



# *Spring Of Heather*



## **Winter Edition**

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**Clan Little Society New Zealand & Australia**

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



# Editors Quill

**LITTLE BY LITTLE**

Welcome to the Sprig Of Heather **winter edition**.... Because of rising costs we will in future publish a Winter and Summer issue. A few weekends back I was awoken to the sounds of gun fire, something not too uncommon in other parts of the world but not in New Zealand. The occasion was real enough and the annual Duck Shooting Season had begun. Scotland is revered internationally as a mature sporting destination offering visitors outstanding sporting experiences amongst stunning and dramatic landscapes. Shooting, stalking / hunting and fishing are very popular in Scotland. Over 200 sporting providers offer all country sports from game shooting - including pheasant, grouse, partridge, hare, pigeon and ptarmigan to wildfowling, deer stalking (red, fallow, roe and sika deer) and world class fishing including game angling, coarse and sea angling including salmon, trout and grayling. We know Scotland is steeped in colourful history, tradition and culture which provide an exciting adventure for any sporting visitors. Hunting and shooting in Scotland has evolved from an exclusively royal pastime into the modern pass time open to people on all walks of life. Up until the late 17th Century, birds were traditionally shot whilst on the ground or perched, as well as being netted and hunted with hawks. With the improvement in shotgun technology in the early 18th Century, birds began to be shot in flight with the sport becoming known as 'shooting flying' from the French 'tir au vol' This method of hunting soon became more popular than hawking or netting, and by the mid 18th Century, due to better guns and ammunition, shooting became easier and thus more widespread amongst the aristocracy and landed gentry. Up until this point, all shooting was effectively walked up with the guns walking in a line and shooting birds flying away from them as they were flushed by trained dogs. With the introduction of the double barrel breech loading gun in the mid 19th Century, the art of driven shooting emerged taking its name from the French battue the beating of woods and bushes to flush game

*Allen Little*

**Steward**

## **Who are we ?**

Family History and Genealogy enthusiasts often talk about how difficult it is to find information from Scotland. Why should this be? I have been thinking about this and will try and create some context.

Its interesting to many the term “Scottish or Scots; Scotch is considered antiquated and belittling. Historically, Scotland was referred to as Caledonia and by the Gaelic name Alba.

Lets look at the peoples identity. Think of an imaginary line running roughly drawn from Aberdeen to Glasgow and how it separates the Highlands in the north and west from the Lowlands in the south and east. This line distinguishes a more Gaelic and rurally oriented Highland cultural sphere from a more hybrid and urban Lowland culture. Gaelic traditions and language are strongest on the northwest coast, around the Hebridean Islands whilst in the North East Orkney and Shetland, there are strong ties to Norway.

To the south, the heavily urbanized Central Belt encompasses Dundee, Edinburgh, Saint Andrews, Stirling, Paisley, and Glasgow. The premier cities of Edinburgh in the east and Glasgow in the west embody important cultural contrasts and antagonisms within this urban frame. The more mountainous Borders region to the south and east of this belt is more rural. There is population flow between Scotland and England and between Scotland, Ireland, and Northern Ireland. There is also a small Asian Muslim community.

As we know Scotland occupies approximately the northern third of the United Kingdom's (UK) mainland, encompassing 7.5 million hectares. The area of Scotland is 77,168 square kilometers. The climate is cool, wet, and often windy. Much land in the Highlands and Borders is rugged and difficult to cultivate, but the Lowlands and parts of the Borders include prime agricultural land. Scotland is surrounded by the North Sea, offering fish, oil and natural gas, and potentially tidal and wave power. During the "Highland Clearances" (c. 1790–1830), landlords forced tenants off their land. Some of the displaced were resettled in coastal villages and encouraged to supplement their family income with fishing, linen weaving, and kelp manufacture. Some migrated to the Central Belt or emigrated abroad.

Industrialization led to massive urbanization in the nineteenth century during which the population increased from around 1.5 million to 4.5 million, with the growth concentrated in and around Glasgow. Immigrants from the Highlands and Ireland played a major role in this growth.

People raised in Scotland will often identify as Scottish, regardless of non-Scottish ancestry.

Scots is a cognate of modern English with a strong Danish influence. Borrowings from Gaelic, Norse, and Norman French have created a diverse patchwork of regional dialects. However, extensive interactions with English and the urban mixture of regional dialects have yielded a Scots to Scottish-English continuum. Scots can be used situationally to emphasize cultural and political identification.

Our name “Little” is a descriptive name and was originally written in Latin documents as parvus meaning little or small. Given that the name is descriptive its impossible to find any clear origin of the Little name in Scotland.

In the 12th century David I King of Scots appointed Walter fitz Alan, an Anglo-Norman from Shropshire, as High Steward of Scotland. In his capacity as Steward, Walter granted lands at Cairntable, Ayrshire to Alan Little, a former neighbour on the Shropshire-Cheshire border. By 1300 the Littles 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.

Today our challenges are two (1) Locating sources of relevant material and (2) gaining access to knowledge repositories. The issue is where did our ancestors come from and how were they connected in their communities of interest? We need to understand sociology of the era. ☐

# What did our ancestors sound like ?

**“Language is fossil poetry. As the limestone of the continent consists of infinite masses of the shells of animalcules, so language is made up of images, or tropes, which now, in their secondary use, have long ceased to remind us of their poetic origin.”**

**-Ralph Waldo Emerson - The Poet from Essays: Second Series (1844)**

Auckland University Associate Professor **Quentin Atkinson** says “Language, religion and large-scale cooperation are among the most interesting and unique characteristics of our species. Yet the language we speak, what we hold sacred and whether we choose to cooperate are not coded in our genes, but are shaped by the behaviour and norms of those around us – they are inherently cultural”.



**Quentin Atkinson**

Languages, like species, evolve via a process of descent with modification. Biologists can draw inferences about species’ ancestry and the forces affecting biological evolution by analysing genetic diversity using stochastic models of evolution. In a similar way, we use stochastic models of the process of language evolution together with data on linguistic diversity to infer ancestral relationships between languages and answer questions about human history and the process of cultural evolution. Professor Atkinson’s research is currently funded by a Marsden Grant from the Royal Society of New Zealand - **“Tongues, trees and Bayesian inference”**.

By the beginning of the 9th century in the northern portion of the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Northumbria, now modern southeastern Scotland, oral variants began to be heard. The language of our Scottish forefathers and how the Anglic varieties spoken in parts of Scotland developed into modern Scots is fascinating. Speakers of Northumbrian Old English settled in south eastern Scotland in the 7th century, at which time Celtic Brythonic was spoken in the south of Scotland to a little way north of the Firth of Forth and the Firth of Clyde. Pictish was spoken further north: almost nothing is known today about the Pictish language.

At the same time Gaelic speakers began to spread from the Western Coast of Scotland north of the Clyde into the east. Over the next five hundred years with the founding of Scotland and spread of Christianity across the north of Britain by the Columban Church the Gaelic language slowly moved across the lowlands. When Northumbrian lands were incorporated into Scotland in the 11th century Gaelic became the prestige language there and had some influence, but the south east remained largely English speaking. In the far north, Viking incursions brought Old Norse speakers into Caithness, Orkney and Shetland.

The nature of early forms of the language are obscure due to Viking plundering and destruction, with Edward I of England's removal of the national records and their subsequent loss, the destruction of the monasteries in border warfare, and vandalism during the Reformation.

It is difficult to assess whether Scots descends largely from the Old English of Lothian or the Anglo-Danish of Yorkshire introduced some four hundred years later, which would explain the Norse elements in Early Scots which are lacking in Northumbrian Old English. Current insights into pre-literary Scots stem largely from place-names, archaeology and a few words in Latin documents.



After the 12th century early northern Middle English began to spread north and eastwards. It was from this dialect that Early Scots, known to its speakers as "English" (Inglis), began to develop, which is why in the late 12th century Adam of Dryburgh described his locality as "in the land of the English in the Kingdom of the Scots" and why the early 13th century author of *de Situ Albanie* thought that the Firth of Forth "divides the kingdoms of the Scots and of the English".





By the early 16th century what was then called Inglis had become the language of government, and its speakers started to refer to it as Scottis and to Scottish Gaelic, which had previously been titled Scottis.

By the late 16th century almost all writing was composed in a mixture of Scots and English spellings, the English forms slowly becoming more common so that by the end of the 17th century Scots spellings had almost disappeared completely. This process took slightly longer in unpublished vernacular literature and official records. After the Union of the Crowns in 1603 the Scots speaking gentry had increasing contact with English speakers and began to remodel their speech on that of their English peers. It was this remodeling that eventually led to the formation of Scottish English.

Scots is the collective name for Scottish dialects known also as 'Doric', 'Lallans' and 'Scotch' or by more local names such as 'Buchan', 'Dundonian', 'Glesca' or 'Shetland'. Taken altogether, Scottish dialects are called the Scots language.

The Scots language, within Scotland, consists of four main dialects known by the names (1) Insular, (2) Northern, (3) Central, and (4) Southern. Within each of the four main dialects there are also sub dialects. It is not unusual to hear forms of speech used in local areas, such as particular cities such as Glasgow which has long had a distinct city dialect.

Our modern vocabulary contains many words and wider concepts well beyond the comprehension of our forbears. With the passage of time the common language has changed and evolved as many words or phrases have disappeared.



To understand what our ancestors sounded like requires an awareness, not only of historical and geographical factors, but also the common pronunciation and enunciation of the time. The anatomy of making sounds and articulating words clearly, according to rules governing the language and its Phonology all contribute to the voices of our past and our ancestors sound.

# Eskdale & Tiddesdale Advertiser

Brandon McPhee and his band proved to be such a hit at their debut performance at the Buccleuch Centre in Langholm last summer that they were immediately booked to appear again.



Schoolboy cellist Will Archibald of Langholm is among students from the Gretna-based Scottish Academy of Music and Drama (SAMd) to play at a Dumfries & Galloway Arts Festival performance. Will won the 12 years and under cello category with a Bach solo piece at the Carlisle Music Festival recently and has since joined Cumbria Youth Orchestra. Dumfries's Music Room and the SAMd are joining forces to ensure talented children have the top standard of tuition, normally only available in cities like Edinburgh and Glasgow.

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## Museum's celebrates Eskdale's blades of glory

THE Sword in the Story, inspired by a mystery sword which may have belonged to the infamous 16th century border reiver Kinmont Willie Armstrong, is exhibited at Dumfries Museum.



At the official opening of the Sword in the Story exhibition in Dumfries Museum are, left to right, Dr Valentina Bold, Andrew Nicholson, Dumfries and Galloway Council archaeologist, with Fiona Armstrong. Dr Valentina Bold is researching the sword to find out how it came to be in the museum collection. She said "We know Kinmont Willie best through the reiving ballad which

describes his capture and jailbreak from Carlisle Castle.

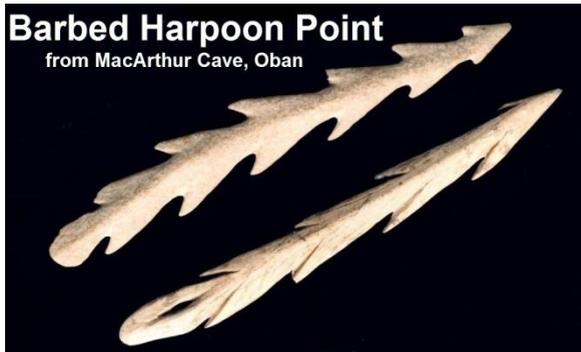
The ballad was first written down by Sir Walter Scott in 1802. "I have delved into the papers written at the time of Willie's capture and he really was a nasty piece of work. I will continue my research to see whether we can find evidence for a sword, belonging to Willie, passing down from the 16th century to end up in the museum collection."

During an audit of Annan Museum collection in 2015 a mysterious one-metre-long sword blade was uncovered. It was partially corroded and its hilt was missing. Faded handwriting on the attached label hinted of an association with Kinmont Willie.

He was notorious for his bloodthirsty raids during the late 16th and early 17th centuries. He banded together members of his own Armstrong clan with other families (**including the Littles**) to plunder cattle, leaving death and destruction in his wake.

When he was arrested and dragged to Carlisle Castle, his capture was deemed unlawful because it had taken place on a day of truce on the Scottish, English border. Appeals for his release were denied and the Bold Buccleuch gathered a band of men and sprang Willie from jail. The escape is referred to in letters written at the time. Some of these were published in The Border Papers, Calendar of letters and papers relating to the affairs of the Borders of England and Scotland by HM General Register House in 1896.

<https://archive.org/details/borderpaperscale02grea>



### **Barbed Harpoon Point**

from MacArthur Cave, Oban

**Old Barbed  
Harpoon Points  
recovered from  
MacArthur  
Cave, Oban.**

It's the barbed point of a harpoon made from animal bone and is about 15cm long, with barbs on either side and a hole at the shaft end. It was used by some of Scotland's earliest inhabitants and dates back to the Middle Stone Age for hunting and/or fishing. The harpoon would be thrown, and the head

would break off and lodge in the body of the prey. The hunter would then be able to grab hold of and recover the prey using a cord tied through the hole in the harpoon head.

It is one of the earliest instruments used to hunt and fish in Scotland. It tells us directly about how people lived over seven and a half thousand years ago.

This lethal Barbed Harpoon was discovered in a cave in Oban between 1894 and 1895 by men who were quarrying for stone. In the cave they also found layers of shells and bones. The cave was once very close to the sea, it is now 11 metres above sea level, due to change over time.

What does this tell us about the hunting methods of Middle Stone Age people in Scotland? It tells us that Mesolithic hunters and fishers were skilled. This point may have been used to spear the very large fish whose bones were found in the cave. The technique lived on over the millennia: we know that fish were still being caught with spears as recently as AD 1700.

We may think the Middle Stone Age people in Scotland were primitive beings but Mesolithic hunters and fishers were skilled and knowledgeable in their gathering of wild foods such as hazelnuts and shellfish, to supplement the several types of fish, land and sea mammals such as seals, deer, wild boar and aurochs wild cattle which made up their diet. The Mesolithic people who camped in MacArthur Cave – and others in and around Oban around 5600 BC would have moved around from one place to another to exploit whatever was available seasonally.



## Archaeologists find church where William Wallace was made Guardian of Scotland



The remains of the medieval church where William Wallace is thought to have been made Guardian of Scotland after defeating the English army at the Battle of Stirling Bridge has been found by archaeologists.

Wallace and Andrew de Moray were given the title after leading a small Scottish force to victory over Edward I's large army in 1297.

A ceremony is believed to have taken place shortly after the battle in the Kirk o' the Forest in Selkirk and the remains of a medieval chapel have now been located in a ground study of the ruins of the Borders town's 18th century Auld Kirk.

Experts were expecting to find a 16th century church on the site but made a much older discovery.



**Dr Chris Bowles**, Scottish Borders Council's archaeologist, commissioned the geophysical study carried out by the University of Durham and the Selkirk Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme. Dr Bowles said: "Ruins of the Auld Kirk date from the 18th century, but we knew this had replaced earlier churches on site from the 12th and 16th centuries. "It has been widely acknowledged that

this was the site of the Kirk of the Forest where Wallace was made Guardian of Scotland following his and Andrew Moray's defeat of the English army at the Battle of Stirling Bridge in 1297.

"We had been expecting the geophysics survey to uncover a 16th century church that we know to have existed and which was a replacement to the medieval church, but the only evidence in the survey is in relation to the medieval church.

"The association between Wallace and the local area is quite well documented, with Wallace using guerilla tactics to fight the English from the Etrick Forest, and the Scottish nobles made Wallace Guardian of Scotland in recognition of his military successes.

"Wallace went on to become the legendary figure he remains today."

Council leaders hope the discovery can lead to a tourism boost for Selkirk.

Planning executive **Ron Smith** said: "This is a fascinating discovery and further strengthens the links between William Wallace and Selkirk. Working with the community, we hope to be able to make the most of this discovery. "Thanks to the geophysical study of the site we can almost pinpoint where Wallace would have stood when he was made Guardian of Scotland. I hope it will be possible to install information and interpretation boards for visitors. "This discovery adds to the historic attraction of Selkirk, and of the Borders as a whole, and will surely draw in even more visitors."



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# Anyone Over 40,... before PC !

Congratulation's to all kids who were born in the 1940's, 50's, 60's and 70's !

First, we survived being born to mothers who smoked and/or drank while they carried us. They took aspirin, ate blue cheese dressing, tuna from a tin, and didn't get tested for diabetes. Then after that trauma, our baby cots were covered with bright coloured lead-based paints. We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, doors or cabinets and when we rode our bikes, we had no helmets, not to mention, the risks we took hitchhiking.

As children, we would ride in cars with no seat belts or air bags. Riding in the back of a van – loose – was always great fun.

We drank water from the garden hosepipe and NOT from a bottle. We shared one soft drink with four friends, from one bottle and NO ONE actually died from this. We ate cakes, white bread and real butter and drank pop with sugar in it, but we weren't overweight because.....

~~ We were always outside playing and pushing boundaries.

~~ We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back when the streetlights came on. No one was able to reach us all day. And we were O.K.

~~ We would spend hours building our go-carts out of scraps and then ride down the hill, only to find out we forgot the brakes. After running into the bushes a few times, we learned to solve the problem.

~~ We did not have Playstations, Nintendo's, X-boxes, no video games at all, no 99 channels on cable, no video tape movies, no surround sound, no cell phones, no text messaging, no personal computers, no Internet or Internet chat rooms..... WE HAD FRIENDS and we went outside and found them!

~~ We fell out of trees, got cut, broke bones and teeth and there were no lawsuits from these accidents. We played with worms and mud pies made from dirt, and the worms did not live in us forever.

~~ We made up games with sticks and tennis balls and although we were told it would happen, we did not poke out any eyes.

~~ We rode bikes or walked to a friend's house and knocked on the door or rang the bell, or just yelled for them!

~~ Local teams had tryouts and not everyone made the team. Those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment. Imagine that!!

~~ The idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke the law was unheard of. They actually sided with the law!

This generation has produced some of the best risk-takers, problem solvers and inventors ever!

The past 50 years have been an explosion of innovation and new ideas.

We had freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned HOW TO DEAL WITH IT ALL! And YOU are one of them! CONGRATULATIONS!

You might want to share this with others who have had the luck to grow up as kids, before the lawyers and the government regulated our lives for our own good.

And while you are at it, get your kids to read it so they will know how brave their parents were.





## Lofty ideals

As Scotland thrives on pursuit of lofty ideals the rest of planet earth ponders the point of 'being a true scot'... !

According to the social commentator 'My Scotland' -

Being Scottish is about driving in a German car to an Irish pub for a Belgian beer, then travelling home, grabbing an Indian curry or a Turkish kebab on the way, to sit on Swedish furniture and watch American shows on a Japanese TV. And the most Scottish thing of all? Suspicion of all things foreign!

- Only in My Scotland can a pizza get to your house faster than an ambulance. Only in Scotland do supermarkets make sick people walk all the way to the back of the shop to get their prescriptions while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front.
- Only in My Scotland do people order double cheeseburgers, large fries and a DIET coke. Only in Scotland do banks leave both doors open and chain the pens to the counters.
- Only in My Scotland do we leave cars worth thousands of pounds on the drive and lock our junk and cheap lawn mower in the garage.
- Only in My Scotland do we use answering machines to screen calls and then have call waiting so we won't miss a call from someone we didn't want to talk to in the first place.
- Only in My Scotland are there disabled parking places in front of a skating rink.

## **So where do our ancestors come from.?**

At a distance from Scotland many struggle to understand the geography of the home Country. When searching the Old Parish Records and similar archives names and places can be quite confusing. There are some excellent Family history Societies who offer their information on payment of a small Annual Membership charge.

Association of Scottish Genealogists and Researchers in Archives  
259 Broad Street, COWDENBEATH, Fife, KY4 8LG

Borders Family History Society  
52 Overhaugh Street, GALASHIELS, TD1 1DP

Family History Society of Buchan  
22 Harbour Street, PETERHEAD, Aberdeenshire, AB42 1DJ

Central Scotland Family History Society  
c/o 4 Fir Lane, LARBERT, Stirlingshire, FK5 3LW

Dumfries and Galloway Family History Society  
9 Glasgow Street, DUMFRIES, DG2 9AF

Federation of Family History Societies  
PO Box 8857, LUTTERWORTH, LE17 9BJ

Fife Family History Society  
c/o Arlene Little, Woodside Cottage, Donibristle Village,  
COWDENBEATH, Fife KY4 8EU

Glasgow & West of Scotland Family History Society  
Unit 13, 32 Mansfield Street, GLASGOW, G11 5QP

Lanarkshire Family History Society  
122-124 Merry Street, MOTHERWELL, ML1 1NA

Renfrewshire Family History Society  
c/o 51 Mathie Crescent, GOUROCK, PA19 1YU

The Scottish Genealogy Society  
15 Victoria Terrace, EDINBURGH, EH1 2JL

**South West Scotland** is an ambiguous term which can include Ayrshire, Galloway, Dumfriesshire, the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright, as well as Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire. The inclusion or exclusion of these areas is to an extent arbitrary: the only unquestionable boundaries of South West Scotland are the border with the nearby county of Cumbria in North West England and the sea, namely the Solway Firth, the North Channel and the Firth of Clyde. The area has a complex cultural history. At one time it formed part of the Kingdom of Strathclyde, the last stronghold of the Britons in what is now Scotland, after what was then called Lothian and would now be called South East Scotland succumbed to the Anglo Saxon Kingdom of Northumbria. Later it became subject to settlement by Anglo Saxons, Gaels and perhaps Vikings or Norse Gaels. When all of what would today be called South West Scotland became incorporated within Scotland is not entirely clear.

There is an excellent resource “Dumfries and Galloway online” which contains a host of information about Dumfries City plus the wider Dumfries & Galloway region. This site has up to date links to web sites throughout south west Scotland.

**[www.dumfries-and-galloway.co.uk](http://www.dumfries-and-galloway.co.uk)**



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

# Thank-you Guardian Angel

By Kay Little



This is not the story I was going to write but the one I feel I must write. Why, why the title... Well it all started this morning when I checked a notification on Facebook, no not the **Little Clan** but the MacNeil of Barra, it was a video of the Lewis Pipe Band. From the post, "A very emotional first parade with us raising an incredible £880 for the families of Eilidh Macleod and Laura Macintyre." Victims of the recent atrocities in Manchester, Laura was found in a hospital but her friend Eilidh was not so lucky. Rest in Peace Eilidh.

The next post was from the Daily Mail. Breaking News; Van 'mows down 20 people' on London Bridge. The next hour is spent finding out more. Then my daughter Jai messages myself and her sisters Buffy and Kat about the attack. Why because yes it was another unthinkable act, where more lives could be/are lost and families torn apart. But

also, because we are thankful, our Guardian Angels watch over us and we told one another we loved them. Just days after the attack on the Westminster Bridge. Buffy, Alana, Kat and myself arrived in London. It was Kat's and my first trip to the



UK. Catching the Tube and walking around London, you saw Police offices with big guns, they look impressive. Our Hop-on Hop-off bus commentator pointed out different thing and place, then as we as we came up to a bridge he announced, 'this is Westminster Bridge where the horrible attack on pedestrians took place recently'. This brought you back to reality and questions? that's why Police were armed, why had the attack happened? How could it? You think of all the families affected, loved one lost for no reason. Then you think how London is carrying on and you carry on as something else is pointed out.

Our first security check point was at the Tower of London, a bigger Police presence. It went smoothly, body and bag scanned, some had their bags checked. We didn't was it because one of the workers had noticed Kat and I had a NZ Army Engineers badge on our jackets. As he looked at me and point to the jacket and said, "I like that" with a big smile on his face.



The next morning St James Park/ Westminster and a walk to Trafalgar Square, going past Police horses and more armed Police offices, yeah, we did pass Downing St. More helicopters overhead, that's right I had seen them yesterday also. Just flying around and around. Later that day Buffy and Alana headed off

to Manchester and Kat and I to Edinburgh and a few days in Scotland. One thing I did notice was how the security was not as strong.

It wasn't until Windsor that Police presence was felt again, walking passed 4 Police offices then around the corner another 6 offices, some well-armed in each group. Security check to get into Windsor Castle. OH, yeah, the Queen was in resident.

Eurostar to France, Charles De Gaulle Air Port to meet up with the others. Here we saw our first lot of Security Army personnel. While walking around in Paris it was nothing to see either armed Police or Army personnel in groups of 4 or more. Even in the back streets. A heavier presence of personnel at major tourist attractions. Bag search and scan as you went into shops or malls. Arras where we were expecting lots of security, and check points was not as bad as I expected after what we had experienced.

A few days after arriving home came the New Headlines 'Police officer shooting on the Champs Elysees in Paris'. You see our trip was between these two events, we were watched over. Today's events had Kat and I worried like so many, for our two new friends who live near London Bridge, until they posted we're safe on Facebook. Unfortunately, a New Zealand and a couple of Australians have been injured. Our thoughts and love go out to the families affected today. []

# A Guide To Scottish Names

The origins of many Scottish names go back as far as Medieval times, some even further. Scotland's early history is peppered with invasions. These had a huge impact on the culture and genetic make-up of the Scottish people.... as well sowing the seeds for some of our most popular names. As a result, both first names (called 'forenames') and last names (called 'surnames'), reflect Scotland's colorful and diverse history.

On [www.scottish-at-heart.com/scottish-names.html](http://www.scottish-at-heart.com/scottish-names.html) the author encourages consideration of how the Scottish naming system developed. There are links to pages of specific names (such as Scottish girl names, Scottish boy names and popular Scottish surnames).

## The Origins & History Of Scottish Names

There's evidence suggesting as far back as 8500 BC, there were several different groups of people living in Scotland - and some of these may have come from other parts of northern Europe. Over time they became what we now know as the Pictish nation (a tribal society descended from the Iron Age inhabitants). Irish Celts moved into Scotland during between the first and third centuries AD. Both nations were fierce, warlike tribal societies and at times the Picts and Celts fought each other. On other occasions they worked together against invaders from other lands.

The very earliest Scottish names mainly originated from one of these two groups, Celts and Picts. During the following centuries, Scotland's shores were the scene of several invasions - from countries as diverse as Scandinavia (Norway, Sweden and Denmark), Italy (the Romans) and France. The English (Anglo-Saxons) also regularly tried to push northward, crossing Hadrian's Wall (which was originally built to keep the warlike Picts out of the southern part of Britain).

## The Naming System In Scotland

In Medieval Scotland, parents didn't have the type of freedom to choose baby names as we have today.

At this time there was a fairly small pool of words considered 'acceptable' to be used as names.

Parents were only allowed to pick names from that pool, so their options were limited.

Over time, naming practices became more flexible and the influences of other cultures increased, and the variety of forenames increased.

The results of this are seen in the diversity of Scottish names today.

In recent years genealogy has become very popular, and many of us are interested in finding out more about our ancestors and the roots of our family tree.

As our family name is one of the biggest clues we have, it's become our 'jumping off point', but if your ancestors were Scottish, your family name may not be as helpful as you would think! That's because in Scotland, previous generations didn't apply anything resembling today's modern naming conventions. In fact:

Because of the limited number of acceptable names, there was a lot of sharing. Fixed, or inherited, family names (surnames) were not widely used. Second, or 'middle' names hadn't even been thought of!

When you look at those points you'll begin to understand some of the problems people can run into once they manage to trace their family tree back a few centuries.

### **Scottish Surnames**

The earliest Scottish surnames were usually given based on one of three different factors:

1. the persons' occupation or job
2. where they lived or where their family was from
3. their fathers' name

One quick look and it's pretty easy to see how quickly this situation could get confusing! Obviously there would often be more than one baker, smith, shepherd etc. even in a village or small town, and many families originated from the same village, town, area or region.

Combine these problems with the limited selection of Scottish forenames and you'll soon see why nicknames became common. And we're not just talking 'shorty' or 'red' or other modern-day nicknames. These nicknames often literally 'described' the person - either by his/her physical attributes 'dark haired', tall, thin etc., or by using some specific fact such as a well-know personality trait (eg. bad tempered) or a specific possession (eg. a boat) to differentiate between them. For example: 'black-haired Tamhas' (old variant of Thomas) or 'bad-tempered Tamhas' or even 'Tamhas who lives by the river'.

It was all a bit of a shambles to begin with, but the history of Scottish family names, and how they developed and changed over time, is really interesting.

### **Scottish First Names**

First names such as Hamish, Heather or Stuart are recognized world-wide as being from Scotland, but we have tons of other great names too :)

Read more: About Scottish Names <http://www.scottish-at-heart.com/scottish-names.html#ixzz4j5kgNWbC>



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## **Big Change for Little's**

**In March this year the acknowledged the faithful hard work of many over the years leadership of Clan Little Society North America proposed Administrative and Governance changes Effective June 30th 2017.**

After discussions among the CLSNA officers it has become apparent the time has come to shutter the doors on Clan Little Society NA as a subscription based clan society. Instead, by vote of the officers, all of the focus in the future will be on the membership in the Facebook page and we will no longer solicit subscriptions and renewals for membership. As for the future, we expect that CLSNA will live on heartily via the facebook page with a designation as a "club." All of the officer positions will remain the same as before, Steuart (President), Marischal, (Vice President), Secrateur (Secretary), and Mailin (Treasurer).

This cadre will make decisions as necessary and any member of the Facebook club is eligible to take one of those offices. Genealogists and DNA specialists will remain as well.

As for the inventory of tartan, pins, scarves, etc., we will continue to buy and sell those items to members. The tartan will only be available to members, just as before, but many more will be able to buy it because of this change.

In summary, the rules and by-laws of Clan Little Society NA are no longer.

*Thomas Little, Steuart; Pat Little, Marichal, Jim Little, Secrateur.*



**The changes reported above relate to our North American friends only and do not impact our operations as we are a separate legal entity.**



**Sprig Of Heather** is the twice yearly publication of **Clan Little Society New Zealand & Australia**. The contents are for the non-commercial, personal use of members. Opinions expressed are those of authors and not necessarily those of Clan Little NZ&A. Please address any correspondence to:-

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