

# Clan Little

New Zealand & Australia



• LITTLE • LYTTLE • LYTLE •

## Information brochure

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# CLAN LITTLE

Welcomes you !

[www.littleclan.net](http://www.littleclan.net)

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Its estimated that there are well in excess of 45,000 Littles 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.

Today Clan Little is armigerous and **Crawford Little** Esq is its Guardian. Questions are sometimes asked about the Little's being a real Clan. In an Act of the Scots Parliament 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. 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. By the close of the 16th Century they had earned a reputation as the finest light cavalry in Europe because of their constant raiding and reiving.

By 1300 the Little's had settled in Dumfriesshire where Nicol Little was recorded as Conservator of the Peace for Lochmabenston in the Scottish West March of the Anglo-Scottish border. Sometime before 1426, Simon Lytil was granted tenure of Meikledale, Sorbie and Kirkton in Ewesdale, Dumfriesshire by the then regent, Robert Stewart, 1st Duke of Albany. The grant was confirmed in 1426 shortly after James I returned from his captivity in England. Simon Little, 1st Laird of Meikledale, is therefore considered to be the first chief of the name. Walter the Steward granted lands near Kilmarnock, Ayrshire to Richard le Waleys, also of Shropshire. This Richard was the g-g-grandfather of Sir William Wallace, one of the main leaders in the early Wars of Scottish Independence.

## Where did we come from ?

The majority of Scottish immigrants settled in the South Island. All over New Zealand, the Scots developed different means to bridge the old homeland and the new. Many Caledonian societies were formed, well over 100 by the early twentieth century, who helped maintain Scottish culture and traditions. From the 1860s, these societies organized annual Caledonian Games throughout New Zealand. The Games were sports meets that brought together Scottish settlers and the wider New Zealand public. In so doing, the Games gave Scots a path to cultural integration as Scottish New Zealanders.

In the 2006 census the number of people born in Scotland was recorded as 29,016, making it the eighth most common place of birth. In 1956, the figure was 46,401, making Scotland the second most common place of birth. These figures only include people born in Scotland, not those who claim a Scottish identity through their parents, grandparents, or even further back. In addition, many New Zealanders come from mixed origins, with Scottish New Zealanders co-identifying as Māori or another ethnic group.

## Generations pass !

**Clan Little Society** wants to see our shared heritage and ancestry preserved. We believe its important to gather and share the real life stories from past generations before the passage of time can swamp out the past. **Talking to older people gathering and preserving their oral histories, archives and artefact's is of utmost importance for future generations**



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

**[www.littleclan.net](http://www.littleclan.net)**



If you are interested in our Little Family History and would like to have contact with CLAN LITTLE SOCIETY please complete and return this slip to:-

Clan Little NZ&A

C/o Allen Little

7 Earl St Levin 5510 New Zealand

Name:

Address:

Land Phone:

Email:

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

**‘Clan Little Society’** is a Charitable Trust financed by its New Zealand & Australian supporters. All contributions are gratefully received.