Little bearing the motto. It is strictly for wearing on Scotland's many headless clans, having had colors are black and silver (white).



of Meikledale of Old within a buckled strap the person only, as the Littles are one of no recognized chief since 1672. The livery

The Clan Plant is Heather

## *Final Thoughts from the Past Secrateur--Jim Little*

*My wife, Pat, is the genealogist of the family. Together we traveled all over North Carolina and Virginia, and a side trip to Washington, DC to find my family roots. She did a top-notch job and is still at it after all these years. After discovering there was actually a DNA test for Littles I sent in a sample which prompted a phone call from Leo Little, administrator, saying that we were definitely kin. We had several conversations about our DNA match until his untimely death.*

*That led to our interest in a clan society whose existence we had never heard of, Clan Little Society NA. It was a call from John Little that piqued my interest, because at the time he was marischal, and was recruiting a secrateur to be installed in the summer of 2005. We planned a trip to Tulsa, site of the 2005 Biennial General Meeting to be held that September. Ross Little was steuart at the time and was handing off to John effective with those games.*

*One of the highlights of the games was a tribe of elderly Cherokee who sang the National Anthem in their native language. Outstanding! Several of us had our picture made with them. They were an amiable lot.*

*That night all of the Littles were invited to a banquet hosted by the Hendersons at the hotel. Pat Little Maddox's husband was president of the Henderson clan society at the time, and she served as genealogist for both clans. There were ten or twelve members present, The late James Kleparek the very able quartermaster of CLSNA from Enumclaw, WA, stands out in my mind. Enthusiasm was high.*

*Subsequently, the BGMs were held at Charlotte, NC (2007), McPherson, KS (2009), Waukesha, WI (2011), Riverside, KS (2013), and Greenville, SC (2015). Although different members were at each of these events, I am proud to say that my wife and I attended every one of these BGMs. Clayton "Bud" Little and his wife June, were at most of them, too. What great memories and fun times for us.*

*Besides the BGMs Pat and I set up tents over the years to represent CLSNA at about fifty or more different games, as many as eleven in one year, mostly here in North Carolina, but also in South Carolina, Murphreesboro, TN, (the land for this town was donated by William Lytle) and we helped Bud and June in Glasgow, KY. Gosh there are so many that the memories just keep flooding back right now. And so many people we have met and admire, it is hard to remember or count them all. The folks we have met and places we have been since we joined Clan Little Society are not just CLSNA folks, either. We made lots of new friends from other clans we would have never met or known, and we still see many of them, correspond with others.*

*To have been part of all of this for so long is just amazing, and, although we probably won't set up many more tents, we still attend games and help wherever we can.*

*Along the way, I have been honored to be part of the management team of CLSNA, and in some small way, maybe I helped a time or two, but that is not for me to decide.*

*As I write this I realize that I may be the link from the old to the new. Certainly, I am the longest serving officer and I knew the steuarts Ross Little, John Little, and Thomas Little. But there were others like James Kleparek, Arch Little, Pat Little Maddox, Pat Little (KS) and his family and others who have so ably served our clan society. You can read about them in the Reivers on line.*

*The interim kids on the block, Thomas, Thomas J., Maggie, Dr. Jim, have kept us going and the newer ones will make sure our presence is felt for years to come. The Littles, Lyttles, Littels, of the world, whatever the spelling, need to maintain a voice, and CLSNA is the best vehicle for that.*

*So, how do I feel after all of this? It can be summed up in one word--Wow!*

*What a pleasure it has been.*

*To the new officers, Jeff, John and Dr. Jim, as well as all the members of CLSNA--Carry On!*

*Concedo nulla*

*Jim Little, Past Secrateur (who could not have done this without his wife, Pat)*

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