

Spring Of Heather December 2015



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**Newsletter of
Clan Little Society New Zealand & Australia**

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Editors Quill

LITTLE BY LITTLE

I began writing this editorial on the eve of our mighty Rugby Clash of the year. I suspect on such an auspicious occasion one should err on the side of caution in predicting the final score... If you were to study the **DNA** of many on the field its probable there could be some connection with Scotland and the Reiver mentality amongst our players, kith and kin. Whenever sporting rivalry between Australia and New Zealand is to the fore you see energetic pursuit of victory. The Border Reivers applied energy, cunning and imagination to outwit their foe as they ravaged the countryside. One thing Scotland is good at is invention and the knack of being canny or cautious. The scot looks for opportunity to give in ways other than from his pocket. Many of the innovations, devises and inventions originating from Scotland are the result of careful thinking, hesitance and apparent unwillingness to rush into things. It's the Scottish instinct to being frugal, prudent (esp. with money) where notions of thrift are said to come. Constantly looking to get more for less many of us have an aversion to separating money from the pocket. The other word which is used stereotypically about the Scots is '**Dour**' defined as someone who is "relentlessly severe, stern, or gloomy in manner or appearance." The word has origins coming from the Gaelic word *dúr*. Sullen, dull, grim are among many English synonyms for dour. Someone who is described as dour may be perceived as lacking a sense of humour, but to many Scots this isn't the case. Being dour can also refer to that dry, cynical sense of humour inherent in many Scots, such as when colleagues sarcastically rib you for being too happy when you come into work. Dour is used to describe someone's disposition even if they are playing on the Rugby field or promoting some invention.

Allen Little



An English Little By Marilyn Little

I was taken aback to receive a phone call from Allen Little on behalf of Clan Little, as I'm English. I know I'm English because I've traced my Little line from London (where I was born and where my Little ancestors have lived since the 1820s) back to Cumberland (where my Little ancestors lived before migrating to London). Allen encouraged me to write about my family regardless; thank you Allen!

Little is of course a Borders name and I'm very aware that there are many people – especially in Dumfries-shire – who share my name. And, regardless of which side of the border we come from, we share descent from one of the great Border families of the Western March. So it's a pleasure to share my family's story, which I began researching in 1978 at the (then) Public Record Office in London. I quickly found that my Little ancestors lacked imagination when it came to names for their sons and daughters. David, Thomas and Walter were much favoured for sons, and Margaret, Sibel and Elizabeth for daughters.

As I said above, I'm a Londoner by birth. My great great grandfather David (1841-1878) was the first Little to be born in London. He was born in Paddington, then a developing suburb on the western edge of the metropolis. His second son Thomas Walter (1873-1926) was also born in Paddington. He moved about half a mile west to North Kensington, where his son Thomas (1896-1968) and grandson Thomas Alfred Walter (1919-2002) were born. It delights me that I am a fifth generation London born Little, and that we've all been born within a few miles of each other. Don't believe all those stories about London being full of transients!

As any of you with London ancestry will know, one of the key things in London research is getting out of London to the village or town that your London ancestor was originally from! I found out from 19th century Census returns that the parents of David the first Londoner were born in Cumberland. To be precise, my great great great grandfather David Little (1814-1875) was from Arthuret Parish and his wife Jane Graham (c1809-1878) was from neighbouring Kirk Andrews on Esk.

Having migrated to New Zealand, I couldn't make much progress with my Cumbrian ancestry without going there. So, I made a trip of a lifetime in 2008; six wonderful weeks touring English county record offices and archives! This included a whole week at the Cumbria Archives in Carlisle, and I left knowing a whole lot more about my Little and Graham ancestry. I was also weighed down with over a hundred pages copied from the Arthuret Parish Registers and Bishop's Transcripts... and I'll never forget the thrill of handling those registers and BTs.

Being able to review the original registers and BTs allowed me to establish that my earliest known paternal ancestor is David Little. David #1 was born c1610 – haven't found out where – and then lived at Heathery Knowe in Arthuret Parish until he died in 1675. From there on, there is just one eldest son named David Little after another... until David Little (1786-1867) and Elizabeth Graham (c1790-1875) named their first born Walter in 1810! Their second son was my great great great grandfather David Little (1814-1875) – David the Cumbrian who migrated to London in the late 1820s and started the London dynasty!

Without using archives, I wouldn't know that I was descended from eight generations of men called David Little and three generations called Thomas Little or that we moved to London nearly two hundred years ago from Cumberland. While my own research has of necessity taken place in English record offices and archives, those of you fortunate enough to have New

Zealand born ancestors have access to many records held at Archives New Zealand – the home of our national archives.

Yes, as the Chief Archivist at Archives New Zealand, I have to plug our services. Check out our website at www.archives.govt.nz for details on our holdings and how and where to access them. You might, for example, be interested in our shipping lists if your family came to New Zealand in the early years of the colony. Or, you might want to use the Intentions to Marry registers (1856-1956) to find out how long your ancestor has been here. And do come into an Archives' office if you can, as there is something pretty special about seeing an original document or register!

“Marilyn Little is New Zealand’s Chief Archivist and is based in Wellington”.

Inventiveness -

During my Nursing Training many years ago we studied the life influences and work of **Alexander Fleming** who discovered penicillin. In 1928 Fleming discovered a bacteria-destroying mould which he would call penicillin and paved the way for the use of antibiotics in modern healthcare. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1945 and died on March 11, 1955. Anaesthetics were the province of **James Simpson**, an Edinburgh physician, who first used anaesthetics to relieve the pain of surgery in the mid 19th Century. His main objective at the time was to alleviate the pain that women felt in childbirth. In 1865 **Joseph Lister**, Professor of surgery at Glasgow University, was the first to realize that the high post-operative mortality of his patients was due to the onset of blood poisoning caused by micro-organisms and Antisepsis soon transformed Operating theatres to the pristine places we know today. There have been many Scottish inventors whose work impacts us all today.

The Scots take enormous pride in the history of Scottish invention and discovery. There are many books devoted solely to the subject, plus hundreds of websites listing Scottish inventions and discoveries with varying degrees of science. Well before the Industrial Revolution, Scots were at the forefront of innovation and discovery across a wide range of spheres. Some of the most significant products of Scottish ingenuity include **James Watt's** steam engine; the **Thomas Newcomen** bicycle; **Alexander Graham Bell's** telephone and **John Logie Baird's** television. Where would we be without them ?

William Symington (1764–1831) was an engineer and inventor who built the first practical steamboat. He was born in Leadhills, South Lanarkshire, to a family he described as being "respectable but not wealthy." His father worked as a practical mechanic at the Leadhills mines. He was a contemporary of my *Gt,gt,gt Grandparents* Gilbert & Agnes Little in the small Mining community of Lead Hills - Wanlockhead. Although his parents intended for him to enter the ministry, he had other ideas and made a career as an engineer. In 1785, he joined his brother George in his attempts to build a steam engine at Wanlockhead, Dumfriesshire.



c1800



William Symington Beam Engine
WANLOCKHEAD

I visited Wanlockhead in April 2006, stood at the Engine and went deep down in the Lead mines from which it pumped.

AJL

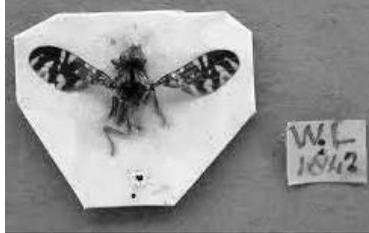
All creatures great and small....

Whilst researching content for this Sprig Of Heather I came across a report about one Rev William Little. William Little (Entomologist) features in The Transactions of the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society (2009) ISSN 0141-1292 and I was fascinated to read a review of his life's work.

The biographical details of Reverend William Little given by Martin (1996) are expanded to cover specific elements of his entomological activities. Born at Jedburgh in about 1797 but with no academic background (his father was a tanner), he went to study at Edinburgh University. Records show William Little of Jedburgh matriculated there from 1817 to 1821 (pers. comm., David Hutchins, 27 Nov 2008).

Towards the end of the 1830s, he became a tutor to the Hope-Johnstone family at Raehills, an extensive estate in the Johnstone district of Dumfriesshire. At this time, the minister at the nearby village, Kirkpatrick Juxta, was Rev. Dr Singer, an accomplished field botanist. The right of presentation for the living at Kirkpatrick Juxta lay in the control of Sir William Jardine of Applegarth, famous for his natural history enterprises and subject of an extensive modern biography (Jackson & Davis, 2001). He ensured that the living at Applegarth went to his son-in-law, David Landale (1862-1900) who also had entomological leanings, and Little was appointed assistant to Dr Singer. On the latter's death in 1840, Little succeeded him and was ordained on 29 April 1841. Once settled in the manse, he had constant contact with Jardine on natural history as well, presumably, as parish matters. They discussed the emergence dates of local butterflies and supply of the right kind of pins for preserving specimens (Jardine Papers, National Museum of Scotland). The study of nature is an engrossing hobby which gives satisfaction to many. The Minister appears to have developed a close and easy relationship with Sir William Jardine, as various letter's show.

Entomologists observe, sometimes capture, describe, mount and display insects. Here is one of Rev Little's specimen's



Little was obviously well regarded as many of his descriptions are referenced today. He is variously listed in publications dealing with Entomology, Zoology and Botany. The good Reverend Little, born to a working class family in Jedburgh. Jedburgh is a former royal burgh in the Scottish Borders and historically in Roxburghshire. It's a town some 38 miles from Langholm.



Tae a Thistle

Tae Scots yer mair than jist a flower
Yer a symbol o' great strength an' power
Wrapped in shades o' purple an' green
Yer the bonniest flower this land has seen

Some folk say that yer jist a weed
But we Scots ken yer a mighty breed
Yer delicate yet strong an' bold
An' worth mair tae us than silver or gold

Aye yer loved by Scottish heart's
An' ye always wur right fae the start
Wi' yer purple heeds and yer spiny stems
Yer the richest o' all oor Scottish gems

Innovations from Caledonia !

As we reflect around the various Scots claim's to fame and fortune some of us may recall the **Bay City Rollers**, the Seventies teen sensations who gave us endless meaningless pop nonsense such as "Bye Bye Baby" and "All of Me Loves All of You". When dedicated followers of Rollermania weren't tripping over absurdly long tartan scarves, they were being hauled, weeping, over crash barriers when the excitement of "Shang-a-Lang" got too much. Maybe some might hum their melodic tones but as to whether they ever take on the prestigious conviviality of a Burns Night only the passage of time will tell.

The traditional Burns Night is an occasion to raise a dram or two to Scotland's patron saint of romantic poetry and drunken wailing, Robert Burns, arguably most famous for having written "Auld Lang Syne" in 1788. The bard would travel near and far on his trusty grey mare, Meg. Today all over the world each 25th January, people celebrate the life and work of our wee **Robert Burns**. For over 200 years we have remembered him at suppers where whisky will be drunk and the "Great Chieftain o' the puddin'-race", the haggis, will be addressed and devoured. There will be more toasts, recitation and songs. Poet, exciseman, lover of the lassies, imbibers with his cronies, ploughman, creator of scurrilous jibes, observer of nature and animals, mocker of the haughty, collector and writer of songs; this goes a small way towards describing Robert Burns.

The Bard rode his much loved mare, Meg Bicycles o'r far and wide but the more sedate of his country's gentle folk like **Blacksmith Kirkpatrick** Macmillan mastered his pedal cycle based on a hobby horse, with horizontal pedal movement. He would "cycle" the rough roads in Dumfriesshire, and never tried to profit from his invention. Another innovator **Thomas Telford**, from Dumfriesshire is to be thanked for the design of the Ellesmere and Shrewsbury canals, as well as the Caledonian canal.

Andrew Carnegie's ascent from a poor weaver's son to billionaire steel magnate is one of the greatest rags-to-riches tales ever. In 1848, aged 13 he immigrated to America from his home town of Dunfermline. In steel he made his Billions of dollars And earned a reputation as one of the most generous philanthropist's of his time. Many of his good works have been captured in colour photographs featured at Galleries carrying his name in many places.

Beautiful colour photographs were only made possible thanks to 19th-century Scottish scientist **James Maxwell**, who invented the "three-colour method" in 1861. His theory, based on mixing red, green and blue colours of light, led him to present the world's first colour photograph, inevitably of a tartan ribbon. He is renowned in mathematical physics with his most notable achievement presentation of the classical theory of electromagnetic radiation, bringing together for the first time electricity, magnetism, and light as manifestations of the same phenomenon.



James Maxwell

Another Scots mathematician from the 16th-century **John Napier's** discovered the logarithm which has since brought misery to countless generations of maths students. And Napier, the 8th Laird of Merchiston, also invented "Napier's bones" – an abacus to calculate products and quotients of numbers. Many a student has tried to find comfort in delectable snacks such as **Deep-fried Mars Bars**. These calorie-laden treats are dunked in batter and fried in oil. Once dismissed as an urban in the mid-1990s, it remains a staple in many fish and chip shops north of the border. With so much of Scottish modern innovation just who and when the famous '**Deep-fried Mars Bar**' was invented is a mystery yet to be revealed by you our reader.



Nuptials, for better or worse... !

"Getting married in **Gretna Green** has a romantic legacy spanning more than 250 years... and many couples today continue this unbroken thread of romantic history." Gretna Green is a village in south west Scotland and gained fame with runaway weddings. Gretna is in Dumfries and Galloway, near the mouth of the River Esk and was historically the first village in Scotland, following the old coaching route from London to



'Is there a wee Money Back Guarantee'

Edinburgh. The old blacksmith's shop at Gretna Green Gretna Green is one of the world's most popular wedding destinations, hosting over 5,000 weddings each year in the Gretna Green area, and one in every six Scottish weddings. It's assumed that Gretna's famous "runaway marriages" began in 1754 when Lord Hardwicke's Marriage Act came into force in England. Under the Act, if a parent of a minor wishing to marry objected, they could legally veto the union. The

Act tightened up the requirements for marrying in England and Wales but did not apply in Scotland, where it was possible for boys to marry at 14 and girls at 12 with or without parental consent. It was in the 1770s, with the construction of a toll road passing through Graitney, that Gretna Green became the first easily reachable village over the Scottish border. The Old Blacksmith's Shop, built around 1712, became, in popular folklore at least, the focal tourist points for the marriage trade. The local blacksmith and his anvil have become the lasting symbols of Gretna Green weddings. A notable "Gretna" marriage was the second marriage in 1826 of Edward Gibbon Wakefield to the young heiress Ellen Turner.

Education in Scotland

One value instilled in many early settlers to New Zealand was the importance of a good education for their children. Education in Scotland began to be organised in the early Middle Ages with the education of boys based around Church choir schools and grammar schools. By the end of the 15th century schools were also being organised for girls and universities were founded at St Andrews, Glasgow and Aberdeen. Education was encouraged by the Education Act 1496, which made it compulsory for the sons of barons and freeholders of substance to attend the grammar schools, which in turn helped increase literacy among the upper classes. Learning gave rise to Scottish inventiveness and a later passion for innovation.



Teaching girls c1400

The Scottish Reformation resulted in major changes to the organisation and nature of education, with the loss of choir schools and the expansion of parish schools, along with the reform and expansion of the Universities. In the seventeenth century, legislation enforced the creation and funding of schools in every parish, often overseen by presbyteries of the local kirk. Religious divisions and the impact of industrialisation, migration and immigration disrupted the existing educational system and in the late nineteenth century a state-funded national system of free basic education and common examinations was inaugurated.

In the Early Middle Ages, Scotland was overwhelmingly an oral society and education was verbal rather than literary. The establishment of Christianity brought Latin to Scotland as a scholarly and written language. Monasteries served as major repositories of knowledge and education, often running schools and providing a small educated elite, who were essential to create and read documents in a largely illiterate society.

'Kirk Schools' were funded by the local Kirk and inspected by sessions, who checked for the quality of teaching and doctrinal purity.



A widespread belief in the limited intellectual and moral capacity of women, vied with a desire, intensified after the Reformation, for women to take personal moral responsibility, particularly as wives and mothers. In Protestantism this necessitated an ability to learn and understand the catechism and even to be able to independently read the Bible, but

most commentators, even those that tended to encourage the education of girls, thought they should not receive the same academic education as boys. In the lower ranks of society, they benefited from the expansion of the parish schools system that took place after the Reformation, but were usually outnumbered by boys, often taught separately, for a shorter time and to a lower level. They were frequently taught reading, sewing and knitting, but not writing. Female illiteracy rates based on signatures among female servants were around 90 percent, from the late seventeenth to the early eighteenth centuries and perhaps 85 percent for women of all ranks by 1750, compared with 35 per cent for men. Among the nobility there were many educated and cultured women, of which Mary, Queen of Scots is an example. By the eighteenth century poorer girls were being taught in dame schools, informally set up by a widow or spinster to teach reading, sewing and cooking. Among the aristocracy by the early eighteenth century a girl's education was expected to include basic literacy and numeracy, needlework and cookery and household management, while polite accomplishments and piety were also emphasised. Very few boys were able to pursue higher education leading to social advancement and literacy was not noticeably higher than elsewhere as education in the parish schools was basic, short and attendance was not compulsory.

Spring Of Heather December 2015



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at Turakina
January 30th**

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152nd Turakina Highland Games

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Saturday 30th January 2016

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PROFILE OF A PIONEER



James Little 1834-1906. Made his mark in agriculture and sheep breeding in particular. Born to a farming family at Powbeat, Midlothian, Scotland. He was



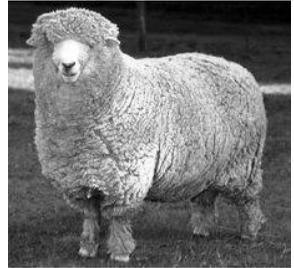
the son of Margaret Tait and husband, Henry Little, a shepherd descended from early Presbyterian Covenanters who had lost their ancestral lands in Meikledale. **James** was educated at Peeblesshire and spent much of his youth minding sheep on unfenced land. On 5 June 1863, at Lamington, he married **Mary Telfer** and they were to have seven children. About 1865 they embarked on the Canterbury with their infant daughter, Janet, to bring a consignment of Romney Marsh sheep to New Zealand. The ship began taking water during a storm in the Bay of Biscay and the crew considered jettisoning the valuable sheep, but Little saw them safely delivered to New Zealand.

Dr George Webster, of Corriedale and Balruddery stations in Otago, had ordered the Romneys, and he now employed Little as shepherd and then manager. The longwool Romneys were not suited to the native tussock pasture, and Little asked Webster's consent to cross them with the predominant Australian merinos. The progeny would be inbred to produce a more versatile type, an experiment which Little had seen carried out successfully in Britain. Since Little's sheep were already commanding high prices and winning prizes in shows, Webster agreed, in spite of ridicule from neighbours. Six hundred ewes were earmarked for the experiments, the success of which ultimately made the resulting Corriedale breed world famous. Another good example of Scottish inventiveness and ingenuity.

After Dr Webster's death in 1878, Little leased the 5,500-acre property, Allandale, near Hawarden and stocked it with Lincoln rams from Balruddery and the best merino ewes available. Renewing his experiments to develop the new Corriedale breed.

In 1882 the first New Zealand shipment of frozen meat was exported from Otago, and Canterbury. The refrigeration industry opened up huge new markets overseas for surplus meat. Little's Corriedales were ideal for this new opportunity and were slaughtered at both Belfast and Islington freezing works and the carcasses sold at Addington for the home market.

James Little's highly adaptable stud rams were sold throughout New Zealand and exported to South America, Australia, South Africa and East Africa. He won prizes and cups at Agricultural and Pastoral shows throughout New Zealand for his sheep, Ayrshire cattle and shire draught horses. He won a gold medal in France, and in 1915 gold and bronze medals at the Panama Pacific Exhibition, prompting a letter of congratulation from the Department of Agriculture, Wellington. Little himself became a show judge.



In time Little became a wealthy landowner in North Canterbury. He bought a property adjoining Allandale, naming it Dalmeny after the home of Lord Rosebery. Here he built a home. Gradually he acquired neighbouring farms as they came on the market. He established his only son, Henry, at Hui Hui nearby and leased some of the farms to family members who had migrated from Scotland. Henry ably assisted his father in further breeding developments. James Little regularly worshipped and often preached at local Presbyterian services. He served on the Waipara Road Board and several local committees, and wrote booklets and letters to newspapers on farming matters. He was an efficient employer, sometimes having up to eight horse-teams working on growing crops for feed or harvest, and sowing English grasses to replace native tussock. James Little died at his home, Strathblane, Christchurch on 31 October 1921 and was survived by his son Henry and five daughters, loved wife Mary Little having died in 1906. © www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/biographies/2114/little-james

Word searches are a great way to expand and practice vocabulary words! As you look for the hidden words, remember that they can be horizontal, vertical, or diagonal frontward or backward.

Scotland Word Search

T Y J U S T H N S F C I W B C
F F B H L W R R N U W S O A E
F D E I U O E C N A D L G G L
S E K R C I G O L F Y C S P T
P S A I N T A N D R E W A I I
E O N D H A G G I S D P L P C
E U E X I S W D S O Q I G E Z
N E W N S X T Z Y S M D A S Y
R I D F A J J T C K P H Z L J
A A T G O H E G D E H H V L P

bagpipes
Celtic
dance
Glasgow
golf
haggis
hedgehog

kilt
neeps
plaid
reindeer
Saint Andrew
sheep
unicorn



A FAMOUS LITTLE

By Kay little

A famous Little; thinking cap on and the first to mind was the story 'Chicken Little' why as a child it always made me think of my grandparents, Myrtle Henn married Charles Little. No.' Stuart Little' the movie, yes he was a very famous mouse and the kids always said he was my cousin. No? Well it is 100yr anniversary of World War One and there is a not so famous a Little from down under as **Robert Alexander Little, DSO & Bar, DSC & Bar (19 July 1895 – 27 May 1918)**, was a World War I fighter pilot,

who is generally regarded as the most successful Australian flying ace, with an official tally of forty-seven victories.

On 19th July 1895 Robert was born in the Melbourne suburb of Hawthorn, to James Little, a Canadian of Scottish decent and Susan, nee Solomon, formerly Smith of Victoria. James

was an importer and seller of Medical and Surgical books. Robert had three siblings. He and his younger brother attended Melbourne's Scotch College. Robert was not very academic and left school at 15 beginning work as a Travelling salesman in the family business, but his burning desire was to fly. Robert was 14 when Harry Houdini flew his biplane in Australia's first controlled power flight on 18 March 1910 north of Melbourne at Diggers Rest.

Robert was living with the family in Windsor, Melbourne at the time of World War One breaking out. When four vacancies became available at Australia Army Central Flying School in Point Cook, he applied but like hundreds of others was rejected when the positions went to man already serving.



An Australian farmer found what he thought was a discarded motorcycle helmet at a local tip, he had no idea he was in possession of precious relics belonging to Australia's greatest fighter ace.

This did not stop him achieving his dream, so in July 1915 he sailed to England aboard the P&O Malwa arriving on the 7th September. Paying one hundred pounds to train as a pilot at Hedon, North West London. He gained his Royal Aero Club, Aviator's Certificate No. 1958 on the 27th October 1915 flying an L. & P. biplane.

On 14th January 1916 he volunteered for the Royal Naval Air Service, posted to Dover Kent as a probationer Flight Sub-Lieutenant. He soon earned a reputation for being lucky, as he racked up a startling number of forced landings, these were mostly due to the fault of poor quality training aircraft and primitive engines, while some were caused by inattention or poor flying. A couple of comments on Roberts service file at this time were, 'As an officer is not very good, and has a bad manner', as well as 'Has a trick of landing outside the areodrome'. He was also threatened with loss of his commission if he did not shape up, when he was assigned to pilot seaplanes. During his time in Dover he met and courted a young local lady Vera Gertude Field. On 16th September Robert married Vera at the Congregational Church, Dover.



Robert was said to be a clumsy flyer with a record of crash landings but aerial combat he was a keen eye, excellent marksmanship, crack shot at close range and fearless aggression to single-handed attack enemy formations.



Great Britain, Royal Aero Club Aviators' Certificates, 1910-1950

On one occasion he single-handedly attacked the Flying Circus of Baron von Richthofen, and shot down three of the famous Red Barons aircrafts before breaking off the encounter, was this the dog fight on 7th April or one of the many others. From 1917 Robert A Little was awarded:-

- **The Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) For conspicuous bravery in successfully attacking and downing enemy aircraft**
- **The Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) Bar. For exceptional daring and skill in aerial fighting on many occasions. During April**
- **Awarded The Distinguished Service Order (DSO) For gallantry in action and for exceptional skill and daring in aerial combats.**
- **The Croix de Guerre The Distinguished Service Order (DSO) Bar For exceptional gallantry and skill in aerial fighting. Flt. Lieut Little has shown remarkable courage and is boldness in attacking enemy machines.**



In January 1918 he was promoted to Flight Commander, then in March declined a desk job, wishing to return to the Western Front in France. Joining Lieutenant Colonel Collishaw's No. 3 Squadron RNAS. On the 1 April he became a Captain when his unit evolved into No. 203 Squadron Royal Air Force on with the merger of

the RNAS and Royal flying Corps. He was flying Sopwith Camels again gaining a further 9 victories but during this stretch of successes on the 21 April 1918 he was shot down unharmed by Fredrick Ehmann, landing safely behind British lines. After shutting down the last Pfalz scout from a formation of 12. His combat report continues:

I was then attacked by six other E.A. (enemy aircraft) which drove me down through the formation below me. I spun but had my controls shot away and my machine dived. At 100ft the ground it flattened out with a jerk, breaking the fuselage just behind my seat. I undid the belt and when the machine struck the ground I was thrown clear. The E.A. Still fired at me while I was on the ground. I fired my revolver at one which came to about 30ft. They were driven off by rifle and machine gun fire from our troops.

On the moonlit evening of the 27 May 1918 at the age of 22, Robert took off from Ezile Hamel on a solo flight to intercept a group of German Gotha bombers. As he closed in on the bombers, his plane was caught in a searchlight beam and he was struck by a bullet that passed through both his thighs. Fatally crash landed his Camel in a field near Noeux, he was not found until the next morning. Lieutenant Collishaw launched an investigation but it was unable to establish if it was 'friendly fire' or from the Gotha. Robert was buried in Noeux village cemetery, before his body was moved to Wavans British Cemetery in the Pas de Calais region.



Grave at Wavans

On Thursday 7th August 1997 at Eskdalemuir War Memorial, the Unveiling of Memorial to Robert Alexander Little D.S.O. & Bar, D.S.C. & Bar, C. de G. with star Royal Naval Air Service, took place thanks to Dr Johnnie Little of Morton Rig. This was also attended by my Parent the late Joan and Ted Little of Tokoroa. NZ

Scottish Border Reivers

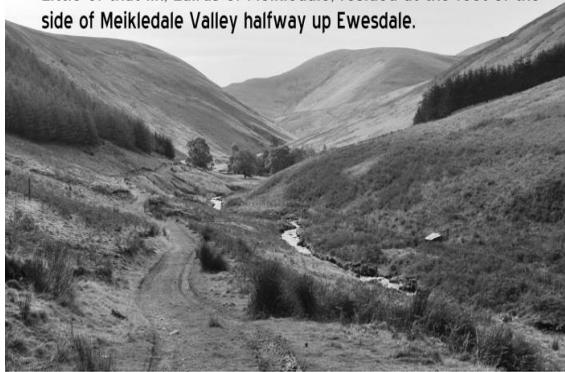


I live in north-east Cumbria in the delightful village of Walton with Tina, my partner of many years. Walton is just a few miles south of the English Scottish Borders. I have always had a great love of British history, particularly that of the kingdoms of Strathclyde Cumbria and Northumbria plus the formation and development of Scotland and its subsequent struggle for independence from

England. No such study can be undertaken without encountering the lives and times of the Border Reivers, both Scottish and English, who dominated the lands north and south of the English Scottish Border for almost three centuries, between the 13th and 17th.

I am fascinated by their history, its uniqueness, passion and violence and the abject weakness and inability of monarchy and authority to bring the Border Reivers to heel. I was born in Northumberland but moved, as a boy, to Lancashire, changing the rolling hills and valleys of the north-east for the huge textile mills of the textile towns. I feel both have attractions which I love. After studying textile technology for many years I moved back north to the Scottish Borders town of Hawick where I worked in cashmere production. Recently I moved to Carlisle still

Meikeldale: NW Langholm. is where successive chiefs, Little of that ilk, Lairds of Meikeldale, resided at the foot of the side of Meikeldale Valley halfway up Ewesdale.



working in textile production. My work is far removed from my passion for history yet, I feel, each compliments the other, are refreshing alternatives which make up my life. I have written a book about the illegal capture by the English of the most infamous of the Scottish Border Reivers and his subsequent rescue by a small party of Scots from the mighty defence of Carlisle castle. His name was William Armstrong of Kinmont, known to us today as Kinmont Willie. Currently I am working on another two books, one about the **Rising of the North of 1569** and another on the **Border Reivers**. My website is **www.reivershistory.co.uk** It contains pages on short stories I have written on the Reivers and my blog which can be found at **www.borderreiverstories-neblesclem.co.uk**

NB: Tom has fascinating content about Clan Little on his Blog which is worth reading.

Publishers Credential

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To contact us:-

Write

Clan Little
C/o 7 Earl Street,
Levin 5510 **New Zealand**

Email

kiwilittle@inspire.net.nz

Phone

06 367-5900

Web site

www.littleclan.net