

Grip Fast



Online

The Online Newsletter of Clan Leslie Society International

December, 2014

Happy Hogmanay!



Have you heard the wonderful news?

After a great Clan Leslie Gathering at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games this past July, a decision has been made that in 2016, our next bi-annual gathering will be held in Fergus, Ontario, Canada. We will be gathering at the time of the Fergus Highland Games.

Mark your calendar now! The Fergus Games will run from Friday, August 12th to Sunday August 14th in 2016. Planning is in the early stages and further details will be announced as they become available.

The Fergus Highland Games are the oldest 3 day Highland Games event in North America. They were started in 1946 by Alex Robertson and typically 30,000 spectators descend on the town's population of 20,000 to celebrate all things Scottish. To learn more about the games, please have a look at their website www.fergusscottishfestival.com

William Leslie, Linda Flowers, Laura Messing and I look forward to moving forward with planning for this next fun gathering.

Yours aye,

Robert Leslie, Acton, Ontario

Fun Fact:

The Beaver is the national animal of Canada.



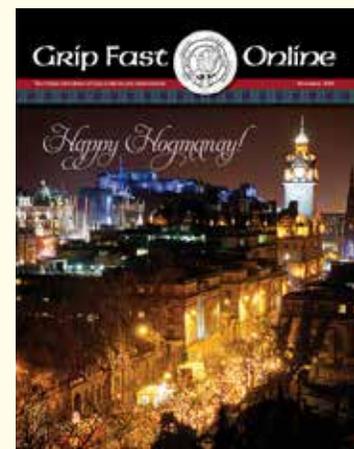
*Happy Hogmanay
to All!*

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ABOUT THE COVER

Torchlight Procession, Edinburgh.
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American Scots – *Book Review by David Leslie White*

In the May 2013 issue of Grip Fast Online, I reviewed the book *To the Ends of the Earth* by T. M. Devine. I gave Mr. Devine (now Sir Tom Devine) an F for his book since, in my opinion, he completely failed to grasp the sense of heritage most Americans have, as we are an immigrant nation. He seemed to treat those celebrating their Scottish heritage as some sort of infantile game played by children. Further, most of his information seemed to have been derived from other people's work.

Thankfully, there is a new book out titled *American Scots: The Scottish Diaspora and the USA* by Dr. Duncan Sim, and published by Dunedin Academic Press, Edinburgh, 2011. Dr. Sim is a professor of Sociology at the University of the West of Scotland. Unlike T. M. Devine's work, Dr. Sim has conducted many interviews with Americans who celebrate their Scottish heritage. His book is an interesting "study of how American Scots relate to their 'home' and an insight into how those in Scotland perceive those Scots who are now abroad." As a bit of background, Dr. Sim attended the July 2014 Grandfather

Mountain Scottish Festival and participated in the Caucus on Thursday.

Dr. Sim does elaborate on the use of the word 'diaspora' in connection with the spread of Scots across the globe. 'Diaspora' is derived from the Greek word "to scatter" or "to sow." Others may argue for a better word, but I agree with Dr. Sim that 'diaspora' is almost certainly the most appropriate term for the spread of Scots. He has chapters on the Scottish Communities in America, Scottish Expatriate Organizations, Maintaining a Scottish Identity, the Relationship With Modern Scotland, Cherishing the Diaspora, and his Conclusions.

Although this book seems primarily intended for others in academics, it does hold my interest. Dr. Sim seems to have a good grasp of why Americans celebrate their Scottish heritage, and I can recommend this book for those who are interested in this topic. The book is not available in the USA, but can be purchased through Amazon for a cost of about \$50 US.

George Ludwig Dorsch 1938 – 2014 Baron of Leslie

George Ludwig Dorsch was born on the 25th August, 1938, in a rural area of Bavaria, Germany, to parents who ran a business in agriculture, wholesaling horseradish, and carp reared in ponds.

He grew up through the period of the Second World War and attended school in the difficult years following the war. On completing his education George was 'called up' to join the then West German Air Force.

After completing his National Service, George started up a retail business in the German carpet and floor covering market and worked for the company as Purchasing Manager being instrumental in developing the business into the biggest chain in Germany with 140 outlets.

During the course of business he travelled to Belgium, France, Denmark and Scotland. However, George was especially attracted to Scotland and fell in love with the wonderful landscapes, flora, fauna, the warmth of the Scottish people and their culture and history.

As George's interest grew on Scotland, he started to visit the country on holiday and toured the area extensively finally deciding to look for and buy an estate to spend the autumn of his life there.

Over a long period of years he looked for a suitable home, finally finding Leslie Castle which turned out to be exactly what he was looking for.

During his frequent business trips, George made many long term friends with business associates. Sometimes, they would

invite him to hunt in Belgium and Scotland. He found these occasions not only adventurous but unforgettable.

This experience led him to rent a hunting area of 614 hectares in Germany where he hunted over a period of 18 years with his many friends. George enjoyed having friends to stay and loved to spoil them with good food, excellent wine and conversation, all provided in a cosy atmosphere.

Apart from his properties in Germany, Switzerland and Scotland, George often stayed in his home in Arizona, USA. He loved the warm climate and enjoyed planning tours with relatives and friends to scenic sights, Indian reservations, vineyards and wineries.

George knew his wines and spirits and was a connoisseur specialising in wine and Scottish whiskies and was an excellent host to all his guests.

He was a proud member of the Convention of the Baronage of Scotland and at the meetings enjoyed good conversation with interesting, informative people on his favourite subject of Scottish History and in his spare time read extensively on the subjects of Scottish Castles, Heritage and History and visited many historic places of interest.

George intended to move permanently from Germany to Leslie.

George passed away suddenly in the arms of Margit Brautigam, his partner of 20 years, on the 27th November, 2014 in his home in Switzerland.

CLSI Tents at Scottish Events

Central Virginia Celtic Festival and Highland Games Richmond, Virginia October 25-26, 2014

It was a very brisk morning Saturday morning as we hung our banners and set up our tent in preparation for greeting the hundreds of people who would visit the clan tents during the highland games. We were warmed by sips of Irish coffee and the pipers playing familiar tunes near the piping competition tents. As the day progressed, the temperatures rose into the upper 60s while we were busy greeting visitors and listened to a wide array of Celtic music.

Dane and Dye Gay co-hosted the tent with us with Dane taking pictures and posting to Facebook so other CLSI members could share in the day's events. We greatly appreciated their help during the two days. To our surprise, John Leslie from Florida saw the posting on Facebook and drove up to Virginia with his wife Pat to join us at the games. Stephen Leslie with his wife Pattye, and daughter Marta from Waynesboro, VA stopped to investigate Clan Leslie and joined CLSI.

In our tent we have something for all sorts of interests, Clan Leslie information and Leslie history, Scotland travel with maps and brochures, family tree information, Leslie castles, and whisky bottle canisters with information on the whisky trail.

Lewis R. Johnson, Ed. D.
Greensboro, NC 27455



Lew, Chris, Dane, Dye and John

Chaplain's Corner

Samantha Gray, Chaplain, CLSI

Gabriel, Michael, Raphael: Archangels Among Us



While considering what to write for the Dec. - Jan. issue of Grip Fast Online, I was listening to one of those annoying "commercial carols" that happened to be on my car radio. By that I mean this carol was recorded only to increase the appeal - and hence the sale - of an album of holiday songs, most secular and a few of religious nature.

The particular carol playing was a souped up pop star's rendition of "Oh Little Town of Bethlehem", but the lines "We hear the Christmas Angels their great glad tidings tell..." resonated with me and I began to research angels. First, I looked for angels directly related to Scotland. As Michael Archangel is the specific angel of Israel, I hoped to find which angel might be tasked with keeping Scotland on course. I'm not done looking, but so far Scotland seems to be under a very general angelic protection like most nations. But that got me to thinking about angels in a broader sense. I could not find statistics for Scottish or Canadian belief in angels but according to a CBS news poll conducted in 2011, 80% of the Americans questioned stated they were believers. Many said they had had direct encounters with angelic beings. Well, then!...Three angels are mentioned in the Bible and Apocrypha by name - Michael, Raphael and Gabriel - yet only Michael and Gabriel are mentioned in the New Testament. And Gabriel, of course, is the messenger who begins the life story of Jesus with the annunciation to Mary, so it seemed appropriate to write about Gabriel and his colleagues in this holiday edition of Grip Fast. Gabriel is mentioned by name in many religions and is called an archangel since it is written in several religious texts that he 'stands before the throne of God' which only archangels may do. He is therefore, by tradition, considered an archangel although the Bible does not confer this title directly. Gabriel's name means "God is my strength" and his appointed function is to be the chief messenger of God. Although angels have no gender, when Gabriel appears to humans he appears as a man in shining clothes; humans often react to his dazzling light with fear or consternation and each time he appears he is quoted as telling people not to be afraid of him (And the angel said unto Mary "Fear not..." Luke 1:30). In some religious traditions, Gabriel is female; According to the Latter Day Saints, Gabriel was

Noah in a mortal life. In Islam, Gabriel is called Jibray'il or Jibril and is believed by Muslims to have dictated the Koran to Mohammed. The Ba'hai faith sees Gabriel as a messenger and also refers to him as Jibreel. In Roman Catholic, Anglican/Episcopal and Eastern Orthodox faiths, Gabriel is referred to as a saint; his original saint's day was March 24, then it was moved to the more general St. Michael and All Angels celebration on September 29th. Yet his special day is also celebrated throughout the world on dates as varied as December 8th and July 15 depending on which religious tradition one practices. Gabriel is the patron of all in communications careers, speech writers and frequent travelers. Gabriel's symbolic flower is the lily (fleur d' lis) although he carries an olive branch to betoken peace. Michael, whose name means "One who is God-like", is the warrior angel who cast down Lucifer ("Light-bearer") and a third of the heavenly host who followed Lucifer in his rebellion towards God. Michael is often depicted slaying a dragon, the symbol of Satan, wearing dark armor and carrying a sword of light. (Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. Rev. 12:8) Michael is addressed as a saint in almost all Christian traditions, and his day is September 29th. He is mentioned as directly intervening on behalf of the people of Israel and so is that nation's specific protector. He is named as an archangel in both Old and New Testaments, and has a special place at God's right hand, while Gabriel stands on God's left. Jehovah's Witnesses and Seventh Day Adventists believe that Michael is the name of Jesus Christ in Heaven; Latter Day Saints believe that Michael is the perfected Adam. Muslims mention Gabriel several times, but name Michael (Mikail) only once in the Koran as the angel who gives rewards to the righteous while they are still living. Michael's functions are caring for nations in general, leading the Army of God against Satan's forces, conducting souls safely to heaven and also bringing healing and safety to sufferers under his wings. He is the patron of all who fight evil such as police and soldiers. It is interesting that Michael was originally a healing angel, since that is the primary role of the third of the best known angel trio, Raphael, whose name means "God Heals". He appears only in the Book of Tobit which most Protestant churches do not accept as part of their canons. His function was to bind and bury a demon in a deep desert abyss, and to heal Tobit of his blindness. He is written of in Tobit as standing before God's throne with several other angels, and is called an archangel because of this. In Islam, Raphael is called Israfil. Raphael is often depicted in green lin-

en robes, carrying a leafy branch or a sprouting staff. He is the patron of all healers, pilgrims, and the blind. In the late middle ages, Roman Catholic sailors claimed St. Raphael as their special protector. Before inclusion in the All Angels celebration of September 29th, Raphael's special day was October 24th. He is considered a saint in Roman Catholic, Anglican/Episcopal and in Eastern and Greek orthodox traditions. Angels - regardless of what we each actually believe them to be - are powerful symbols of Divine presence and interaction with human life in a tangible form. Angelic beings throughout history in every culture have been sent to help, heal, intercede, protect, instruct, admonish, announce, comfort and bless humans. They are a reminder that we are constantly surrounded by Grace and Light, which can illuminate our lives if we will only allow it to do so. Peace, contentment, much happiness and many blessings for the winter holidays according to your family's celebrations: Hanukkah, Christmas, the Solstice and Hogmanay. May 2015 bring you health, joy, the best and sweetest of all things...and an angel on your shoulder!

Rev. Samantha Gray, Chaplain

“Lang May Your Lum Reek”

“Lang may yer lum reek!” is an old birthday wish dating back to peat fires and crofter's cottages. It meant “Long may your chimney smoke”, and was a wish that the recipient live to tend his or her own hearth fire a long time. It is your Chaplain's privilege and pleasure to wish all members of CLSI with December and January birthdays a very happy and healthy year indeed.

December: 12/1 – Dr. Peggy Allan and Samuel Reid; 12/2 – Sharan Eastwood and Brian Lesslie; 12/3 – Dr. Matthew Allan; 12/4 – Mark Abernathy; 12/7 – Duncan Moore, Sandi Moore and Max White-Vilmouth; 12/9 – Beryl Leslie and Robert Leslie; 12/11 – Christine Johnson and Dale Young; 12/12 – Vicki Dodson; 12/16 – Harriet Esham; 12/25 – Nathan Carlson and Dr. G. Allan Heimann; 12/26 – Elizabeth Henry and Richard Leslie; 12/27 – Petra Lesslie; 12/28 – Nena McNeely; 12/29 – Russell Lessly; 12/30 – Stephen Leslie; 12/31 – Troy More

January: 1/1 – Kristin Ingersoll and William Leslie; 1/6 – Robert Leslie; 1/7 – 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 and Poet Robby Burns of fond memory; 1/26 – Robert Bailey



Long-time member Craig Leslie at the Orillia Scottish Festival in 2002.

Clan Leslie Items for Sale

Clan Leslie Mouse Pads

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*).



Griffin Reprints (see details next page)



Clan Leslie Items

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.



How to Order

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

We accept the following forms of payment:

Checks

Money Orders

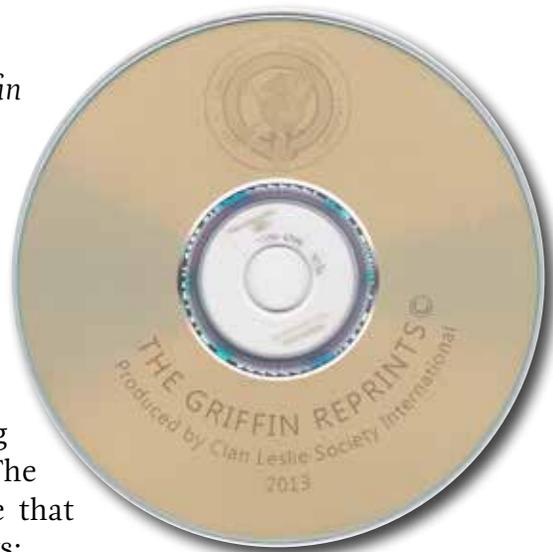
PayPal to the email address lflowers1954@yahoo.com

Credit Cards: Visa, MasterCard, and Discover.

If paying by credit card, please include the card type, card number, name on card, expiration date, and 3 digit security code.

GRIFFIN REPRINTS AVAILABLE

Some of you will remember the four volumes of *The Griffin Reprints* that were published by The Clan Leslie Charitable Trust many years ago. These four volumes contained the best articles from the 17 volumes of *The Griffin*, the historical journal of the Clan Leslie Society, and had been reedited by The Right Honourable Ian Leslie, 21st. Earl of Rothes and Alexander Leslie Klieforth. These reprints were sold by the Clan Leslie Society to the membership for about \$17 each, and they sold out quickly. We have had these four volumes professionally scanned and recorded on a CD. I am exceedingly pleased that we can offer this CD of our history for \$30. The articles are excellent and contain information about Clan Leslie that is not available anywhere else. The index to the contents is as follows:



No. 1:

The Clan Society, Some Leslie History and Heraldry

History:

Introduction
The Clan Leslie Society Badge
Purposes of the Society
The Genesis and Founding of the Society
Chief of the Clan Leslie
Commissioner for the United States
The Founding of Clan Leslie
A Brief History
Bartholomew, Hungarian or Flemish?
St. Margaret of Scotland – A Book Review
The Mystery of Sir David Leslie
Leslies and the Jacobite Rising
Decline of the Family
Military Tradition

Heraldry:

A Brief History of Heraldry
The Language of Heraldry
Arms and the Blazon
Heraldry: Types of Leslie Arms
A Leslie Hatchment
Heraldry: Scottish Flags
The Scottish Clans
Cornets and Helmets
The Leslie Plant Badge

No. 2:

Some Leslie Places and Family Branches

Introduction:

Purposes of the Society
Map of Leslie Lands
The Restoration of Leslie Castle, Aberdeenshire
Balquhain Castle and Fetternear House
The Leslie Chapel at Fetternear
The Chapel of the Garioch
Pitcaple
The Battle of Harlaw
Ballinbreich
Balgonie Castle
The Old Church at Leslie in Fife
Leslie House, Fife
“The Auld Toon O’ Leslie”
Industry in Leslie
Glenrothes “New Town”
Suddie House, Ross-shire
Leslies in Ireland
The Leslies of Castle Leslie, Co. Monaghan
Leslie Hill Demesne
Leslies in Australia
Name of Choice in the U.S.A.
Leslies in the Argentine
Leslie Castles and Churches in Austria
Some Canadian Lesslies
Some Leslies in Norway
Leslies in Poland

No. 3:

A Leslie Miscellany

Introduction:

A Leslie Shield
Purposes of the Society
Branches of the Leslie Family
Leslies of that Ilk
Leslies: The Kininvie Branch
Leslies: The Wardis Branch
The Leslie Septs
Clan Leslie Septs: Abernethy
Clan Leslie Septs: Lang/Laing
Clan Leslie Septs: More
Clan Badges
The Leslie Tartan
The Leslie House Dance
The Griffin: The Leslie Heraldic Animal
The Clan Leslie Charitable Trust
The National Covenant, 1638
The King’s Own Scottish Borderers
The Royal Canadian Horse Artillery
Brig. Gen. E.M.D. Leslie, DSO, CD
A Leslie Curiosity
John Leslie and Silversmiths of Aberdeen
Lord Harold Birsay
Count Alexander Leslie de Lavallie Vergennes
Charles Alexander Leslie, Painter

No. 4:

The Diaspora America

Leslie’s Retreat
Leslies and the American War for Independence
The Burial of Capt: Leslie Panton, Leslie & Co.
Early Virginia Leslies
The Saga of the Leslie Family
An Early Branch in Pennsylvania
The Arkansas Leslies
The 1850 U.S. Census
A Leslie Family in Oklahoma Territory
American Descendants of an Aberdeenshire Leslie
The Wild West in Florida – Emory Leroy Lesley
How Many Leslies in the U.S.A.?

A Collection of Notable Leslies:

A Leslie in Space – Dr. Fred W. Leslie
Escape and Evasion – Lt. Dale M. Leslie
Admiral Maxwell F. Leslie
Admiral Murphy, 1899-1981
Peter Lesley – Geologist
The Saga of Buckskin Frank Leslie
John Lesley and the “Sultana”
Leroy G. Lesley
Eliza Leslie

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, or Discovery 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 (Visa, etc.) name as it appears on the card, card number, expiration date, and the 3 digit CVS

CLSI Officers Contact List

CLAN LESLIE

Chief of Clan Leslie

The Honourable Alexander Leslie
8 Buckingham Terrace
Edinburgh EH4 3AA
Scotland
alex.leslie@btinternet.com

Commissioner of Clan Leslie, North America

William Leslie
82 Tecumseth St.,
Orillia, Ontario, L3V 1Y2
Canada
Phone 705-326-6791
w.leslie@rogers.com

CLAN LESLIE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL ELECTED (COUNCIL) & APPOINTED OFFICERS

Chieftain

Thomas (Tom) Leslie Huxtable
118 S. Coach House Rd.
Wichita, KS, 67235, USA
Phone 316-721-0307
tshux@cox.net

Vice-Chieftain

Dr. Loren R. Leslie

4746 Cascade Beach RD.
Lutsen, MN, 55612-9518, USA
Phone 218-663-7622
lrakleslie@aol.com

Treasurer

Linda Flowers
302 SW 3rd,
Tuttle, OK, 73089, USA
Phone 405-381-3577
lflowjingo@sbcglobal.net

Secretary/ Registrar

Christine Johnson
1113 Foxhaven Drive,
Greensboro, NC 27455, USA
Phone 336-656-4971
cejohnson@triad.rr.com

Ex Officio

David Leslie White

Council

Bob (Robert C.) Bailey
6113 El Toro Court,
San Jose, CA, 95123, USA
Phone 408-224-1190
rcbailey3056@sbcglobal.net

Council

Samantha Leslie Gray ANPC
61 Robinson Avenue,
Glen Cove, NY, 11542-2944, USA
Phone 516-676-5719
riognach@aol.com

Council

Laura Messing
12 Dennis Dr.,
Burlington, MA 01803, USA
Phone 781-272-2065
designinvasion@gmail.com

Council

Robert Leslie
5124 Erin First Line, RR3
Acton, Ontario,
Canada L7J 2L9
Phone 519-856-4083
1832leslie@gmail.com

Council

Timothy W. Leslie
632 Clearbrook,
Azle, TX 76020, USA
Phone 817-764-0244
timothywleslie@gmail.com

Council

Don Abernathy
525 East St.
Albemarle, NC, 28001, USA
Phone 704-982-8253
dabernathy@ctc.net

Chaplain

Rev. Samantha Gray, ANPC
(See Council Address Listing)

Co-Editors, Publications Grip Fast, Journal of the CLSI, Griffin, Grip Fast Online

Linda Flowers
(See Council Address Listing)

Laura Messing
(See Council Address Listing)

Genealogist

Joan Leslie Eike
1227 Route 17C, Barton, NY,
13734, USA

Phone 607-972-8346
jleike@hotmail.com

Herald

Susan C. Abernethy
5643 Limerick Av.,
San Diego, CA, 92117-1526, USA
Phone 858-576-8293
sabernet@trexenterprises.com

Historian

Timothy W. Leslie
(See Council Address Listing)

Justiciar

S. Mark Weller
913 Aster Drive
Wapakoneta, OH 45895
Phone: 419-738-7064
Cell Phone: 419- 236-0947
smarkweller@gmail.com

Piper

Gale Walker
30 Calder Bay,
Winnipeg, Manitoba,
Canada, R3T 5L9
galew259@shaw.ca

Quartermaster

(Vacant)

Webmaster & Web Site

Laura Messing.
(See Council Address Listing)

Timothy W. Leslie
(See Council Address Listing)

Clan Leslie Society
International Web Site:
www.clanlesliesociety.org

REGIONAL CONVENORS

Canada (Vacant)
Central Region, USA (Vacant)

Europe/Asia
Brian Lesslie, Sr.
4 Albany Terr.
Perth PH1 2BD,
Scotland.
Phone 07138 563050

Mountain, USA

Jordan Hinckley
535 S 300 E #2,
Salt Lake City, UT 84111, USA
Phone 802-550-2080
dragonfyre99@gmail.com

NE, USA

Laura Messing
(See Council Address Listing)

Pacific NW, USA

Steve Olling
3909 - 242 Avenue SE,
Issaquah, WA 98029, USA
Phone 425-557-7672
ollings@comcast.net

Pacific SW, USA

(Vacant)

SW, USA

Frank W. Leslie
3432 Upton Drive,
Kempner, TX 76539-5032
Phone 254-577-7050
fleslie@hotmail.com

BRANCH PRESIDENTS

SE USA

Cathy Duling

Australia & New Zealand Commissioner

James Barrie Leslie, JP
Clan Leslie Society of Australia
and New Zealand (CLANZ)
43 Rosedale Road. Gordon
NSW 2072, Australia
JP. 61-2-9418-2262
lesliejb@ozemail.com.au

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