

Grip Fast Journal

The Newsletter of Clan Leslie Society International

January, 2014



Get Ready for the Gathering!

Everything you'll need to know for the 2014
CLSI Gathering at the Grandfather Mountain
Highland Games



2014 Honored Clan: Clan Leslie!

The Honourable Alexander Leslie, Chief of Clan Leslie

Scottish Games – In Perspective



Distance, like absence, makes the heart grow fonder. When you live in Scotland and you see the size and enthusiasm of the Highland Games in the U.S. you are filled with a sense of awe at their scale. As a result, I am already excited about being the Guest of Honour at this year's Grandfather Mountain Games. It is even more exciting since Leslie will be the Honoured Clan and the Games will play host to our bi-annual Gathering.

Games in Scotland are different. With a couple of notable exceptions they are local events. When I lived in Fife, just North of Edinburgh, there were dozens of village Games. It was a day out for locals. The audience would possibly number two hundred. Ponies would fly round tracks at break

neck speed with four and five years olds urging them to go faster, faster. Runners, young and old, would run, cyclists, young and old, would cycle. And there would be food stands and local produce stands and weight lifting and kaber tossing. In fact, all the ingredients of a Highland Games. Except the audience and the atmosphere is local and in the moment.

In contrast, Highland Games in North America are more about Scotland as a nation than any Games in Scotland itself. Games in the villages of Scotland do not even consider which clan who belongs to or consider that the Games are even particularly 'Scottish.' They are the village games.

The community is the village.

The Games in North America, indeed anywhere outside Scotland, brings out the bigger community, the bigger vision. It brings out the Scot, not the villager, it brings out the Leslie, not the butcher, baker or candle stick maker.

As such, I find them inspiring, welcoming and energising.

As I said in my opening speech at the Loch Norman 'Volcano' Games "the heart of Scotland is no longer in Scotland. It is in the heart of communities such as those that are here at these Games. And I am delighted."

As such I am really looking forward to the Grandfather Mountain Games, to catch up with old friends, meet new ones and to celebrate Scotland – as a whole.

Alex Leslie

January 2014

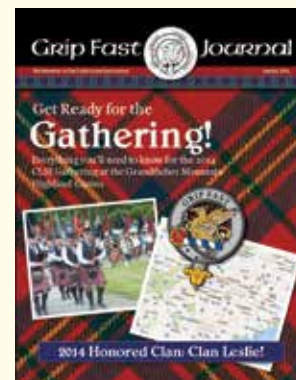
PS: I call the 2010 Loch Norman Games the 'Volcano' Games because it coincided with the Icelandic volcano eruption, grounding flights for many days. This meant that I could not get home as planned - which was fantastic as I was able to enjoy the amazing hospitality of Don and Janice Abernathy.

Contents

Message From Our Chief	1
Commissioner's Message	2
Chieftain's Message	3
Clan Leslie Family History Search	4
Guide to the Gathering	5-8
Chaplain's Corner	9-10
CLSI News	10-12
Project to Honor Our Society's Founders	11
Clan Leslie Items	13
CLSI Officers Contact List	14
Griffin Reprints	Back Cover

ABOUT THE COVER

Join Clan Leslie at thier 2014 Gathering at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games.



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William Leslie, Commissioner, Clon Leslie, North America

A Happy New Year to All Clan Leslie



A happy New Year to all the Leslie Clan. I hope you will all do well in the year ahead and wish the new CLSI Chieftain, Tom Huxtable, the best in guiding the Society to continuing success.

The CLSI has launched a service to members to help them get started in their family history search, or overcome roadblocks in a continuing search. Eventually we may even be able to form a giant family history tree. We have been sent some amazing finds by the CLSI Historian, Tim Leslie, in the recent past. You probably saw the Royal Family Tree of Scotland that Tim acquired from the National Archives and specifically the enlargement that shows King Duncan, his son Malcolm III, Macbeth lurking there, and Bartholomew and his wife Beatrix, daughter of Duncan, and sister of Malcolm III.

I have been spending a lot of my life searching family history in the last few years. I have had much success with finding my wife's ancestors on both her mother's and father's sides. I have found my Leslie ancestors to my great, great, great grandfather John Leslie in Longside Parish in Aberdeenshire. Longside is not that far from Balquhain and I have accepted the view of Leslie historians that most Leslies in the world relate to the Balquhain family of Leslies. Someday I may find the Leslie who travelled from Balquhain or one of the many castles in Aberdeenshire where this family expanded. In writing about family history I have learned to categorize family history into at least three types, facts which can be verified, such as census data, family stories which may or may not be verifiable and family stories which may or may not be factual and are legends passed down from generation to generation.

Much of the history of our founders, Bartholomew and Beatrice, I would class as legends since these are difficult to verify. But we believe them because they have been passed down to us over the ages from the authors of the *Laurus Leslaeana* and Colonel Charles Leslie's great *History of the Family of Leslie*. My first reaction in trying to verify an ancestor is to check for public documents, birth, marriage and death certificates, census records, passenger manifests of ships, newspapers and so on. None of these are available for our ancestors from 1070. Records of royal families, though sketchy, are available.

Tim Leslie found this family tree for Scottish Royalty from the Alpines, the first kings of a united Scotland to the kings of 1792. On this tree, near King Duncan and King Malcolm III, are Bartholomew and Beatrix. This record, prepared by the Office of the Lord Lyon of Scotland, is better than any birth certificate, since this office is the ultimate record keeper of Scottish heredity. Bartholomew and Beatrix were our original ancestors. This is not a legend and Tim has presented us with the proof. All Leslies, including the Abernathy's and Cairney's who descended from Bartholomew's great, great, great grandson, Sir Andrew Leslie can clearly state that they are descended from King Duncan. Sir Andrew Leslie married Mary Abernathy in 1314 and their son George became the first Baron of Balquhain in 1340.

We have a historic Clan Leslie Gathering in July at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in North Carolina. Our Clan Chief, the Honourable Alexander Leslie will be the Honoured Clan Chief and the Clan Leslie will be the Honoured Clan. I am looking forward to this great event.

The Laurus Lesleana Compendium Available for Purchase

This wonderful work is comprised of the original *Laurus Lesleana* Explicata in Latin, an English translation, an English index, corrections to the *Laurus* extracted from the Historical Records of the Family of Leslie by Colonel Charles Joseph Leslie, 26th Baron of Balquhain, and a collection of notes from a copy of the *Laurus* at Warhill House. CLSI is making this priceless piece of Leslie history available on a convenient CD format.

The price is \$10.00 and includes shipping. You can order CD's from Linda Flowers. Please refer to the "How to Order" instructions at the bottom of page 13.

The Laurus Lesleana is the oldest known, written history of the family of Leslie. We are very fortunate to have this resource available.



Tom Huxtable, Chieftain, Clan Leslie Society International

A Few Words...



It's 2014, and along with the rest of the Council, may I wish you a prosperous and healthy one. There are several things of note which are happening this year, one in particular that is of great importance. In July is our semi-annual Clan Gathering. This year it will be held at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in North Carolina. These games are the largest in the United States. Our Chief, the Honourable Alexander Leslie, will be the Honored Chief and Clan Leslie will be the Honored Clan at this event. The fact that there are around 100 Clans represented at these games makes it important to have as many members in attendance as possible. Read the announcement in this issue carefully as it has a lot of excellent information. If you have never been to a Clan Gathering, this would be the one with which to begin. Linda is already receiving attendance applications. It's not too soon.

In this issue Christine Johnson and William Leslie announce another new service that our Society is pleased to offer. It is called "Family History Services". Be sure to read about it and take advantage of the service. We hope it will be helpful to all of you in one way or another.

Also new is the Laurus Lesleana Compendium. The original Laurus Lesleana Explicata is extracted from Historical Records of the Family Leslie and, unfortunately for folks like me, printed in Latin. However, through the efforts of Barrie Leslie, Commissioner of Clan Leslie in Australia and New Zealand (CLANZ), and our own Tim Leslie, Historian and Council member of CLSI, we now have available an English translation called the Laurus Lesleana Compendium. We have it available on CD for \$10 U.S., including postage. We thank Barrie and Tim for their contribution to our knowledge of Clan Leslie. These are available for order now from Linda Flowers, CLSI Treasurer.

With my election as Chieftain, the Vice-Chieftain position became vacant. With the consent of the Council, and his acceptance, I have appointed Loren Leslie as Vice-Chieftain to fill the balance of the unfinished term, which runs through 2014. He is a long term member of the Society and a former member of the Council. Welcome Loren.

We must acknowledge David Leslie White's four years as our Clan Society Chieftain. He has contributed much time and effort in our behalf. His leadership has been of the first order. David, thank you very much. Again, with the consent of the Council, and his acceptance I have appointed him as an Ex-Officio member of the Council. We want to keep his knowledge and expertise readily available. So, David, thank you once again.

Clan Leslie Items From the Quartermaster, Peter M. Leslie

Clan Leslie items for sale are listed on our clan website, www.clanlesliesociety.org. Click on the Leslie Badges, Crests and Flags link. The list of items includes a description, price, and photo along with how to order. All prices are in \$US and include postage and packaging. The Clan Leslie items now available for sale are listed below.

1) **Grip Fast** - The Leslies in History, a beautifully hardbound book, detailing the Leslie clan from its inception (290 pages), authored by Alexander Leslie Klieforth and autographed by our Clan Chief, The Honourable Alexander Leslie. Price \$66.00

2) **Post Cards** - Two styles. One style contains King Malcolm's promise to Bartolf and the origination of our clan name; and the other style provides open space for your personal notes. Please specify which style you prefer. \$5.00 for a package of 25 post cards.

3) **Grip Fast Pin** - \$3.00 4) **Grip Fast Patch** - \$3.00

The post cards were developed by Laura Messing and can be used by members to tell family and friends of upcoming Scottish events, to recruit prospective CLSI members and to help increase interest in all events Scottish. Also, a free packet of "giveaway" postcards is available for those Convenors/Tent Hosts who host a CLSI tent.

Payment should be made to Linda Flowers, CLSI Treasurer, 302 SW 3rd, Tuttle, OK, 73089, USA.
lflowjingo@sbcglobal.net



Attention to All Members of Clan Leslie: Family History Search

The CLSI Council has approved a new Family History Search Committee. The purpose of this committee is to assist members in getting started or continuing with their family history search. The member requesting assistance must complete their Ancestry Chart for at least two generations, and preferably three generations (to grandparents or great grandparents). Information should include (as much as possible) the full name of the ancestor, the name and any information on the ancestor's spouse, the date and location born, the date and location married, and the date and location of death. Some of this information can come from relatives, newspaper clippings, obituaries, family Bibles, etc.

Once the member has collected this information and completed the Record of Ancestors form, it can be sent: for new members (anyone who has joined CLSI in the past year) to William Leslie at w.leslie@rogers.com or for existing/long-standing members to Christine Johnson at cejohnson@triad.rr.com. You should indicate who you are looking for (great-great grandmother, etc.) or the person who is your "brick wall" and where they might have lived. One of the committee members will then commence a search and try to identify two or three additional generations. That information will be returned to the requesting member, who is then expected to continue the search on his own. This assistance is intended to get members started or to get through that "brick wall" and pointed in a direction that needs to be pursued.

The researchers will be using Ancestry.com to do the searches and those who do not have this program can access it through a local library or Mormon Family History Center to follow up on the searches. This is a free assistance service, and is not intended to be a completion of your family tree. The information given will be suggestions and in no way will be certified as uncontroversially authentic.

Any members who are experienced in family history research, have an Ancestry.com membership, and would like to help are encouraged to volunteer for this committee.

William Leslie and Christine Johnson

				Ancestor Father Name: Born: Place: Married: Place: Died: Place: Occupation:	
				Ancestor Mother Name: Born: Place: Married: Place: Died: Place: Occupation:	
Ancestor Name: Born: Married: Place: Occupation:		Ancestor Father Name: Born: Place: Married: Place: Died: Place: Occupation:			
		Ancestor Mother Name: Born: Place: Married: Place: Died: Place: Occupation:		Ancestor Father Name: Born: Place: Married: Place: Died: Place: Occupation:	
				Ancestor Mother Name: Born: Place: Married: Place: Died: Place: Occupation:	

Get Ready for the Gathering!

Clan Leslie Society International
2014 Biennial Gathering
Grandfather Mountain Highland Games
July 10-13, 2014

Clan Leslie will be the Honored Clan



Calling CLSI Members

Please join fellow kinsmen at the largest highland gathering in the US; Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, to celebrate our Scottish and Irish heritage. Western North Carolina is reminiscent of the highlands of Scotland and is the heart of where thousands of our ancestors settled.

If you have never attended these games, then this is the event you will not want to miss!

Best Regards,
The GMHG Biennial Gathering Committee



A Comprehensive Guide to Planning your trip to the 2014 CLSI Gathering at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games

The Games

The Grandfather Games are considered America's grandest Highland Games because of the spectacular mountain setting that is so reminiscent of Scotland. Put the spectacular scenery together with a gathering of over one hundred clan tents and you have an experience to cherish.

There is world class piping and athletics along with music and highland dancing. On Friday night, the Celtic Jam highlights traditional and contemporary Celtic music at MacRae Meadows and on Saturday night the Celtic Rock Concert serves up encore performances from some of the higher energy bands. All of these groups perform during daylight hours at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games' Celtic Groves.

The games are a nonprofit entity separate from Grandfather Mountain. The purpose of the event, now in its 58th year, is to celebrate Gaelic culture, especially Scottish music, dance, athletics and heritage. It is one of the most popular Scottish heritage events in the world, attracting roughly 30,000 to MacRae Meadows and a satellite site at Lees-McRae College in nearby Banner Elk. (Charlotte Observer)



**Information about
GMHG is located online
at <http://www.gmhg.org/>**

Lodging

The Best Western Mountain Lodge in Banner Elk has been selected as the host hotel and will be the location of all of the CLSI events. A block of rooms has been reserved under Clan Leslie. Breakfast is included in the room cost and the rooms are immaculate.

The rates for our block of rooms is \$145.00 plus taxes for Friday and Saturday nights, \$89.99 plus taxes for Thursday night. If staying Sunday night the cost reverts back to \$89.99 plus taxes.

Visit the hotel's web site for full information about the hotel and the Banner Elk area.
See: <http://www.bestwesternbannerelk.com/>



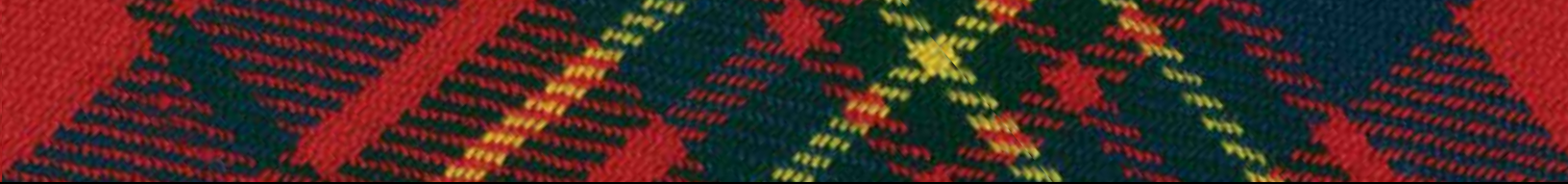
With the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games being such a large event, room availability close to the games is at a premium. The manager has worked to provide the best pricing. With the flexible group meeting rooms they have available, this Best Western is able to economically accommodate any size of group function.

Best Western Banner Elk
1615 Tynecastle Highway
Banner Elk, NC 28604
828-898-4571

An alternative lodging is available for families and larger groups through the Four Seasons at Beech. The 4 Seasons is located about 4 miles past the Best Western at the top of Beech Mountain at an elevation of nearly 5,000 feet. This option is self-catering for breakfast.

<http://www.beechgetaway.com/rentals-slideshow-4Seasons.html>





Gathering Events

Tickets

While the dates indicate that the games are Thursday through Sunday, there is only sheep herding demonstrations and the calling of the clans torchlight ceremony at 9:30 pm Thursday. With this in mind, we have arranged for tickets for Thursday through Sunday. Your tickets, welcome information, and program will be available for pickup at the CLSI information table in the Best Western lobby.

Thursday Evening Informal Get Together

For anyone arriving early to take advantage of some of the many outstanding activities available in the area, we will have an informal get together to relax after our travels and prepare for the weekend.

Friday Night Reception

On Friday 6-9 pm at the Best Western there will be a casual dress reception where everyone will have opportunity to visit with other members of CLSI while enjoying a lite buffet and drinks.

Grandfather Mountain Highland Games also has a Friday night reception and because Clan Leslie is the honored clan, the Honourable Alexander Leslie will attend this event. If you would like to attend the GMHG receptions tickets are \$55 per person, and ordering information is on the registration form included with this publication.

Group Photograph

On Saturday at 1 pm all CLSI attendees will gather at the CLSI hospitality tent for the group photograph. This photo will be available for downloading and printing as a memento of the occasion.

Chief's Banquet

The Chief's banquet will be held at the Best Western. At this time we will toast the outgoing Chieftain and welcome our new CLSI Chieftain. Wear your formal Scottish attire for an evening of music, reminiscing of past CLSI events, fine dining, and words from our Clan Chief the Honourable Alexander Leslie.

Sunday Morning Business Meeting

The Sunday morning business meeting will be held in the meeting room of the Best Western Lodge starting at 8:30. We will have coffee and pastries for the meeting. A tentative agenda for the meeting will be available in your welcome packet. Please see the Chieftain if you would like to add an agenda item. After the business meeting you are encouraged to go to the games and participate in the Parade of the Tartans at noon.

CLSI Tents

CLSI will have a clan tent for information about Clan Leslie and its Septs. Members are encouraged to spend a little time at the tent to provide information about CLSI projects and membership. We will also have a hospitality tent on the field side of clan row for CLSI members to relax, enjoy some refreshments and view the field events.

A Few Words About Parking

With so many people attending the GMHG parking is a challenge. Only clan tent hosts are permitted to park at the games field. Everyone else parks in designated parking in Linville and rides a shuttle bus to the games field. CLSI members are encouraged to carpool to games if possible. The ticket cost includes shuttle bus service at no additional charge.

Chaplain's Corner

Samantha Gray, Chaplain, CLSI

Magic, Myth and Mistletoe



Gentle Readers and Kinfolk, you have my profound apologies for deviating from our sequential topic this month. I was working on the next installment of our ancestors Rune Alphabet, but a brief trip to the Eastern Shore of Virginia to visit my daughter and son-in-law sidetracked me somewhat. I was, quite simply, surrounded by mistletoe. I am

an amateur gardener and botanist among other hobbies. I love plants, their origins, properties, uses, and lore. And being surrounded by trees full of a plant imbued with extraordinary history, the temptation was excessive and I decided at once to write about it. Our Celtic ancestors held plants to be gifts of the Divine for medicine and food, magic, daily use in creating necessities such as shelter and clothing, and for beautification of their physical selves and their surroundings. Plants provided essentials for humans and their animal companions alike. Some take a special place in the history of a specific branch of Celts; shamrocks for the Irish, thistles for the Scots, daffodils for the Welsh, and so forth. Some plants were treated as special by all, and mistletoe was one of these.

Mistletoe is an evergreen plant having many species across the world, including such far away places as Australia. In North America the most common species is *Phoradendron serotinum* and is essentially found in the northeast of the USA. It differs from the plants our ancestors knew in Europe, *Viscum album*, by thicker, shorter leaves and more berries per cluster. Like mistletoes the world over, it is partially parasitic, spread by birds, and grows by sending tiny structures into the bark and upper layers of wood of its host to avail itself of the nutrients and water found there. Mistletoe grows on many trees and even plants such as cactus, but prefers apple and oak, two of the Druidic "Nine Sacred Trees". It grows best in moderate to warm climates. While mistletoe may harm or deplete a tree and require pruning out to save it, it also encourages biodiversity because so many birds and animals are attracted to it and either use the berries for food or nest in it.

To the ancient peoples of Scotland and England especially, mistletoe had spiritual meanings, and was tolerated and even revered in their woods. It was gathered by the Druids with much ceremony, cut with a golden scythe and caught in a white linen

sheet so it never touched the ground. One of the folk names of mistletoe is "elf arrow" or "elf bolt" because it was believed that mistletoe grew in the tree tops due to elves shooting arrows made of its woody stems which then grew roots in the places where they struck. Mistletoe was reported to be planted by special lightning, believed to have been sent by the Gods, because what other bolt could strike the tree, and leave a living plant, without burning the branches? Having a piece of mistletoe in the home, or in a tree outside of it, ensured safety from lightning strikes in storms and good health for all who lived there. To the Vikings, who carried their beliefs to the northern isles and the northeast coast of Scotland, the waxy, white berries were called "Freya's Tears". Freya, the Norse Goddess of love and beauty, was distraught when her favorite son, Balder - the "Good God" who loved and cared for humans - was killed by an arrow made of mistletoe. When she wept for him, her tears turned into small white berries which clung to the plant thus preserving Balder's memory through Freya's motherly love and grief. Druids believed mistletoe promoted fertility, protection and healing, and used it as a symbol of peaceful truce - a healing of enmities - which led to the "kiss of peace" under the mistletoe as noted by Pliny the Elder in his chronicles of the Druids during his sojourn in Great Britain. This custom gained romantic connotation centuries later, and it was usual to pick off one berry for each kiss taken. When the berries ran out, the romance came to a halt...at least beneath that particular bit of plant. Is it any wonder why we no longer remove berries after hanging up our mistletoe? By tradition, real once-live mistletoe decorations must never be burned or tossed out in the trash, but once dead they must be placed outside on the ground or in a bush and allowed to disintegrate in the weather, lest bad luck befall whoever discards it disrespectfully.

The Druids had the right of it, it appears, when it comes to the berries healing properties. Alone they are poison if ingested as they are, and cause severe gastrointestinal symptoms. When using mistletoe in the home it is best to keep it well up and out of the reach of small children who may look on the berries as a possible tasty snack. But botanical pharmaceutical research shows that mistletoe has a strong anti-cancer property which is currently being explored as a possible 'arrow' in the prescriber's arsenal. Experimental medicines such as Iscar and Helixor have been shown to have good efficiency and produce less side effects such as fatigue. More rigorous research is needed before these medicines can come into general use, but they offer much promise. Mistletoe is now being researched as a potential medicine for lowering blood pressure as well.

“Lang May Your Lum Reek”

Finally, in the Rune Calendar (which we will continue) Mistletoe is given its own day out of the entire year: December 23rd. It is a plant of mystery and magic, healing and folk lore. Looking up into the green and tangled leafy masses in the trees on the Delmarva Peninsula, and remembering that when I was a kid, rather than a golden scythe and linen sheet, the method of harvesting this fascinating plant was often the keenest eye in the neighborhood with a 12 gauge, I considered the changes in attitude centuries can make. Mistletoe still holds us in its thrall no matter the passage of time. We may favor it for different reasons than our ancestors did, but mistletoe will always be special; it has put its roots into our collective memory as fast and as firmly as if we were apple and oak trees. New Year's wishes and blessings to all our far flung Leslie Clan!



JUST A NOTE FROM YOUR CHAPLAIN

Hello, Everyone! When I was appointed to the Chaplain's position some years ago, I was delighted to be asked to serve in that capacity. As so many of you know, I am both a minister and a nurse practitioner. As such I see with the entire spectrum of human life, pre-cradle to post-grave. Once I was appointed, it became my privilege to condole losses in our greater Leslie/Sept Family. The loss of one of us is a loss to all of us, although we are separated by many miles and time zones. The birth of a child to our Family is cause to rejoice. The illness of a member is a cause for concern and outreach. And birthdays certainly deserve a word of celebration! “What a piece of work is man” (and woman, although Shakespeare tossed us in with the boys...)! So a few years ago I asked for everyone's birthday - day and month ONLY - so it could be included in Grip Fast. It's delightful to wish long life to our members. I ask that if you have not provided your birthday on your membership form - or have not seen your special day listed under the column “Lang May yer Lum Reek” - that you provide your birthday in an email to me at Riognach@aol.com.

Day and month only, please, unless you wish to supply the year as well. But I don't post those and never will. It will be our little secret!

Rev. Samantha

“Lang May Yer Lum Reek” wishes life long enough to tend one's hearth for many, many years. its literal translation is “Long may your chimney smoke.” We celebrate the January birthdays of the following CLSI members and wish them great health and happiness in their personal year to come! 1/1 - Kristin Ingersol and William Leslie; 1/6 - Robert Leslie; 1/7 Robyn Leslie, James Leslie, and Alexander Lesley; 1/12 - Laura Messing; 1/16 - Timothy Abernathy and Leslie Plude; 1/20 - Robert Leslie; 1/22 Diane Sadler; 1/24 - Karen Engle and Norma Johnson; 1/25 - Josephine Gordon and Gale Walker; 1/26 - Robert Bailey; 1/27 - Bertha Vanderbloeman; 1/30 - Mabel Schwartz. And a Happy 255th Birthday to Rabbie Burns. We still read and love your poetry! Slainte'!

Correction to the Bannockburn Event in Toronto

In the Nov. - Dec. issue of Grip Fast On Line, I mistakenly reported that a Bannockburn event would be held in July of 2014. The correct date is Saturday, June 21st 2014. More details will follow as they become available. There are commemorations planned for both the afternoon and the evening, and they are shaping up to be very, very interesting. To see the progress of plans as they unfold, watch for them at <http://www.standrews-society.ca/>

Yours aye,
Robert Leslie,
Acton, ON

CLAN LESLIE TENTS

Aberdeenshire, Scotland – David Leslie from Leslie
Iowa – Chris Chamberlin
Kansas – Tom Huxtable
Michigan – David Leslie from Canton
North Carolina and Virginia – Lew and Christine Johnson
North East USA – Laura Messing
Oklahoma – Linda Flowers
Southern and Central Ontario, Canada – William Leslie
Southern California – Susan Abernethy
Texas – Frank and Lynne Leslie
Washington – Steve Olling

Now's the Day and Now's the Hour

They gave so much. Will you give something too? The founders of our Society have given each of us so much. Just think of the rich history in *Grip Fast: The Leslies in History*, the countless articles in the *Grip Fast* newsletters, the 17 issues of *The Griffin*, the re-edited history in four volumes of *The Griffin Reprints*. Ian Leslie and Alexander Leslie Klieforth started with nothing but a vision of a society that would bring together hundreds of Leslies, Abernathys, Laings, Cairneys, Moores and Bartholomews in kinship, to research, write and publish hundreds of articles by and about our ancestors and Scotland. To record the scattering of our kin across the globe in the Scottish diaspora. And to bring together volunteers to perform the vital functions of a society. We have an obligation to preserve and protect the vision of our founders.

Both of these distinguished men are deceased now. It is time for us to honor their memory and their gifts to all of us. The Council has approved, and with the approval of the board of the Chapel of the Garioch, the commissioning of an oak baptismal font with the name of our founders on a plaque on the side of this font. As Ian and Alexander brought new life to our Society, the font will be used to bring new life into the Church.

The final estimate is in for the oak memorial font to honor the founders of our Society, The Right Honourable Ian Leslie, 21st. Earl of Rothes, Chief of Clan Leslie and Alexander Leslie Klieforth, our first Commissioner and Chieftain. The estimate is about \$3,300 US, depending on the currency exchange rate when the order is placed. So far your generous support has contributed \$2,100 toward this goal. Every donation helps, and we need the support of every member to successfully complete this project.

Your support of the new Leslie's Cross for the Battle of Harlaw Commemoration was outstanding! Our Society raised over \$14,000 as our first major project. Now we need to do it again on a smaller scale with our Memorial Font Fund to purchase a oak baptismal font for the Chapel of the Garioch (Leslie Chapel of North East Scotland) with a plaque on the side honoring the founders of our Society. So please, I am counting on you to donate.

There is, in our Society, a greatness and a tremendous heritage of our past. And because that greatness is still there we need affirm that greatness and honor our founders. Please give your renewed support and join in the effort to honor our founders.

Please send your donations to our treasurer, Linda Flowers, at 302 SW 3rd., Tuttle OK 73089 and mark your check for the "Founders Font Project." You may also pay by PayPal to **LFLOWERS1954@YAOO.COM** or pay by Visa, MasterCard or Discover.



Donors

Don and Janice Abernathy
Bob Bailey
Damon Burns
Adam Flowers
Linda Flowers
David Leslie from Leslie
Gloria Klieforth
Brian and Petra Lesslie
David Leslie White
Samantha Gray
Laura Messing

Stephen K. Leslie
Bonnie Simmons
Leslie Weaver
Bonnie Rudnisky
Robert E. Leslie
Dale S. Young
Lois Leslie
Julia Lessley Elliott
Dr. Duncan Moore
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Tom and Sherry Huxtable
Lewis and Christine Johnson
Donald Leslie
William and Sue Leslie
Rosemary Leslie
Barrie Leslie, Australia
Malcolm Leslie, Australia
Tim Leslie
Dr. Nelson and Lady
Patricia Ying of Balquhain
Robert E. and Dorothy Leslie

Pat Leslie Trachier
Craig W. Leslie
Gale Walker
Susan Abernethy, Tara Pool,
Joshua and Frederick
Persons
G. David and Carolyn Lessley
Dr. Loren Leslie

In Memorium

Dale Sawyer Young

DALE SAWYER YOUNG, age 74, of 8 East State Street, Mount Morris, NY, 14510, died peacefully Monday December 16, 2013 at her home. She was born the daughter of Edwin "Eddie" and Pauline (Bassett) Sawyer on December 11, 1939 in Ithaca, NY. She married Roger T. Young on May 9, 1959. Prior to her retirement in 1991 she was employed as the Deputy Village Clerk of Mount Morris for over 10 years. She was a member of the United Church of Mount Morris and the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

She is survived by her loving husband of over 54 years Roger; 2 sons Robert (Deborah) Young of Tennessee, and Bruce (Elizabeth) Young of Canandaigua; daughter-in-law Jennifer Young of California, 3 grandchildren Sarah, Benjamin and Devin; sister Dyann (William) Weikert of Williamsville; several nieces, nephews and many dear and loving friends. She was predeceased by her son Andrew in 2006.

Memorial Services were held at the United Church of Mount Morris with Pastor Jerry Swain officiating. Interment Mount Morris Cemetery. Arrangements by the JOHN W. MARTIN FUNERAL HOME, 37 Chapel Street, (Route 408), Mount Morris. Memorials may be made to United Church of Mount Morris. Sign the online registry at www.johnwmartinfuneralhome.com



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Clan Leslie Items for Sale

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Add a pop of color and Leslie pride to your office! We are pleased to offer these Leslie mouse pads featuring the beautiful Dress Leslie tartan and our clan crest. These high quality mouse pads are only \$18, so you can Grip Fast while doing your work, surfing the web (or reading the *Grip Fast Online*).



Clan Leslie Christmas Ornaments – IT’S NOT TOO LATE!

If you didn’t get a chance to purchase your limited edition Clan Leslie 2013 ornament don’t fret! We still have some in stock. These ornaments can be displayed year round—not just at Christmas. The first one in the series features the words “Clan Leslie and 2013” on one side and the Clan Leslie crest on the other. Ornaments are \$15 which includes shipping. We are very excited about these ornaments and they will make a wonderful addition to your Clan Leslie collection.



Griffin Reprints (See Page 15)

How to Order

To order any of these very special Leslie items, contact **Linda Flowers**, lflowjingo@sbcglobal.net, 405-381-3577.

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Clan Leslie Society International Scholarships

CLSI is offering scholarships to our members. We have two different types of scholarships. One is an academic scholarship valued at \$250. The deadline for the next scholarship is November 30 with the award of one scholarship being made on January 15. The second type of scholarship is for Scottish or Celtic Programs. The amount of this scholarship is \$200 and can be applied for any time. It will cover things such as bagpiping camp, dance, the arts, etc. The person applying for all scholarships must be a member or inceptor member of CLSI. For more information contact:

Linda Flowers, CLSI Scholarship Committee, lflowjingo@sbcglobal.net

Griffin Reprints Available

Alexander Leslie Klieforth was not only our first Commissioner and first Chieftain, he was also a prodigious researcher. The early issues of Grip Fast contained many articles that he wrote, and his wife Gloria was the editor. In addition to Grip Fast, in 1979 they published the first issue of a booklet titled The Griffin. The Griffin was conceived by Alec and the Right Honourable Ian Leslie, Lord Rothes, to be a publication on the history of the Leslies and the septs, and to broaden the knowledge of the membership about our ancestors and Scotland. Alec and Lord Rothes were the primary authors

I am amazed that these two gentlemen, along with some articles from the membership, were able to discover and research so much without the benefit of computers and the Internet. Nevertheless, they managed to produce seventeen issues, the last issue being 1997-98. The last page of this issue contained "An Afterword" from Alec and Gloria, bidding farewell as the primary researcher and editor, but noting that the Clan Leslie Charitable Trust would be making the information available again in the future.

The best articles from The Griffin series were selected, and in some cases edited as appropriate, and republished in four volumes of The Griffin Reprints. These were published by the Clan Leslie Charitable Trust, printed in Edinburgh, and sold to the membership. The four volumes had the sub-titles of No. 1: The Clan Society, Some Leslie History and Heraldry; No. 2:

Some Leslie Places and Family Branches; No. 3: A Leslie Miscellany; and No. 4: The Diaspora America. These four booklets were priced at about \$17 each, sold out quickly, and have not been available for over ten years. The members who still have these Reprints treasure them.

The CLSI Council was concerned that our history was no longer available to the membership. After much consideration, we agreed to have these four volumes professionally scanned and the information recorded on a CD. This has been completed and is now available to the membership. I am exceedingly pleased that we can offer this CD of our history for \$30. The articles are excellent, and contain information that may no longer be available anywhere else.

To order the CD of The Griffin Reprints, please send a check drawn on a US bank, International Postal Money Order, or by Visa, MasterCard, and Discover to Linda Flowers, CLSI Treasurer, 302 SW 3rd, Tuttle, OK 73089 USA or contact her by email at lflowjingo@sbcglobal.com. If you pay by credit card, she needs the type of card, name on the card, card number, expiration date, and the 3 digit CVS code on the back of the card. Linda also accepts payment by PayPal. In that case, use the email address lflowers1954@yahoo.com

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