

Grip Fast Journal



The Newsletter of Clan Leslie Society International

April, 2014

An Invitation to Gather

See the full panoramic photo from the 1926 Leslie reunion, pages 3 & 4



LESLIE REUNION BLUE SPRINGS PARK - AUG 18 1926.

The Honourable Alexander Leslie, Chief of Clan Leslie

Title



The history of our clan is like the history of Scotland itself.

There is a joke about London buses – well, it is like a joke except not actually funny – that goes ‘the thing about London buses is that none arrive for hours and then three come along at once.’

In the same vein I have been interviewed by precisely no publications for years and then yesterday I get interviewed by two. In the morning I had a coffee with the Bureau Chief from the Russian State Broadcasting Company and in the afternoon I had a coffee with the Scots Heritage magazine. Hopefully the Russian President is not looking at Scotland the same way he looked at Crimea!

Chatting to the journalist from the Scots magazine was fascinating because he kept asking me whether I had any more interesting ancestors. And every time he asked, I dug up another from stories about our Clan.

In fact the draft of the article he wrote begins: ‘THE history of Clan Leslie reads like the history of Scotland itself.’

And it does.

From the arrival of Bartholomew in Scotland to the arrival of my great grandmother in New York after the sinking of the Titanic we have been there. Bartholomew was instrumental in moving the capital from Dunfermline to its current place and putting the castle on an impregnable hill. My great grandmother was instrumental in making sure that those poor souls in lifeboat number 8 survived.

We have had generals, Lord High Chancellors, Dukes, Admirals, farmers and builders as part of the background of our heritage. We have trained foreign armies – and met at the head of them in battle – we have travelled and been notorious across America and many other countries.

We should be proud – us Leslies.

Now, of course, we live in global yet local world, where instant communication is a given. This means that even though the clan does not live in the village below the castle, the sense of community is still there and, I think as strong as ever.

As I said to the nice man from the Scots Heritage magazine, ‘I think the importance and interest from outside Scotland in Scottish matters can never be underestimated – the further you go away from Scotland, the more excited you become about it.’ That is why I get excited about the Clan Society and look forward to every Gathering.

Alex Leslie

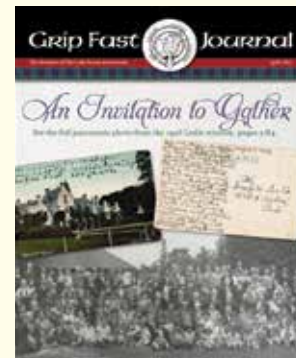
April, 2014

Contents

Message From Our Chief	1
In Memoriam	2
An Invitation to Gather	3-5
Wilderness Trails in Three Continents	6
Lionel Alistair David Leslie	7-8
Chaplain's Corner	9-10
CLSI News	10-12
Clan Leslie Items	13
CLSI Officers Contact List	14
Griffin Reprints	Back Cover

ABOUT THE COVER

Read all about the 1926 reunion of Leslies in Canada and join them as they gather again (details page 8)



© 2014 Clan Leslie Society International. All photos and graphics remain the property of the respective owners. Retransmission, distribution and manipulation strictly forbidden without consent from the author or owner of such. Any materials used from this publication for redistribution including broadcast must be credited to The Clan Leslie Society International.

In Memoriam



Sherry Huxtable



Like everyone involved in the Clan Society I was extremely sad to learn that Sherry Huxtable had passed away.

Although I only met in recent years, I remember her with great fondness. She was always kind and welcoming to me – fun and full of ideas. From the messages I have seen, I know she will be sorely missed by everyone who knew her.

Me very much included.

Alex Leslie,
Clan Chief



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 Warthill House. CLSI is making this priceless piece of Leslie history available on a convenient CD format.

The price is 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.



An Invitation to Gather

*Prepared and submitted by: Robert Leslie, Acton, Ontario,
g.g.g.g. grandson of John Leslie and Letty Ann Boke*

Well, I suppose this invitation is a little late – by 87 years, but here is an account of the gathering. During a visit by Mr. W.B. Leslie of Lakeland, Florida to the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. Pearen of Acton, Ontario, a reunion was planned for the descendants of John Leslie and Letty Ann Boke. The invitation shown on page 5 is a scanned image of one of the originals.

According to an account in the Georgetown Herald, Aug. of 1926, concerning the reunion and John Leslie, the following is quoted: “The Leslie Clan originally came from the parish of Lesslyn, but migrated to the county of Tyrone, Ireland, about 1650 where they engaged in farming. John Leslie, the subject of this sketch, served in the navy yards of George III as a ships rigger at Belfast, Ireland and Greenwich, England. He immigrated to America in 1819 where he stayed in New York State

for two years. While there, the British Consul granted him 300 acres in Peel County, Ontario, Canada, and he arrived at his new Peel county property in 1821.”^{1,2}

John and Letty Ann had four children: Margaret, John, George and James. Letty Ann died and with the help of his second wife, Catherine Sloan, a new and very successful life was carved out of the forest. The reunion was a gathering of their descendants.

At the time of the reunion a historical sketch of the Leslies was penned by Mr. James Grant of Bellwood, Ontario. His sketch was presented at the reunion, and also printed in the September 8th, 1926 edition of the Georgetown Herald³.

Because of the connection that Mr. Grant makes between this family of Leslies and the ancient Leslies of Scotland, excerpts from his work are presented in the following:



Following the 1926 reunion, Mr. Grant sent this postcard of Warhill House, to the brother of my g.g. grandfather:



The message on the postcard is as follows:

Aug. 28, 1926
To: Mr. J. W. Leslie,
R.R. 3, Acton, Ont.

Dear Sir

It gave me great pleasure to learn that my Leslie sketch pleased the great gathering of your kith and kin. I have been delighted too with the sight of the group photo of manly men and queenly women with plenty of healthy raw material to follow in the worthy footsteps of their forebearers in future years. The estate of Warhill in Wattle is 2 miles from my birth place in Aberdeenshire, Scotland and I think this pretty picture will please you.

Jas. Grant, R.R.5, Belwood (Ontario)



350 Leslies who attended the first reunion, Blue Springs Park, Aug. 26, 1926

Announcement—Leslie Reunion

On Wednesday, August 18th, 1926, at Blue Springs Park, (near Acton, Ont.) beginning at 11 o'clock a. m., will be held a picnic of the Leslie Clan. You and all the members of your family are cordially invited to be present. Please bring your basket. Dishes, Tea and Lemonade will be provided.

W. B. LESLIE,

Convener;

Lakeland:

Florida, U. S. A.

J. W. LESLIE,

Secretary;

Acton, R. R. 3:

Ontario.

How fortunate we are that Mr. Grant took the time and made the effort to put into writing his knowledge of the Leslie Family! The 1926 Leslie Reunion began a series of gatherings that were held every second year, the last being in 1993 at Rockwood Conservation Area, Rockwood, Ontario.

Scan of the actual 1926 gathering announcement.

"The writer of the foregoing notes may be allowed to close with a few words indicating his intimacy and knowledge of some of the members of the widespread Leslie family. He may say that here in Canada he has been fairly intimate with a score or so of them for more than fifty years, with their descendants. In fact, he had three of them for a time under him in his school in the hamlet of Shiloh, Eramosa Township, and for one full year, 1876, he boarded and lodged in one of their homes, and lived alongside of them for several years, and later still a closer intimacy has arisen, for we now have had a Leslie three years for a daughter-in-law, with her two bright baby girls, our grandchildren, in whom the Leslie blood mingles with our own. And in a word, the Leslies here with whom I have been closely acquainted, though now a greatly mixed race or family, have still many of the best characteristics of the originals of the race.

But I had an intimacy with some rather prominent members of the big family that goes further back than 50 years. The church which I attended and went to Sunday school as a boy in my own native parish of Rayne, with just one parish lying between it and the parish of Leslie, had around it, as is usual in Scotland, a little God's acre, closely packed with the graves of the numerous dead. Against the south side of the old church was built a prominent monument that at once arrested the attention of young and old. On the monument stood out, boldly carved in enduring stone, an arm and a hand holding tight a carved belt with a visible buckle, and beneath stood out in bold letters "Grip Fast", the arm with hand grasping the belt, with the words being the crest and motto of one prominent branch of the Leslie family. For also on the monument stands the words "Here lie the Leslies of Wartle and Folla from 1815."

The Leslies of Wartle or Warthill, though their interment in the graveyard of Rayne dated from 1815, had been lords of the manor, or Lairds of the fine estate of Wartle, for at least 300 years previous to 1815. The Laird of Wartle in my day, William Leslie, Esq., was a most progressive and model landlord. Many and many a time have I seen him walking afoot over his estate, always having in his hand a sturdy walking cane with a spud on the end of it, and wherever a noxious weed showed up it was promptly dug out, and so the farms on the estate became models of clean tidiness, fertile and productive. He helped his tenants to make good and if they couldn't through incompetence they had to go and give place to those who could make things go. He was elected member of Parliament for part of his county in 1861, and as a small boy I with hundreds danced to the strains of the bagpipes around a big bonfire lit on a hill head on the estate in honor of the event of his election, for he was a most popular man.

There was another branch of the Leslies, Lords of the Manor, or Lairds of the Estate of Balquhain and Fetternear in the Parish of Chapel of Garioch, and adjoining my native Parish of Rayne, in which was the Estate of Wartle. I lived on my father's small farm on the estate for four and a half years before I came to Canada in 1871, and all that time saw the massive ruins of the old castle of Balquhain, which was the seat of the family up to 1545, when it was burned down. Since then the family seat has been at Fetternear, beautifully situated on the banks of the Don at some distance. These Leslies were good landlords, but Roman Catholic in their faith.

Colonel Leslie, the Lord of Balquhain in my day, wrote and published in three vol. in 1869, "Historical Records of the Family of Leslie". I read the books before I left Scotland but didn't own them."

¹complete article can be found at <http://news.haltonhills.halinet.on.ca/89791/page/2?n=>

²there are other accounts of the arrival of the Leslies, however all tell of the meeting with the British Consul in New York

³Complete article can be found at <http://news.haltonhills.halinet.on.ca/89793/page/1>

Wilderness Trails in Three Continents

Wilderness Trails in Three Continents by Lionel A. D. Leslie, with a foreword by The Rt. Hon. Winston S. Churchill, published by Heath Cranton Limited, London, 1931

Lionel Alistair David Leslie was the fourth and youngest son of Sir John Leslie 2nd Baronet of Glaslough, Ireland, and his wife Leonie Blanch Jerome, aunt of Winston Churchill. Leonie and her sister Jennie, the mother of Sir Winston Churchill, were the daughters of Leonard Jerome, and his wife Clarissa (Clara) Hall who was said to be half-Iroquois Indian. Leonard Jerome was a very wealthy New York businessman, and was known as "The King of Wall Street.". Lionel was born in 1900 in London, but grew up at Glaslough, County Monaghan, Ireland. His father, John (Shane) Leslie, was a prolific writer. His sister, Anita Leslie, also became a prolific author. Since Sir John Leslie had graduated from Eton, Lionel was also enrolled there. Apparently, Eton was not a good fit for Lionel, and he was "sent down." He then attended Trinity College in Dublin, but that also was not a good fit for his somewhat wild spirit. He then was accepted at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, Surry, England, and graduated with a commission in the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders.

This book commences with Lionel writing that "I left England at the end of 1922, and my first three years were spent in India. Then a year in Burma, followed by an expedition across the North East Frontier into China." I assume that following his graduation from Sandhurst, and commissioning into the Army, Lionel was first posted to India. It appears that he was able to get extended leave at various times to facilitate his desire to roam in remote places. In 1923, he made his first journey into the "wilds" of India, and managed to do some hunting. He shot and killed a bear with a .350 Mauser, and transported it back to Calcutta in a first class train car, much to the dismay of the conductor. Later, with a detachment of his regiment, he was moved from the heat of Calcutta to the highlands of Darjeeling. Later, he made a trip across the Jelap Pass at a height of 14,390 feet and then into Tibet. After three years in India, he was posted to Burma. After a year in Burma, he resigned his commission and resumed his urge to wander in remote places. Lionel's trip started with a trip by steamer up the Irrawaddy River, and a long hike into China.

I can only assume that Lionel's family was providing him with a stipend or allowance which permitted him to travel and pay for lodging, food, transportation and guides. In March of 1927, he arrived in Tanganyika (previously German East Africa and now part of Tanzania). He was much

impressed with the size and beauty of Mount Kilimanjaro, and took much interest in the variety of ethnic people living along the east coast; Greeks, Muslims, etc. Later he went into the interior, hired some Masai guides and bearers and went hunting. Early on this trip he, shot a male lion and a rhinoceros with a .404 Mauser.

At page 177 the scene changes dramatically. There is no information at all on the rest of his African trip. Suddenly in 1928, Lionel receives the opportunity of joining an exploring expedition to Labrador, Canada, specifically the Hamilton River. One of the other members of the party was J. M. Scott, "a hefty young Highlander," a geologist. After a few days of preparation, the party left in two canoes on July 25th to ascend the Hamilton River, also known as the "Grand River". Lionel writes that they were tormented by mosquitoes. To protect themselves, they smeared a mixture of tar and lard on their skin. One day, their canoe sank three times, and the contents were saturated. After two weeks of paddling, poling and pulling the canoes upstream, and tormented by mosquitoes, one the Canadians assisting the party, cut his foot with an ax. The decision was made to return to the settlement at North West River for him to be treated at the hospital. The trip downstream only took three days.

A decision was made that the Hamilton River was too high so they chose to try the Kenamu. Again, they were tormented by mosquitoes and black flies. By the fourth week, they experienced a snowstorm. Eventually they reached a small lake, the head of the Kenamu. The return trip was hazardous, and the canoes were leaking badly. They were running out of food, but just in time, they reached the North West River settlement.

All in all, the book is an amazing collection of travel tales and high adventure. Strangely, he makes virtually no mention of his military comrades. He excels in documenting geographical features, and especially the stature and features of the various native people he encounters. This interest will serve him well in his next "life" as described in his next book *One Man's World: A Story of Strange Places and Strange People*.

Wilderness Trails is now a rare book. The copy I purchased was \$130 US and will be donated to the Clan Leslie Collection at the University of Guelph when the Library Fund has sufficient funds to cover the cost of this and other books and the postage.

David Leslie White

Lionel Alistair David Leslie

On the previous page of this issue of the *Grip Fast Journal*, I wrote a book review of Lionel Leslie's book, *Wilderness Trails on Three Continents*. The following is a synopsis of his life, as printed in an old website from Castle Leslie, Glaslough, County Monaghan, Ireland. I have added items in brackets.

"Lionel Leslie was the youngest of four brothers; Shane [originally named John], Seymour, Norman and Lionel, sons of Sir John, the second baronet, and his wife Lady Leonie Leslie [nee Leonie Blanche Jerome]. Born in 1900, an avenue of oak trees was planted to commemorate his birth, as well as the new century. Lionel was an incredibly tough child – his favorite sport was to take a running jump over the large round dining room table, bounce on his head, and come up grinning. His elder brothers used him as kind of a football which he said he found quite amusing. His portrait as a little boy with a hoop hangs on the stairs [in Castle Leslie].

On dull wet days, in what is now the Governess Suite, he and his cousin, Pat Guthrie, would cheer themselves up by firing at each other with a large western six-shooter [probably a Colt Army .45] through the closed door between the rooms, scoring points if they could catch the bullet as it emerged. This was fine so long as the bullet passed through the thick part of the door and not through a thin panel!

Lionel was sent down from Eton for being 'unteachable' after writing a poem which so angered his master that his furious pen nib actually cut the page in two. The poem in full went -

Juzz Buzz Fuzz

Fuzz Buzz Wuzz

Today this would be hailed as a masterpiece.

At Trinity College in Dublin, Lionel cut his heating bills by cutting up his floorboards for fuel. The college fines books also record him as being fined 2 pounds for 'firing an air gun in New Square and missing the Junior Dean.' The word 'missing' is interesting.

[At this point, the biographical summary skips his attending and graduating from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, and his active duty in India and Burma as a Lieutenant in the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders.] As a young man, Lionel became an avid explorer and wrote several interesting books, such as *WILDERNESS TRAILS*, hence the animal

statues and bamboo decorations in his room [in Castle Leslie]. Once in Africa, he woke up to find a hungry lion outside his tent waiting for its breakfast. Grabbing his gun he shot the lion and puzzled his family by writing home: 'This morning I shot a lion in pajamas.' His father did a sketch of Lionel standing triumphantly by a dead lion wearing Lionel's best pajamas.

[In Lionel's book, *WILDERNESS TRAILS*, he writes of shooting a lion very close to camp, but he did not relate writing home about it. Also, the next story about his encounter with another lion is omitted in his book.]

Another lion chased him while he had no gun. Remembering that lions are only very large cats, he stood still and let the creature catch up. He then fondled its ears, murmuring 'Pussy, pussy, nice pussy,' until the lion grew bored (as do all cats) and stalked away. Later, he took up sculpting and learned to carve in wood or stone. He was at his best doing animals and red Indians. Some of these can be seen in the castle. He was delightfully vague; always losing his socks, an accomplishment that so impressed the military authorities of World War II [Lionel had been recalled to active duty] that they placed him in charge of all the equipment being loaded in North Africa for the invasion of Italy. But, the mystic in him decided the day would be more spiritually spent by meditating inside the Kings Chamber of the Great Pyramid. He was quite right—the baggage ship was torpedoed and sunk.

After the war Lionel married Barbara Enever [actually, they were married 10 January, 1942 in Yorkshire]. They lived on the Isle of Mull [at Grasspoint] and had one daughter, Leonie. He published several books of verse* (much better than his Etonian effort!) and carved a most realistic seal basking on the rocks. [This seal still exists as of 2012 close to his former home at Grasspoint] Finally he was appointed 'Arch Druid of the Western Isles' where he conducted Solstice and Equinoxial ceremonies to improve the climate.

The four Leslie brothers could never resist a chance to 'upstage' one another. When Lionel proudly presented his new book on water monsters, Seymour promptly scribbled 'Not Proven' on the first page while Shane added some witticism about 'flying snowmen and abominable saucers.' A furious Lionel threatened to fill their books with much ruder remarks.

'Uncle Lionel' was always a cheerful character, a great individualist, and a notable sculptor. But his mere presence was fatal to any form of machinery. During his recent funeral [he died 17 January 1987] all of the machinery of the West London Crematorium broke down to the delight of his family and many friends--'There goes Lionel!' they said.

*Lionel wrote a short pamphlet on their home at Grasspoint, titled *The Drovers' Inn* and another pamphlet of poems titled *Poems of Mull and Iona*. Both of these will be sent to the Clan Leslie Collection at the University of Guelph when there is a sufficient amount in the Library Fund.

David Leslie White

Grandfather Mountain 2014 CLSI Gathering

It will not be long before members of CLSI converge on Grandfather Mountain for the 2014 Biennial Gathering. It will be a grand event with CLSI as the honored Clan and the Honourable Alexander Leslie, Chief of Clan Leslie in attendance.

So that we can plan for our Friday reception and Saturday evening dinner, we need to be sure all requests to attend are received by Linda Flowers by June 14.

Lewis Johnson

Grip Fast Editor Needed!

We need an editor for the Grip Fast publications! Please contact Laura Messing for details at designinvasion@gmail.com

The Leslies Who Came to Glen Williams, Descendants of John Leslie and Letty Ann Boke

21 years after the last Leslie Reunion of 1993, a Gathering of Leslie Descendants is being planned. It will be held in Rockwood, Ontario, Sunday, August 10, 2014, to join together for a potluck meal and social time

- To learn about topics such as Leslie history in Scotland, the Leslies in Ireland, our family history in Canada, etc.

- To meet William Leslie, Commissioner of Clan Leslie, North America

- To remember and honour those who organized and kept alive all the reunions up to 1993

If you are a descendent of John and Letty Ann, or a Leslie descendent interested in joining with us, please contact me at lesliereunion2014@gmail.com for more details.

Yours aye,
Robert Leslie, Acton, ON

Chaplain's Corner

Samantha Gray, Chaplain, CLSI

Pesach, Passover and Perseverance



Usually, the April Chaplain's Corner, is a remnant of April Fool's Day with a crossword puzzle, humorous anecdotes and so forth. Now and then, it has dealt with Easter and its ancient cognate, Ostara, a spring equinoctial observance of our ancestor Celts. I have mentioned Passover briefly several times so for this month's Grip Fast column we will look at the

establishment of Jewish communities and, hence the celebration of Passover in Scotland.

There are a number of holidays (originally meaning "holy day") which occur in the spring, but not all are celebrated on the same date each year as some of them are "moveable". A moveable feast date simply means that the date of the holiday changes because its particular day of occurrence is calculated by lunar cycles. Still other dates are "fixed" and examples of these would be November 16, St. Margaret of Scotland's Day, or St. Bartholomew's Day on August 24th. Ostara is always celebrated on the spring equinox which always occurs on or within two days of March 20th. Easter and Passover, calculated by the old moon calendar, may occur on widely differing dates each year. Passover on February 20th, 2013 was the earliest it had occurred since 1899 according to numerous rabbinic sources. The earliest date on which Easter can fall is March 22, and the latest is April 24. The latest date for Passover is April 23rd. Tradition holds that the Last Supper, memorialized in art by Davinci, was in fact, a Passover Seder. Religious historians today believe there is strong evidence for the crucifixion to have been in early autumn, not in the spring, and therefore not around Passover; but the tradition linking Jesus' last supper on earth with the Seder is powerful (if perhaps suspect, given modern scholarly evidence).

Passover, or Pesach (Pey-Sach - the 'ach' pronounced as in "loch"), is the recounting of how the angel of death passed over the homes of Jewish slaves in Egypt while claiming the first-born of all other households in the land. This was the last and most ghastly of the ten plagues God sent which finally prompted Pharaoh to release the Jews from bondage and allowed them to leave Egypt to find and establish the promised land of Israel. It is one of the three paramount holy days in the Jewish liturgical year and is celebrated by Jews world-wide. The internation-

al Jewish community has persevered in commemorating this celebration of liberty, even in secret during the Holocaust years in Europe. Passover recalls the Lord's promise to Moses of a land of 'milk and honey' which the Jewish people will inherit after long travail in the desert. Although the Jewish population in Scotland is small, it is very active and Pesach is celebrated well, and has been for at least the past 300+ years. According to the Virtual Jewish Library online, there has been evidence of Jewish families living in Edinburgh since 1641 and in Glasgow since 1740. When, during a period from the mid-1100's to late 1200's, Jews were severely and deliberately persecuted in England and the Act of Expulsion drove them from English lands, many fled north across the border into Scotland for safety and shelter. According to this source "Jews have experienced great tolerance, acceptance and friendliness, and generosity from fellow non-Jewish Scots" ever since.

Many authors have written about the strong parallels between Israel and Scotland - two tiny, continually besieged nations which persevered - despite domination and attempts at suppression by foreign powers - to become self-governing lands of freedom, which produced some of the greatest scientists, philosophers, innovators and scholars in numbers far beyond average, and gifted the entire world with remarkable breakthroughs in medicine, mathematics, literature, and even military theory among other achievements. The Declaration of Arbroath reflects the tolerance and freedom Scottish Jews have enjoyed for centuries as it states "There is neither bias nor difference between Jew or Greek, Scot or English" when speaking of individual worth of all people in the Eyes of God. And religious scholars recognize that 17th Century Protestant thinking in Europe revered and included the basic tenets of Judaism into what would become the most fundamental and enduring of Protestant principles during the Reformation.

The largest number of Jewish families is now in Glasgow, followed by Edinburgh. It is of interest to note that of the various "denominations" - a not quite accurate description of the different beliefs and worship traditions within Judaism itself - the one and only Reformed Synagogue (the most liberal, modern interpretation of Jewish belief) in Scotland is in Glasgow, drawing its congregation from as far away as Edinburgh and Aberdeen and Dundee. There are other synagogues which are both Conservative (moderate) and Orthodox (strictest traditions) throughout Scotland.

Passover is celebrated for a week, but the first two nights are particularly important because of the Seder tradition. The Haggadah is read in Hebrew or English by all who gather

“Lang May Your Lum Reek”

It is your Chaplain’s pleasure and privilege to wish a very happy birthday and healthy year ahead to all of CLSI members who have listed their birth month and day. Please send yours in to Riognach@aol.com if you have not already done so. “Lang may yer lum reek” (*long may your chimney smoke*) was a traditional birthday wish meaning that the recipient should live many years to tend his or her own hearth in good health and peace. A very happy birthday to each and all the following CLSI members celebrating birthdays in April and May:

April: 4/3 - Diane Leslie Deleon and Nikita Eike; 4/4 - Joan Eike; 4/5 - Bonnie Gleason; 4/6 - Michael Abernethy and Linda Flowers; 4/7 - Timothy Pannone; 4/9 - Ann Musmanskyy; 4/10 - Sara Seich; 4/11 - Dakota Flowers, Hillary Holman and Leila White Vilmouth; 4/12 - Sammie Rainey; 4/13 - Craig Leslie, Tomas Leslie and Bridget Weller; 4/17 - Charles Ward; 4/18 - Donald Leslie; 4/19 - Robert Leslie; 4/23 - Clement Hoffman; 4/26 - Doris Derrington, David Leslie, Nora Mayer and Lara White; 4/29 - Thomas Leslie.

May: 5/1 - Kenneth Leslie and Drew Seich; 5/2 - Linda Leslie McNamee; 5/3 - Craig Cairney; 5/5 - Vera Denny and Richard Leslie; 5/6 - James Leslie; 5/12 - Christina Chamberlin; 5/14 - Lisa White; 5/16 - Adam Flowers and McKenzie Flowers; 5/17 - Adam Leslie; 5/19 - Peter Gray and Priscilla Rodriguez; 5/20 - Orrin Gould; 5/23 - James Arnaud; 5/27 - Douglas Russell; 5/30 - Susan Abernethy and Lillian Green; 5/31 - Leah Leslie and Sharon Porterfield.



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

around the Seder table, retelling the story of the holiday. There are songs, the Four Questions to be asked of the children (“Why is this night different from all other nights?...”) and special foods which are symbolic of the hard labor and grief in Egypt and the long years in the desert, and the sweetness of freedom and the promised land. Matzoh, the unleavened bread of the flight from Egypt, is served. No leavened bread or grain which might produce leavening may be used (nothing of wheat, barley or rye) and in very observant homes, there is a ritual hunt with the kids carrying dustpan and brush to scour the home for any crumbs which dare to remain after the house has undergone a rigorous Passover cleaning! On the beautifully appointed Seder table is Elijah’s cup with a bit of wine for the Prophet, and at a special point in the ceremony during dinner, someone must go to the door and open it to invite Elijah in. In Reformed homes, there is often a Seder cup for the matriarch Miriam as well.



After dinner there is another kind of hunt that the kids love: the afickomen, a piece of matzoh, wrapped in a linen or cotton cloth, is hidden before the family and guests arrive, and whichever child finds it gets to demand a ransom, with Grandfather or Dad offering a small sum of money. When my own children were small, it was five dollars, American. I cannot imagine what the ransom is today if inflation is factored in, but suspect that five or ten dollars is still the going rate. Living in a multi-religion home, we had fun sharing traditions of several faiths. I encourage any Grip Fast readers who have the opportunity to attend a bona fide Seder to do so. You will find many parallels to Christian Eucharist services. In the last twenty years, it has become popular for churches to hold ‘Christian Seders’ incorporating the wonderful story of Pesach and Easter as reflections of deliverance and hope and blessings in abundance. The ritual Seder is a shared spiritual experience that is at once uplifting and serious, yet at the same time joyous and fun as well as delicious! Pesach Shalom to all Jewish members of CLSI, and Happy Easter to the Christian members. May Peace and harmony bless us all.

Leslie Memorial Baptismal Font

Our project to honor the founders of the Clan Leslie Society, the 21st Earl of Rothes Ian Leslie and Alexander Leslie Klieforth, by providing an oak baptismal font to the Chapel of the Garioch Church, the Leslie Chapel of Northeast Scotland, is almost complete. David Leslie of Leslie has informed us that the font has been delivered. The plaques for the font and the wall will be delivered later. The dedication of the Leslie Font will take place on Sunday, July 20th, 2014 at the 11 AM service. This dedication will be part of the Annual Remembrance Service for the Battle of Harlaw which took place on July 24, 1411. All Clan Leslie members are invited to attend this service.

The CLSI wishes to express our wholehearted thanks to David Leslie for managing all of the details on the design of this font and the plaques to go with it, and for presenting our proposal to the board of the church. Also, we offer our sincere gratitude to all of the members who have made donations to this project. Your generosity is deeply appreciated.

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
Robert G. Leslie
Richard Ross Leslie
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
James F. Leslie
Linda Jones
Donald and Maxine Leslie
Dr. Matthew Allan
Gene and Loretta Leslie
Thomas E. Leslie
Thomas F. Leslie



2013 Convenor of the Year

The Council of Clan Leslie Society International would like to congratulate Lewis and Christine Johnson for being selected as the 2013 Convenor of the Year. Lew and Chris host many tents throughout the year, including Loch Norman, Triad Highland Games, Grandfather Mountain, Scotland County Games, Richmond Virginia Celtic Festival, and Bethabara Park Highland Games. In 2013, they signed up seven new members! In addition, they are also hosts for our Gathering in July at Grandfather Mountain. We would like to thank Lew and Chris for their outstanding work representing Clan Leslie Society International.

Thank You to our Donors

General Fund

Craig Leslie
Robert Leslie
Margaret Loewen
Melanie Cave
Paul Leslie
Bonnie Simmons
Beryl Leslie
Leslie Weaver
Karen Engle
Keith Leslie
Douglas Leslie
Russell J. Lessly
Diane Sadler
Thomas Allen
Walter Leslie
Gary Leslie
Harold Wilcox
Priscilla Rodriguez
John Markle
Jane Leslie Roe
Gene & Peggy Leslie
Jim Leslie
Tim Pannone
Joan Eike
Christina Leslie

Library Fund

Vicki Dodson
Pat Leslie
Donald & Janice Abernathy
Rosemary Leslie
Leslie Weaver
Mary Williams
Karen Engle
Bonnie Rudnisky
Les Short
Dale S. Young
Robert G. Leslie
Douglas Leslie
Bret Leslie

Scholarship

Donald & Janice Abernathy
Annie Windstrup
Mary Ann Weiss
Leslie Weaver
Bruce & Nikita Eike
Murna H. Nason
Kathleen Leslie Jones
Ann Musmanský
Bonnie Gleason
Marguerite Pope

Welcome New Members

Teresa Dutton
Cedar Rapids, IA

Jimmy Leslie
Riga, Latvia

Dominik Leslie
Riga, Latvia
Inceptor

Paul Abernathy
Belmont, NC

Sandra Abernethy Lacano
Merrit Island, FL
Lifetime Member

Martha Kay Abernethy
Merrit Island, FL
Lifetime Member

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 Back Cover)



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.



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.

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
sabermet@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

Peter M Leslie
3930 Knowles Road,
Wenatchee, WA, 98801, USA
Phone 206-890-3053
scotslad11@yahoo.com

Webmaster & Web Site

Brian Lesslie Jr.
117 Nimmo Ave.,
Perth, PW1 2PV, Scotland
Phone 01738 560687
bless7506@blueyonder.co.uk
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
4022 Lyn Drive,
Columbus, GA 31909,
USA Phone 706- 442-7448
guinnethv@mcchsi.com

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 the **Sherry Huxtable Memorial 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 scholarship is the **Alexander Leslie Kleiforth Scottish/Celtic Programs Scholarship**. 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

David Leslie White



Leslie
Clan Leslie Society
International

302 SW 3rd
Tuttle, OK, 73089
USA