



Sprig of Heather



• LITTLE • LYTTLE • LYTLE •

Volume 20, Number 5

February 2013

The Official Newsletter of the New Zealand & Australian Branch of
Clan Little Society (Scotland and Worldwide)

WEB SITE: www.littleclan.net

Saturday 8th December 2012 A highlight for me in 2012 was to hear our Clan Piper Douglas Bailey JP of Hastings play 'The Reivers o' Meikledale', our Clan Little March. Allen

The Reivers o' Meikledale

March of the Clan

Music composed by
John M Mason, MBE

Words written by
Capt. A. C. Little

The musical notation consists of four staves of music. The first staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The music is written in a style typical of Scottish bagpipe notation, with many notes beamed together and various ornaments (wavy lines) above them. Chords are indicated by letters G, A7, and D below the staff. The second and third staves continue the melody with similar notation. The fourth staff concludes the piece with a final chord and a repeat sign.

1.
The Reivers are in order
As they ride across the Border,
And all are gaily liling
As they canter along,
Thro' Cumberland sae bonnie
They return to meet their Johnnie
As they journey ever northwards
Thro' the old West March.

2.
By Logan Water flowing
The Clansmen are all going
From Wauchopedale and Eskdale
On to Caerlanrig.
Thro' Lanhholm toon sae bonnie
They are off to meet their Johnnie
As they journey ever northwards
Thro' the old West March.

3.
In their heads no thought are running
Of the ghastly deed that's coming
As they gaily ride past Meikledale
Their ane peel tower.
At Caerlanrig sae bonnie
they're gaun to meet their Johnnie
As they journey ever northwards
Thro' the old West March.

4.
The King he's no' debating
As by gallows tree he's waiting
By Geordie's Hill, by Mosspsaul,
They are travelling fast.
The nooses are all ready
For the Clansmen who gang steady
As they journey ever northwards
Thro' the old West March

For Border and Scottish Lowland Pipes

This musical notation is specifically for Border and Scottish Lowland Pipes. It consists of four staves of music. The notation is more complex than the previous version, with many notes beamed together and various ornaments (wavy lines) above them. The music is written in a style typical of Scottish bagpipe notation. The first staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The second and third staves continue the melody with similar notation. The fourth staff concludes the piece with a final chord and a repeat sign.

ARE WE A REAL CLAN ... ?

Questions are sometimes asked about the Little's being a real Clan. In an Act of the Scots Parliament, sitting at Edinburgh, and dated 1587, a roll of names specifies 34 Highland Clans or 'clannis', and 17 Border Clans, including the Little's. Clan Little is therefore one of Scotland's 51 true clans.

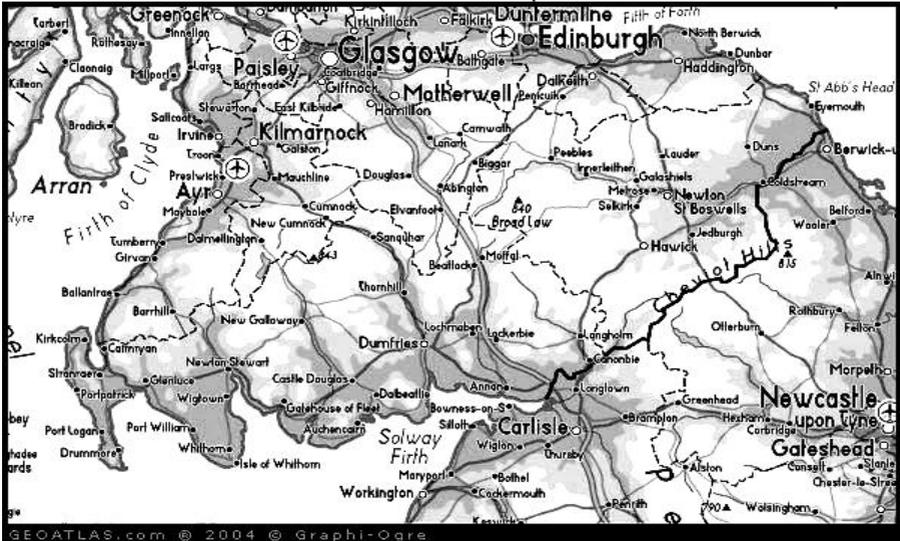
There are estimated to be well in excess of 45,000 Little's populating planet earth today. "Little" is one of the three most common surnames in Dumfriesshire (the others are Bell and Johnstone), and is well used across the Border in Cumbria and other Northern, counties of England.

In the Anglo-Scottish Border Wars of 1296-1603, the Little's were a fighting clan of the West March, living close up to the border on the Scottish side. Constantly raiding and reiving. By the close of the 16th Century they had earned a reputation as the finest light cavalry in Europe.

For more than three hundred years along with Armstrongs and Beatties the Little's shared, the steep-sided dales immediately to the north and west of the present town of Langholm, East Dumfriesshire. Their successive chiefs, Little of that Ilk, Lairds of Meikledale, resided at the foot of the side of Meikledale Valley halfway up Ewesdale (beside the present A7 road from Langholm to Hawick). '**Edward Little**' "of Meikle-dale", founder of the clan, was active in 1296-1297 as a guerrilla fighter with **William Wallace**, the great Scottish patriot hero. In 1426, two years after his return from exile, James I, King of Scots, granted to "our beloved **Simon Littill**", chief of the clan, tenure of the lands of Meikledale, Kirkton, and Sorbie in Ewesdale. Simon thus became the first Laird of Meikledale. Simon Little of that Ilk was chief of Clan Little at the end of the Border Wars. His son Thomas' successor, **David Little**, was the last Laird of Meikledale. In 1672, *David* was the last chief to be officially recognized. Since David's time, the Littles have been one Scotland's many heidless (headless) clans.

Perspective

Thinking about our family in context it's interesting to note Scotland is a very small country at 441 km long and 248 km wide. Scotland has three main land regions; the Highlands, Central Lowlands, and the Southern Uplands.



The Anglo-Scottish border runs for 154 km between the River Tweed on the east coast and the Solway Firth in the west and was legally established in 1237 under the Treaty of York between England and Scotland. For centuries until the Union of the Crowns the region on either side of the boundary was a lawless territory suffering from repeated raids in each direction of Border Reivers. The Coast to Coast border distance roughly compares to that between Wellington and Palmerston North and would take under 3 hours to drive.

People have lived in Scotland for at least 8,500 years before recorded history. Scotland was first decisively settled after the end of the last glacial period (in the paleolithic), roughly 10,000 years ago. Prehistoric Scotland entered the Neolithic about 4000 BC, the Bronze Age about 2000 BC, and the Iron Age around 700 BC.

The recorded history of Scotland begins with arrival of the Roman Empire in the 1st century, the Roman province of Britannia reached as far north as the Antonine Wall, which once ran from the Clyde to the Forth.

Scotland was a poor rural, agricultural society with a population of 1.3 million in 1755. Its transformation into a rich leader of modern industry came suddenly and unexpectedly following its union with Britain in 1707.



Farm Cottage



Farmer carts hay

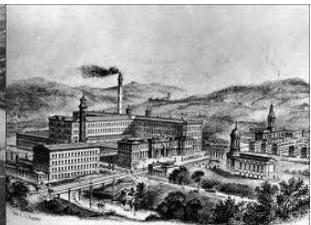
The population grew steadily in the 19th century, from 1,608,000 in the census of 1801 to 2,889,000 in 1851 and 4,472,000 in 1901. The economy, long based on agriculture, began to industrialize after 1790. At first the leading industry, in the west, was the spinning and weaving of cotton. In 1861 the American Civil War cut the supply of raw cotton and the industry went into decline. Thanks to its many entrepreneurs and engineers, and the country's large stock of easily mined coal, Scotland became a world centre for engineering, shipbuilding, and locomotive construction, with steel replacing iron after 1870. The invention of the hot blast for smelting iron (1828) revolutionised the Scottish iron industry.



Weaving



Ships on the Clyde



Industrial sprawl

Flower of Scotland

by Roy Williamson ©

Although not a traditional song, it's been adopted as Scotland's de facto national anthem.

Flower of Scotland,

When will we see
Your like again,
That fought and died for,
Your wee bit Hill and Glen,
And stood against him,
Proud Edward's Army,
And sent him homeward,
Tae think again.

The Hills are bare now,

And Autumn leaves
lie thick and still,
O'er land that is lost now,
Which those so dearly held,
That stood against him,
Proud Edward's Army,
And sent him homeward,
Tae think again.

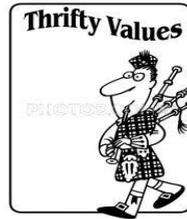
Those days are past now,

And in the past
they must remain,
But we can still rise now,
And be the nation again,
That stood against him,
Proud Edward's Army,
And sent him homeward,
Tae think again.

0 Flower of Scotland,

When will we see
your like again,
That fought and died for,
Your wee bit Hill and Glen,
And stood against him,
Proud Edward's Army,
And sent him homeward,
Tae think again.





A canny Scot !

This wee story was passed to me by our friend Dave....

... A Scotsman walks into the Bank of England in Threadneedle Street, London and asks for the manager. He tells the manager that he is Going to Australia on business for two weeks and needs to borrow £5,000. The manager tells him that the bank will need some form of security for the loan, so Hamish hands over the keys and documents of a new Ferrari parked on the street in front of the bank. He produces the Log Book and Everything checks out. The manager agrees to accept the car as collateral for The loan.

The bank's General Manager and its officers all enjoy a good laugh at The rough looking Scotsman for using a £120,000 Ferrari as collateral Against a £5000 loan. An employee of the bank then drives the Ferrari into the bank's underground garage and parks it there.

Two weeks later, Hamish returns, repays the £5,000 and the interest, which comes to £15.41. The manager says, "Sir, we are very happy to have had your business and this transaction has worked out very nicely, but we are a little puzzled. While you were away, we checked you out and found that you are a multi-millionaire. What puzzles us is, why would you bother to borrow £5,000?"

Hamish replies: "Where else in London can I park my car for two weeks for only £15.41 and expect it to be there when I return:" ...

Ah, the mind of the Scotsman....

149th Turakina Caledonian Highland Games

MARTON Saturday 26th January 2013.

One of the hottest days in months on the Rangatiki saw a very successful Caledonian event staged in Marton for the 149th time. Already plans for next years 150th Turakina Highland games are well advanced. A large and friendly crowd enjoyed a varied programme of popular Caledonian activity including Pipe Bands, Dancing and Food... There were several Clans who took advantage of the occasion to have a presence and share their perspectives on our shared heritage and culture.



Clan Alley



The Bard remembered



Massed Bands gather



The days end

As this was my first year at the Turakina Event I had a low key approach and enjoyed networking in anticipation of next years 150th Anniversary. It was interesting just how much information was asked for and distributed. The most common comment was “O, Clan Little, I did not know there was such a thing”

Allan L

Smiles



.... **55-year-old Agnes** had a heart attack. While on the operating table Agnes had a near death experience. She sees St Peter, and asked "Is this is it?" But St Peter replied no and that she had another 30-40 years to live. Agnes recovered and decided that since she's got another 30 or 40 years she might as well make the most of it. So she decided to stay in the hospital and have a face-lift, liposuction, tummy tuck, hair dyed, etc. She ended up looking most attractive. At last Agnes walked out of the hospital after the last operation and immediately got hit by an ambulance and was killed. When Agnes arrived in front of St Peter she asked, in a somewhat irritated fashion, "I thought you said I had another 30 or 40 years?" To which St Peter replied, "I didn't recognise you."

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*"Here's one you'll understand."*

# Announcement

The following announcement has been received from the Home Clan on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2013 –

**CLAN LITTLE SOCIETY**  
*Scotland & World wide*

***Our Clan Annual General Meeting and dinner will be held in the Kings Arms Lockerbie at 7.PM, on Saturday 3rd August 2013.***

***The Scottish Executive will count the votes for me Ian Stewart Little to put my name forward to become the next Clan Chief of Clan Little, then the Scottish Executive can send a letter to the Court of Lord Lyon. If the Court of Lord Lyon can not find a blood line to the last chief of Clan Little then I Ian Stewart Little will become the next Clan Chief this can take ten years. I do hope we get support from members.***

*Yours truly, I. S. Little*  
*Ian Stewart Little*  
*(Clan Guardian)*  
*Email [i.little@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:i.little@hotmail.co.uk)*  
*Tel 01382814063*



## The “Court of Lord Lyon”

The Court of the Lord Lyon is the official heraldry office for Scotland. It is the heraldic authority for Scotland and deals with all matters relating to Scottish Heraldry and Coats of Arms plus maintains the Scottish Public Registers of Arms and Genealogies. [www.lyon-court.com](http://www.lyon-court.com) **AJL**



**“Who Do You Think You Are?”** is a popular British genealogy series aired on the BBC since 2004. Its produced by Wall to Wall studios. In each episode, a celebrity goes on a journey to trace his or her family tree. Nine series have been broadcast, the most recent airing from August–October 2012. The show regularly attracts an audience of more than 6 million viewers. Ten international adaptations of the show have also been produced. Recently I have been researching ways to connect with folk to tell them about **“Clan Little”** I am told there are some **1516** people named “Little” on our Electoral Roll, further there are 510 contacts with the Surname ‘Little’ nationwide with their name on the title of a property title. (*This is individuals and thus is a count for a husband and then separately the wife recorded, when the data is unique to one phone number there are 327* ). An additional 27 unique records are available from the vehicle file thus a grand total of 354 unique phone numbers. I found this information from public sources learnt from the TV programme. I know who I am and so do many others without even mentioning “Internet ID protection... !”

## **Food glorious food !**

We all have the need of eating..... Our ancestors in Medieval Scotland enjoyed foods familiar to us. mutton, beef, veal, venison, fish, apples, pears, cherries, leeks, onions and cabbages. Honey was used to sweeten food. Some foods we eat today, including potatoes, were unknown in medieval Scotland. Food was often strongly seasoned with herbs and spices, including garlic, rosemary, fennel, mint, parsley, cinnamon, peppercorns, root ginger, cloves and nutmeg. Some spices were imported via the Pilgrim routes to the Holy Land after they were brought back by crusaders. Salt was very expensive; it became a status symbol for kings and rich nobles. Some medieval dishes, such as meat jellies, seem very strange today. Medieval Scots also ate some creatures we don't eat today including swans, peacocks, seals, lampreys and porpoises. They ate lots of birds including small wild birds, geese and pheasants. Fish was a regular dish as the church forbade the eating of meat during Lent and on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Herring, pike, salmon and bream were commonly eaten plus eels, caught in lochs with wicker eel traps and barbed spears.

**Loaves of bread** as we have them today were less normal in many rural communities whose women were home tending the hearth and needs of the family. Flat bread cooked on a metal plate over a fire may seem like a simple style of baking, but there are some even more basic ways of turning flour into bread. In many parts of the world flat bread is just as common as oven-baked bread - or more common. In Scotland, it remained an everyday recipe for longer than in many parts of the English-speaking world. Many households, especially in rural areas, had an open hearth well into the 19th century, with baking often done on fires of burning peat.

Oat and barley bread was made on a metal "brander" or girdle hanging over the fire on a chain and hook, called a swey. Before iron girdles bread was baked on a stone set at the fireside: a bannock-stane or bannock-stone. The dough sometimes used a proportion of pea flour. Bannock is the traditional Scots name for bread made this way, which can range from sweet fruit loaves raised with yeast through soda-raised scones to thin flat oatcakes. Oatcakes in Scotland, are a traditional food. The Scottish oatcakes recipe is simple and quick. To make oatcakes, make sure you have proper oatmeal, preferably pinhead as more rough versions can be harder to work with.



## *Oatcake Recipe*

**Makes 8 – 10 large oatcakes. Preparation, 15 minutes. A good source of dietary fibre.**

### Ingredients

200g pinhead oatmeal  
35g butter  
half teaspoon of baking powder  
half teaspoon of salt  
6 – 8 tablespoons of water

### Method

Heat the butter and water in a saucepan until the butter is melted. Mix the oatmeal, baking powder and salt in a bowl. Add the melted butter and water to the oatmeal mix in your bowl. Mix together until it forms a stiff dough. Dust a clean surface with some oatmeal to roll out the dough. Cut into pieces to cook on Grease griddle. The oatcakes should be cooked on a low heat for approximately 5-6 minutes each side until they begin to go brown. Remove to cool and enjoy.



## Flood waters on West Coast

Early in January high winds and heavy rain forced campers and holiday makers to abandon their leisure enjoyment on the West Coast. The West Coast is an outdoor wonderland with five National Parks, which include a pristine natural environment of amazing scenery including New Zealand's highest mountains & lowest Glaciers. Floodwaters from the Wanganui River washed out a section of State Highway 6 near Harihari, forcing the closure of the main road along the West Coast and creating a long detour for holidaymakers. Railway lines across the South Island were also off-limits, with train services cancelled as workers scrambled to fix damage caused by the heavy rainfall and flooding. Tourism West Coast chief executive **Jim Little** said businesses all across the coast had been affected, with Franz Josef and Fox Glacier hit particularly badly.

Hearing news reports mentioning an unknown **Jim Little** I decided to identify who he was, subsequently calling his office and speaking to Jim. I asked him to share a few words of introduction to be published here in Sprig Of Heather and he kindly supplied the following: -



Jim Little

**JIM.** “I was born in Christchurch on the 10th October 1950. Parents James Robert Little and Mary Elizabeth Little nee McCassey. I grew up on the family farm Hui Hui near Hawarden, North Canterbury, where my father continued to breed stud Corriedale sheep which were exported all over the world but mainly to South America. I went to school at Cathedral Grammar in Christchurch and then Rathkeale College near Masterton. On leaving school I completed a marketing diploma and worked for the Christchurch Star, Unilever in sales and marketing, then Gestro Horne Advertising, marketing manager of Skellerup Industries, HKM Clemenger Advertising, Destination Lake Taupo, Tourism Bay of Plenty, the Reserve Group websites internet and now Tourism West Coast. I married Debi Ann Miller (Little) and we had two children James Grayson and Alexandra Elizabeth who have both now graduated from University. My half brother Harry lives in Perth and has 4 children and also owns a home in Hanmer Springs. By marriage Mona Rutherford to Henry Telfer Little we are also a part of the large Rutherford clan based from Leslie Hills Station near Hanmer Springs.



# OBITUARY

**John William Little, 1927-2012 (England) RIP**

**Thanks to our Australian member Edith van Driel we have learnt of the death of John William Little, 1927-2012**

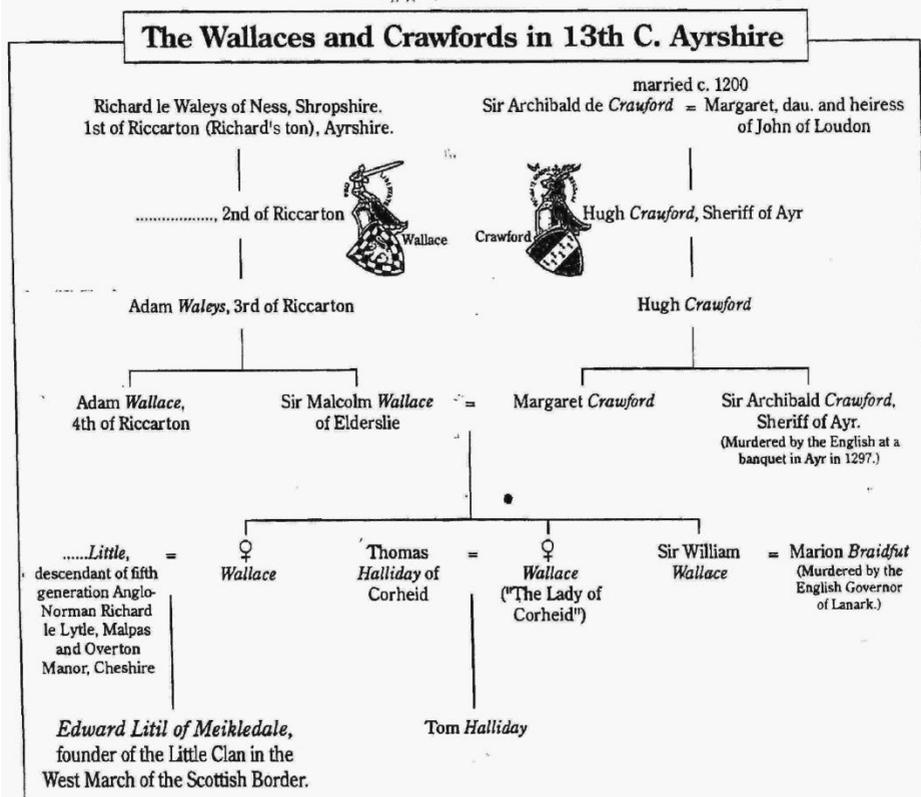
**BORN at Leeds, Yorkshire in 1927, John followed his brothers and cousins by serving in the Royal Navy towards the end of WW11, mostly in the Far East, later emigrating to Australia, where he lived and work for the next forty years. He undertook various electrical, mechanical and marine engineering-related occupations, first in north Australia and Brisbane before moving south, eventually settling in Melbourne. There he met Ilta Rees who had also migrated to Australia,. They married in August 1956 at St. Kilda. John and Ilta bought a plot of land in the new suburb of Box Hill South and built a home backing onto what became Box Hill Golf Course. Daughter Jacqueline was born in 1962, followed by son Johnathan in 1965. John worked for the Royal Dental Hospital, and then as Plant supervisor Electrical and Mechanical Engineering at Monash University where he continued until retirement in 1992. John enjoyed playing tennis and golf and driving holidays around Australia. John and Ilta periodically travelled overseas to visit friends or relatives especially in UK and the USA. In 1995 John and Ilta returned to England first living in Gloucestershire and then Worcestershire. In 2006 they moved to Hasslemere, Surrey, to be nearer Johnathan, who was then living and working in the UK. John settled in quickly, joining the local National Trust. John had a great sense of humour, a lively interest in many things including various of the preforming arts. **John Little of St. Kilda, was the first steuart of Clan Little in Australia** and personally acquainted with the late Dr Johnnie Little through Clan Little's inauguration St Andrew's Day 1991.**



# The Wallace link

This chart from 'Winged Stirrup' 1996 was recently shared on Facebook by Maggie Little (US)

## **NEPHEWS OF THE LIBERATOR**



**“Clan Wallace”** is well represented in New Zealand. Sadly many don’t go beyond the 1995 film “Braveheart” directed by and starring Mel Gibson which portrays William Wallace, the 13th-century Scottish warrior who led the Scots in the First War of Scottish Independence against King Edward I of England. **Many modern “Littles” take an interest in and descend from the fighting men who rode with and fought alongside William Wallace.** Our **“Clan Wallace”** kin therefore share a common heritage with us.

**I was delighted recently to receive this message....  
Greetings from Clan Wallace NZ to Clan Little**



**Clan Wallace NZ** saw its beginning at a Clan Gathering in Te Aroha (Thames Valley) in June 2004. We are a small but keen group with approximately 60 members. We advertise ourselves by attending the Highland Games in Auckland, Waipu, Paeroa and Turakina. Our Clan President, Barry Wallace is responsible for organising the Military Tattoo at Lloyd Elsmore Park in Howick each year. He is also the founding member of Manukau City Pipes and Drums. This band wears the 'Blue Wallace' Tartan and we consider them to be our own band! The Waikato area is responsible for organising a Waikato / Bay of Plenty Clan Gathering each year. This is used as an opportunity to introduce a new Clan each time and is held in a different Town each year. One of our members, Bob Wallace from Celtic Connections, organises trips to Scotland and 2009 saw a group of 14 Clan Members attend the Homecoming in Edinburgh, a very enjoyable and moving experience. We look forward to further interaction with Clan Little. Our contacts are: Barry Wallace, Clan President, Ph 09 410 5257 and Tom Wallace, Secretary, Ph 07 854 1446 .





# LANGHOLM

Muckle Toon

"Littles" are here !

It was a pleasure meeting **Neil Boyd-Little** at the Turakina game's. Besides becoming our latest member Neil who now lives in Wanganui kindly provided a few lines to introduce himself...

*: "I was born at Langholm in 1947 and my family connections where Beatties/Stories/Morrison's/Scots /Scoon/ Keens/ Bensens/ Milligans/ Allan. My grandfather Boyd was actually born Thomas little his mother was Mary Little who married Walter Boyd. Her parents where William Little & Francis Foster (Fanny)*

*Williams parents where James Little & Elizabeth Miller approx 1790. Langholm was a busy market town of which the local name is The Muckle Toon. It has seen many an English/Scottish army march through it, its castle was once the stronghold for the Armstrongs The English etc etc until the English burned and demolished most of it, there still stands a few stones*

*My grandfather William Beattie was a great story teller and informed me of Langholm's "Muckle History" maybe I could help others regards any history or current names. I also have all the cemeteries grave stones listed back to late 1700;s Maybe someone can help fill in my tree.... "*



**Neil Boyd-Little**



**CLAN LITTLE**  
*celebrating our  
heritage...*

**www.littleclan.net**

**New members welcome**

If you are interested in Little Family History and would like to have contact with CLAN LITTLE please copy and send your details in this form to:-

**Clan Little NZ&A  
C/o Allen Little  
7 Earl Street Levin 5510**

Name:

Address:

Land Phone:

Email:

Have you or another contact undertaken any family history or genealogy research YES / NO

**Financial support for Clan Little New Zealand & Australia is by periodic voluntary donation. All contributions gratefully received.**