



# Sprig Of Heather



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The Official Newsletter of  
**Clan Little Society New Zealand & Australia**  
**[www.littleclan.net](http://www.littleclan.net)**



# Editors Quill

LITTLE BY LITTLE

Politicians of all persuasion's want to garner and capture public support. Here in New Zealand our General Election was held on **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September**. In the UK a couple of days prior on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>, the referendum on whether Scotland should be an independent country took place. To vote in the referendum people needed to be aged 16 or over on 18 September 2014 and live in Scotland. Voters may have been British, qualifying Commonwealth or European Union citizen and registered to vote by 2<sup>nd</sup> September. Weather or not people are pleased with the outcome, its clear effort must now be put into unification of the people. All the money which was spent garnering public support needs now to be valued in terms of national unity and civic pride. It will be interesting to see how the energies and imagination of the Scots will be harnessed for good. Over the years there have been many notable **Little's** in Politics'. A current New Zealand MP **Andrew Little** (B 1965) currently on Labours list just made it back into the House after a huge decline in his parties popularity. **John Albert "Jack" Little** (1914–1988) was an Australian politician. He had been a shoe factory worker and official with the Victorian Boot Employees' Union a real toiler for workers rights and a fair deal. In Canada a leading academic **Professor Margaret Little** Ph.D. has interests including welfare; poverty; violence and Canadian social policy. She is an anti-poverty activist who works in the area of single mothers on welfare, neo-liberal welfare reform, and retraining for women on welfare. Its clear we can be both proud of and thankful for those of us who engage in or around the Political process. Whilst there may be some kudos when there are popular outcomes, I suspect there are many long hours of contemplation, frustration and fatigue getting things to happen. Regardless of personal preference or the proliferation of propaganda, I hope us **Little's** continue standing up and being counted because democracy has not been without a cost to those who fought for it.

*Allen Little*



# Little Fish !

'Crawford Little' with his 13 kilo Salmon recently caught in Kroken on the Gaula river just South of Trondheim City, Norway

Maybe we could entice our esteemed Guardian to try his luck here in New Zealand, where good salmon fishing is reported on the South Island's east coast on the Waiau and Waitaki Rivers.

## Scottish Food

The true Scotsman enjoys his food and there are many delicious recipes which are rightfully Scottish. These recipes are used every single day in homes of our people. Scotland's fertile soil and healthy attitudes produce an amazing variety of natural foods which set the country cooks on the front line of the culinary world. As in any culture food is prominent amidst cultural festivals, seasonal celebrations and events such as Hogmanay or the last day. Traditional foods are enjoyed at Burns Suppers where the authentic Scottish dishes such as haggis champit tatties and bashed neeps are served. Whilst there are supposed traditions which are coloured by romantic notions of pleasure and delight, there are recipes guarded close to the hearth by those who know their secret ingredient's. We all know the stereotypical notions of traditional Scottish fare - haggis, porridge and whisky. Not anymore. Scotland's new elite super-chefs like Gordon Ramsay, Nick Nairn and Andrew Fairlie are taking the country's incredible natural produce like beef, venison and seafood, elevating them to on the menus of discerning diners. The traditional Burns Supper, Hogmanay and St Andrews Day celebrations are still very much a part of Scottish culture where delectable delicacies are of importance.

## Connecting with Little's

One of the biggest challenges we face is simply finding and connecting with **Little's** in a relevant and engaging manner. Please can you take a few moments to check your address books or local information sources such as directories and copy any potential "**Little's**" contacts and send these to me. I will follow up either with a phone call or letter to ascertain any possible interest in Clan Little.



# Little !

*Locate kin*

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## The Border Reivers

Having just enjoyed a DVD about the Border Reivers it seems a good time to write about what has been learnt. The Reivers came from families who "rode with the moonlight" with their "lang spears" and their "steill bonnets." There are 77 predominant family names who can claim to have been Reivers. Border Clans included the Armstrongs, Johnstones, Scotts, Elliotts, Fenwicks, Bells, Nixons, Maxwells, Kerrs, Dodds, Taits, Howards, Cecils, Douglasses, Homes, Croziers, Forsters, Grahams, Irvines, Robsons and Storeys. These names are still common around the Border country.

Of particular interest was life in the 'West March'. The term Scottish Marches was used for the Anglo-Scottish border during the late medieval and early modern eras, characterised by violence and cross-border raids. The Scottish Marches era came to an end during the first decade of the 17th century following the union of the crowns of England and Scotland. In commenting on the history one needs to be aware of myths, legends, license and good old fashioned romantic notions which endure to give flavour and colour to much of our folk lore.

Families in one area were hostile to inhabitant's of another as in the case of the 'Bells' who were particularly hostile to the Grahams. The Charlton (Carleton) family was English but their name appears in south west Scotland. The Charltons were one of the hardiest and most intractable families on the English side and were alternately allied to and at feud with the Scottish in the west. They were engaged in a bitter vendetta with the Scott's of Buccleuch. The Elliots were Scottish. Less numerous than the Armstrongs with whom they were frequently allied but as predatory as any clan on the border. Occasionally under English protection, they received a subsidy from Queen Elizabeth during their feud with the Scotts. Notable names: Martin Elliot of Braidley, **Little Jock of the Park**, Robin of Redheuch, Archie Fire the Braes, William of Lariston, Martin's Gibb. Johnstone Scottish but possibly of English origin were powerful reivers and also frequent Wardens. Their feud with the Maxwells was the longest and bloodiest in Border history. Maxwell's were considered the strongest family in the West March until the Johnstones reduced their power in the 16th century. Maxwells were often wardens.

One of the most powerful families in the whole Border, both as reivers and as officers were the Scott's. Today the **Duke of Buccleuch** is the largest private landowner in the United Kingdom and his family still possesses an extensive art collections which is kept at the family's great houses of Drumlanrig, Bowhill and Boughton. Other long established families in the West March include the Carlisle, Beattie, Carruthers, Glendenning, Moffat and our own **Little's**.



# The Referendum 2014

- some musings by the editor

Clan Cameron III

I found the referendum fascinating and was glued to my computer which was set to the Daily Telegraph result tracker. I watched the results coming in from the local authorities during the day, starting with Clackmannanshire and finally ending with the vast (in area) Highland Authority, with a voting tally of 166,000. I had wondered if the Highlands might produce an 'aye' result, considering the Highland Clans' history but, although slightly above the mean, it was a decisive vote for 'no'.

Although initially uncertain, I think, if I was able to vote, I would have supported remaining in the United Kingdom. It is good to keep the old Cameron traditions alive but 307 years as part of the UK has engendered something valuable which we should not hastily discard. During this time, certainly with my family, considerable intermarriage has taken place. As British units, Scots have played a major part in conflicts all around the world and Scotland, although having only one tenth the population of the remainder of the United Kingdom, has punched above it's weight in it's development.

There will be disappointment for the 1.6 million who voted for independence. Many will have hoped for more power over Scottish affairs, which they felt were controlled from far away in London, with only 59 members in a House of Commons of 650. (I must admit that I hoped I might be able to apply for a Scottish passport by having a grandfather born in Scotland).

All is not lost, however, as when the polls at one stage showed that the 'ayes' were leading, Prime Minister David Cameron promised that, in the event of a "no" vote, new powers would be devolved to Scotland for tax, spending and welfare. He has since confirmed that he will keep his promise, but he will have considerable opposition. This may mean that similar powers will also be given to Wales and Northern Ireland.

As an ex-Navy man, my interest lay in what would happen to the Rosyth Naval Base, home to the Royal Navy's nuclear submarines, including those carrying the nuclear deterrent, in the event of an 'aye' result. These submarines and arsenal would have had to be removed to Devonport, and new supporting facilities built there. Also, shipbuilders BAE Systems intend to build the Royal Navy's future combat ships, the Type 26 Frigate, in Scotland. This would involve upgrading their Govan yard or building a state of the art facility at Scotstoun, or both. Independence would probably have de-railed this project.

I believe there is a sense of relief in much of Scotland, and certainly in England, at the result. There was uncertainty about the currency, a bank run, business flight, and the effects on the economy of both countries. All are relieved that the long and acrimonious campaign is over, hopefully for at least another generation.

Her Majesty the Queen said on the day following the referendum:

"For many in **Scotland** and elsewhere today, there will be strong feelings and contrasting emotions – among family, friends and neighbours. That, of course, is the nature of the robust democratic tradition we enjoy in this country. But I have no doubt that these emotions will be tempered by an understanding of the feelings of others.

Now, as we move forward, we should remember that despite the range of views that have been expressed, we have in common an enduring love of Scotland, which is one of the things that helps to unite us all."

And finally from Bill Cameron:

"I do hope that the recent divisions that have occurred during this long campaign will be healed, with everyone moving forward as one country."

~These are my personal views *Neil Cameron* Editor



For more information about Clan Cameron visit  
[www.camclan.orconhosting.net.nz](http://www.camclan.orconhosting.net.nz)

**Review:**

**A History of Everyday Life in Twentieth-Century Scotland (Ed-1)** Edited By: Lynn Abrams and Callum Brown



Over the twentieth century Scots' lives changed in fast, dramatic and culturally significant ways. By examining their bodies, homes, working lives, rituals, beliefs and consumption, this volume exposes how the very substance of everyday life was composed, tracing both the intimate and the mass changes that the people endured. Using novel perspectives and methods, chapters range across the experiences of work, art and death, the way Scots conceived of themselves and their homes, and the way the 'old Scotland' of oppressive community rules broke down from mid-century as the country reinvented its everyday life and culture. This volume brings together leading cultural historians of twentieth-century Scotland to study the apparently mundane activities of people's lives, traversing the key spaces where daily experience is composed to expose the controversial personal and national politics that ritual and practice can generate.

**Key features:**

- Contains an overview of the material changes experienced by Scots in their everyday lives during the course of the century
- Focuses on some of the key areas of change in everyday experience, from the way Scots spent their Sundays to the homes in which they lived, from the work they undertook to the culture they consumed and eventually the way they died
- Pays particular attention to identity as well as experience



## Tortoise Story

New Zealand's last living survivor of World War I died 11 years ago. But last year TV3's Campbell Live heard a rumour that there was a naturalised Kiwi who lived through that era, and in 1916, came back with wounded soldiers from Gallipoli on the troop ship Marama. They tracked the survivor down to a rest home in the Hawke's Bay. 'A tortoise'; our last survivor is a female Greek tortoise, nicknamed 'Torty', picked up by Beth Little's father-in-law just after Gallipoli in Salonica. In 1914 Ms Little's father-in-law Stuart Little left his home town of Dunedin for the desert, where he was a stretcher bearer at Gallipoli and accompanied the many wounded to hospital.

"One day, Stuart saw this tortoise walking around [where] they took the wounded from Gallipoli and then immediately this terrible thing happened," says Ms Little. As it turns out, Torty was run over by a French gun carriage and when Mr Little picked her up, there was the large dent in the shell - her own war wound - and the dent is still there. A chunk of her shell was broken off and she also lost a few toes. Mr Little asked some of the locals in Salonica how old they thought Torty was, to which they replied, give or take around 100 years old. That would make Torty around 200 years old. Maybe not tortoises, but animals played a crucial role in World War I - a means of transport, message carriers and as comforters for the soldiers as mascots and pets.

**Clan Little thanks TV3 and Campbell Live for permission to share this story with our members. To view the story visit**

**[www.3news.co.nz/tvshows/campbelllive/torty-survives-shell-shock-in-wwi-2014090919](http://www.3news.co.nz/tvshows/campbelllive/torty-survives-shell-shock-in-wwi-2014090919)**



## **Robert Burns in Dunedin 2014**

The Pacific Rim Federation of Robert Burns Clubs held their 12th A.G.M in Dunedin a first for NZ, Christina and I attended on behalf of our local club in Wanganui. We were taken back 150 yrs to the early settlers from Scotland and primarily their religious leader Thomas Burns son of Gilbert Burns , brother of Robert Burns.



**Bard o Scotland**

Robert's poetical works and songs were well known by then and conveyed to many other lands by those who chose a better life of freedom and independence from landlords and heavy taxes also poor living, working conditions. Little did they for-see the hardships of breaking in scrub, swamp , forest covered land and natives who at times were war like, but others very helpful in seeing these white people being given shelter and food as was the instance in Dunedin. The songs and poems of Burns were instrumental in keeping up the spirits of these mainly lowland Scots whilst on their long sea voyage and breaking in the land.



Some like John Barr 1809-1889 were already well versed on Burns and became one of NZ first poets. He came from Paisley, having trained in engineering. He formed the ship building firm of Barr & McNab, due to contractual failures he turned his hand to farming, thus someways following in the steps of Scotlands famous Bard.

In Barr's poem "There's nay place like Otago yet" he describes the settlers sense of freedom as a home loom weaver. Otago, I imagine is the same in any country that Scots have settled"

**Nae mair the laird comes for his rent .  
For his rent, for his rent.  
Nae mair the laird comes for his rent.  
When I hae nocht to pay, sirs.  
Nae mair he'll tak me aff the loom.  
Wi' hanging lip and pouches toom.  
To touch my hat, and boo to him.  
The like was never kent, sir's.**

**But now it's altered days, I trow.  
A weel I wat, a weel I wat.  
The beef is tumbling in the pat.  
And I'm baith fat and fu', sirs.  
At my door cheeks there's bread and cheese.  
I work or no, just as I please.  
I'm fairly settled at my ease.  
And that's the way o't noo, sirs**

I wonder what Rabbie would have written about the land from a farmers point of view having toiled his back breaking farm's in Scotland. Barr looks back on all the families hardships of breaking in the soil, and possibly comparing himself now in the same situation that Burns endured but now, being rewarded by reaping their harvest and a prosperous future at Craigelee Farm in Otago.

**Otago boasts her valleys green  
Her hills and fertile plains,  
Where scenes like this are often seen,  
Spread o'er her wide domains;  
Where happy hearts make happy homes.**

Yes, Robert Burns will live on through those pioneering soles and those that have followed

*Neil Little-Boyd*

## Visitors to Craigieburn

The **Dunedin Amenities Society** hosted visitors to Craigieburn who were taking part in the 2014 Dunedin Scottish Festival. The festival provides an opportunity to celebrate the unique Scottish heritage of Dunedin. "It was an opportunity for many to celebrate and explore the city's Scottish roots" said our own Neil Little-Boyd who with Christina enjoyed the occasion.



Craigieburn Project Manager Paul Pope gave the group a guided tour of the Craigieburn and shared with the visitors some of the early life of the Rankin, Sherriff and Tanner families who settled this small piece of the Dunedin Bush as a colonial subsistence farmers. It was also an opportunity to discuss the lasting conservation legacy created by the settler family who retained the extensive Rimu forest on the site. Visiting the site gives people a real glimpse of early Scottish life in Dunedin. **Craigieburn** is a colonial subsistence farm adjoining Ross Creek and entrance to Flagstaff Scenic Reserve on Tanner and Fulton Road above the picturesque Leith Valley, Otago. It has a unique heritage and conservation history. Many of the historical colonial features of this site have been conserved along with 4 hectares of impressive Rimu forest. With its fine 360 degree views of Dunedin city, recreational and conservation linkages to Ross Creek and the Leith Valley, Craigieburn is a rich slice of Otago's colonial and botanical heritage.

**For information on the Amenities Society visit:-**  
[www.dunedin-amenities-society.org.nz](http://www.dunedin-amenities-society.org.nz)



## *Wee Donald*

..... Donald MacDonald from the Isle of Skye was admitted to Oxford University, and was now living in his first year of residence there. His clan was very excited that one of their own had made it into the upper class of education, but were concerned how he'd do in "that strange land." After the first month, his mother came to visit, with reinforcements of whiskey and oatmeal asking.....

**"And how do you find the English students, Donald?"** she asked.

"Oh, Mother," he replied, shaking his head sadly, "they're such terrible, noisy people: The one on that side keeps banging his head against the wall, and woon't stop; and the one on the other side screams and screams and screams away into the night."

**"But Donald! How do you manage with those dreadful noisy English neighbours?"**

"Well, mother, I just ignore 'em. I just stay here quietly, playing my bagpipes..."

### **Broom Hilda**



# Visit 'Clan Little' @ Square Day Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December Palmerston North



## Some Border history . . .

In the absence of documentary evidence its often difficult to sort fact from fiction when it comes to our history. The following are notes about some reivers, pieced together from the records of the time. In modern times we need to sift truth, myth, legend, fantasy and conjecture when thinking about things we want to believe.

### Kinmont Willie

Perhaps the best known of Border reivers, deserved his reputation. He raided on the big scale, striking not single farms and villages, but at whole areas, at the head of bands 300 strong. He liked to ride by day, usually eastward from his tower at Morton Rigg, which was right on the Border not far north of Carlisle. His favourite target was Tynedale the first of his raids recorded was against the Milburns in that valley, in August 1583, when Armstrong was probable in his forties. Eight separate villages were attacked; several houses burned 800 cattle stolen, £200 worth of goods taken, six men killed, eleven wounded, and thirty prisoners carried off.

The following year he and Nebless Clem Croser were back on another day foray with 300 riders lifting 1300 cattle, sixty horses, and £2000 worth of goods, burning sixty houses, killing ten men. In 1585 Kinmont Willie was occupied with raiding in his own country, he accompanied the Earl of Angus campaign against the Earl of Arran, and took the opportunity to pillage Stirling. It was this raid that made his name, and turned it into a byword for violent crime. But, his biggest raid of all occurred eight years later, when he was in Tynedale with 1000 men, carrying off more than 2000 beasts and £300 in spoil.

He seems to have been fairly quiet until 1596, when his famous capture and rescue from Carlisle Castle took place and after that some of the old fire died. Perhaps he was just getting old, I know how he feels. But his raids thereafter were minor affairs. He took the Captain of Bewcastle and sixteen other prisoners in 1597, ransomed them, stole twenty four horses, and committed some slaughter. At this time he was being raided himself, from the English West March, his house sacked twice and burned once, 300 of his beasts stolen, and two of his men killed. He fell into English hands again on one these occasions, but was released.

### **The end of the reivers**

On the 20 of March 1603, Robert Carey rode north from London to Edinburgh with the news that Queen Elizabeth had died. King James VI of Scots now held both English and Scottish thrones. In the first days after her death the Border experienced a week of reiving, looting and burning. This was an old custom. In the days before a new King was proclaimed the reivers believed that the laws of the land were suspended. The new King, James V1, had them chased back to their strongholds, some of which were destroyed. James tried to abolish the names Scotland and England and wanted to call the old frontier Zone the Middle Shires. Weapons were banned in the area and the Wardens and the laws of the Marches were abolished. It took King James seven years to bring peace to the Border.

## **Debateable Lands**

In the many wars between Scotland and England, the land on either side of the border was always the first to experience the hardship and pain of invasion. Being at the edge of the two kingdoms and far away from the centres of royal power the people who lived in these lands did not feel safe. The frontier was used as a way of fleeing from the forces of law. The legal forces in each country could not cross the border without permission but some cooperation did exist under the laws of the Marches. However, this cooperation could not happen in land which belonged to neither country. All along the Anglo Scottish border there were tiny pockets of disputes known as threaps. But there was one larger area of land which neither country would accept the others claim to the Debateable Land.

The Debateable Land was a strip of land 4 miles wide and 12 miles long which extends from Gretna in the West, north eastwards almost to Langholm. Neither country would accept that the other had sovereignty, or owned, this land and so neither side could hold the other responsible for the actions of the people who lived in it. The result of this was that the Debateable Land was outside the law and became a haven for any great company of thieves and traitors. From this inhospitable land the Middle and West marches of both countries were raided regularly by Armstrongs, Grahams, Little's and other families (now they are called Bankers and MPs). The Wardens were never able to subdue the inhabitants despite declaring war on the area and decreeing that, All Englishmen and Scottish men shall be free to bum, spoil, slay, murder and destroy all and every such person their bodies, buildings, goods and cattle. The problem of the Debateable Lands could only be solved by the two countries agreeing to divided up between them and enforce their laws on the inhabitants. This happened in 1552 and, gradually, peace was forced upon the area. This policy was strongly enforced immediately after the union of the Scottish and English crowns in 1603. King James broke the power of the Grahams, one of the most lawless families, by having many of them sent away.



## How do you take your Scotch ... ?

A lady goes to the bar on a cruise ship and orders a Scotch with two drops of water. As the bartender gives her the drink she says 'I'm on this cruise to celebrate my 80th birthday and it's today.' The bartender says 'Well, since it's your birthday, I'll buy you a drink. In fact, this one is on me.' As the woman finishes her drink the woman to her right says 'I would like to buy you a drink, too.' The old woman says 'Thank you. Bartender, I want a Scotch with two drops of water.' 'Coming up' says the bartender. As she finishes that drink, the man to her left says 'I would like to buy you one, too.' The old woman says 'Thank you. Bartender, I want another Scotch with two drops of water.' 'Coming right up' the bartender says. As he gives her the drink, he says 'Ma'am, I'm dying of curiosity... why the Scotch with only two drops of water?' The old woman replies 'Sonny, when you're my age, you've learned how to hold your liquor. Holding your water, however, is a whole other issue.'





# "Wellington" tunnel. 'Battle of Arras' 1917

## "Wellington" Tunnel France

World War One descendants gathered for a memorial tunnel opening in Wellington. Family members of men who fought in the WW1 New Zealand Engineers Tunnelling Company gathered in Wellington for the official opening of the road tunnel beneath the National War Memorial Park. The tunnel has been named the '**Arras Tunnel**' after the town of Arras in France under which the New Zealanders extended tunnel systems and created an extensive underground network in preparation for the 1917 Battle of Arras. The tunnels are named Wellington and Nelson, because they were built by Kiwis who named them after major towns in their homeland.

About fifty family members representing twenty Tunnelling Company men were part of the official party led by Hon. Chris Finlayson and French representatives. Family representatives held cards featuring the Tunnelling Company badge and the family name of a Tunneller. The Tunnellers came home dropping anchor in Auckland on the evening of 23 April 1919. Within 24 hours of **Anzac Day 1919** the men dispersed and the Company ceased to exist.

**Clan Little had a connection at this historic event. Our own Kay Little Reports:** 'To be able to participate in an occasion such as this and to publicly remember these men, many of them Public Work Department miners and Civil Engineers, in a tunnel structure which is an integral part of the National War Memorial Park, is highly emotional.'

The official wreath laying ceremony and Arras Tunnel dedication with a public walk through took place on Saturday 27 September. And there was Tartan In the Arras Tunnel, bringing the ***“Tunnellers to the Capital”***

On the 13th of September I read this on the **'NZ Tunnelling Company' Facebook page.** “On Saturday 27 September we are taking the Tunneller’s to the Capital” and were invited to take part in the official proceedings for the naming and public walk-through of the **Arras Tunnel** which runs beneath the National War Memorial Park.

This occasion is one of huge significance to our Tunnelling Company family. We are delighted that our Tunnellers and their story will be formally recognised as part of this event. Many of the Tunnellers were Public Works Department Civil Engineers and miners. The construction and subsequent naming of the Arras Tunnel is a fitting tribute to these men in particular.

For the walk, our extended ‘Tun Coy’ family carried a laminated graphic of the NZETC badge with the name of the family member they represent. We also carried around 80 cards with the names of Tunnellers on the NZETC Roll of Honour.

I had just discovered this Facebook page, read the post which had been posted that morning. Turned to my daughter Kat, passed her my laptop to read it and said I was going, so off went my registration email. I was meant to find this page today...’ Why you may ask?... I remember Dad telling me his father was a Tunneller in WW1. Then in August I read some of Granddads Military records finding he was on the Western Front. On 26 September my younger sister **Charlene Little** and I travelled to Wellington. The next morning we walked to the National War Memorial and met up with other Decedent’s of the Tunnellers and received our laminated cards. Charlene carried Lance Corporal Bernard Fahey’s card one of the Fallen Tunnellers.

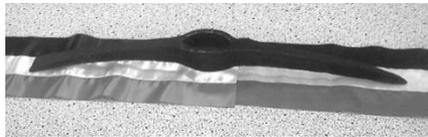
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At 10.15am the Wreath laying Ceremony Honouring the **NZ Engineers Tunnelling Company** commenced, followed by the Arras Tunnel opening with a Public walk-through.



**Kay Little reflects and remembers !**

For me, making our way to the opening ceremony and walking through the Tunnel; just the decedents and official party was a very moving and memorable moment. I felt so proud carrying Granddads card and wearing the Little tartan. Sighting the Poppy lined Arras Tunnel for the first time had the tears swelling in the eyes. Knowing this tunnel was to honour those brave tunnellers who dug under the German line is something I will never forget. The fallen were not forgotten with Poppies signed by today's children adorning the tunnel wall. At lunch we were able to touch a pick without its handle brought from the Arras Tunnel's in France,... you were left wondering whom of our ancestors could have used it.



**Soldier's Pic from Arras Tunnel France**

The day ended at Te Papa with a talk on the Road to Recovery, this display on Oakland Park a hospital where New Zealand soldier recovered. One of the soldiers was a Tunneller who's Niece and great Nephew gave us a great insight into their Uncle. Charlene and I are very grateful that we had the opportunity to attend this day. Thanks to modern technology there is a good video on Youtube showing some of what went on.  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GkbYkuY3wgU&feature=player\\_detailpage](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GkbYkuY3wgU&feature=player_detailpage)



Who was my Grandfather? Granddad was **Fredrick Charles Little** born in 1888 at Leichhardt Sydney, NSW to Andrew Little and Emma Amelia (nee Norris). Andrew was born in 1855 at Glasgow Scotland and Emma 1862 Cornwallis, Windsor NSW and married in 1880 at Windsor.

Frederick had two older brothers James B born in 1883 at Windsor NSW and William Norris born 1885 at Leichhardt NSW.

The Little family came to New Zealand sometime after 1895, when Great Granddad was a carpenter who may have worked on the Parliamentary buildings. Great Grandma and James returned to Sydney at some stage we think this may have been after great Granddad died in 1904 at Wellington. Granddad and Uncle Bill had lost contact with their Mother and brother by WW1.

**Frederick Charles Little** (aka Charles Frederick Little) joined the NZ Engineers Tunnelling Corps on 8 October 1915. Training in Avondale, Auckland before they embarked on the SS Ruapehu for England on 18 December 1915.



SS Ruapehu

Arriving in France at midnight on 9 March 1916, they were the first unit of the NZ Expeditionary Force to arrive on the Western Front and last to leave. I do not know if granddad was in the Battle of Arras in 1917. Granddad's Next of Kin was his brother William.

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Charles was a labourer in Inglewood when he joined the Army, after returning from war he joined NZ Railway being stationed in Stratford from 1920–1955. After meeting Miss Myrtle Henn of Eltham (my Grandmother) they were married in 1924. Living in Eltham, Hawera and Stratford, they raised their four children, Edward (Ted), Noeleen, Don and Jean. Granddad played cricket in his younger days and is understood to have been a good player. I don't remember granddad much as I was only 4 when he died in 1960.

My father Edward (aka Ted) also joined the Railway in Stratford meeting and marrying my mother Joan Newman there in 1947. They moved around the North Island before 1955 settling in Tokoroa with my two older sister's Janice and Linda. Charlene and I were born in Tokoroa. Mum and Dad were very involved in the community both being members of St John Ambulance for over 25 years. Another thing they loved doing was travelling to Highland games and sitting up Clan tents for Clan MacNeill and Clan Little. I have three wonderful girls, Justine (Jai) who is married to Alyn and they have a lovely son Kaeden ( I can say this about Kaeden as I know Allen, Chris and Neil will agree with me.) Buffy who has followed in granddad's footsteps by joining the Army as a nurse and Kathleen (Kat) who is also involved with our Clan. We all joined Mum and Dad at and enjoyed Clan gathering. “



'Arras Tunnel' Wellington

Thanks to Kay Little for this engaging story. It's a perfect illustration of living family history and how the past can be given meaning in the here and now. If you have similar stories to share why not pass them to us for possible publication. **Again thanks Kay.**



Our modern world is becoming more technically and information diverse. Prior to the recent New Zealand election there was a lot of hysteria generated around what is known as Cyber Security. Increasingly we are encouraged to trade and remit payments 'on line' without the old-fashioned smiles, or hand shake which acknowledged personal service. Many 'Family History' Archives and resources are digitised and accessible if you have a good 'Credit Card'.

In spite of the convenience of 'e-commerce' many people feel vulnerable trading over the keys with people we don't see or know. Increasingly we hear of scammer's and fraudster's intent on hood winking the gullible.

There are two things we should all do to ensure our Cyber Security. The first and most obvious is to have robust up to date Virus protection on your Computer and the second is registration with the "Real Me" service. 'Real Me' is an officially backed government secure way to prove who you are online. It's unique to you, and it puts you in control of your online identity. It's been designed to be trusted by businesses and government agencies. It makes signing up for products and services on the internet faster, easier and more secure. There are a range of government agencies and businesses that provide the RealMe service to their customers. Its free to sign and use. The service is paid for by businesses and government agencies, who in turn benefit by having happier customers because RealMe makes signing up for goods and services online simpler and easier. 'RealMe' was created by Internal Affairs and New Zealand Post. Once you have created a RealMe® account you can access a range of online services. Prevent 'Identity Theft' and misuse with **RealMe** which in future will enable users to prove their identity and conduct business online with confidence.

For Information call 0800 664774 or visit [www.realme.govt.nz](http://www.realme.govt.nz)

**“Sprig of Heather”** is an occasional publication and service to members of **‘Clan Little Society New Zealand & Australia’**. Reader’s comments and contributions are welcomed. Post publication **‘Sprig Of Heather’** can be read at the National Library Of New Zealand, Corner of Molesworth & Aitken Streets, Wellington or as a .pdf file on our web site [www.littleclan.net](http://www.littleclan.net)

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