

Grip Fast Journal



The Newsletter of Clan Leslie Society International

December 2015



Get Ready for Fergus!

Everything you need
to know to attend the
2016 CLSI Gathering

(page 2)

The Honourable Alexander Leslie, Chief of Clan Leslie



The longest word I have ever heard was uttered by my father. Hopefully I will spell it right, but it was ‘intergenerationalisation.’ For a while I smiled and nodded and tried to look intelligent, but finally I gave up and asked him what on earth it meant. The answer is actually very straightforward. It means engaging the next generation. Clearly this is incredibly important, and something that we did in Edinburgh a couple of weekends ago. We had a party. For Leslies and related cousins.

The important thing is that the next generation was there. Hugo Sells, currently my heir, was there. He is my father’s, sister’s grandson, which may seem a little bit ‘round the houses’,

but that is how things work in Scotland. His parents and sister were there, as were his aunt, uncle and cousins. My cousin Fiona Leslie was there with her son, Frederick.

I gave a short talk with some interesting pieces of family history – Bartholomew, the Duke, his very expensive funeral – as well as where, when and how I became interested in Leslie history and the Society. Then 14 of us sat down to supper and had a very merry time. Which is also important (the memory of trying Twinkies at the dinner last year is still fresh in our minds).

How is this relevant? It is relevant for a couple of reasons. The first is that it really helped the ‘intergenerationalisation’ here in Scotland. It is often said that cousins generally only meet at family weddings and funerals. Gatherings such as this one, and of course the two yearly Gatherings in North America, break that pattern. And it means that cousins can relax and get to know each in an informal environment, and discover (if you are lucky) that they actually like each other. The second is that Hugo and his parents, Oliver and Lucinda Sells, are coming to Canada next year. And possibly Hugo’s sister Rosie.

I know that you will make them as welcome as you did us at Grandfather Mountain last year. It would be fantastic if we could get some young people there, too. That way, cousins can meet and hopefully like each other (hard not to with these Leslies, I know) and hopefully discuss what they want from the Leslie Society of the future.

Alex Leslie

Chief of Clan Leslie

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ABOUT THE COVER

Get Ready for Fergus! This issue of the Grip Fast Journal is packed with information about our 2016 gathering. See page 2.



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Our Clan Leslie Gathering at Fergus, Ontario next August is fast approaching. Have you given thought to attending?

Clan Leslie will be the featured Clan. Our Chief, the Hon. Alexander Leslie and Miranda Leslie will be travelling from Scotland to join us!

Where: The Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games, Fergus, Ontario, Canada

When: Friday Aug. 12 to Sunday Aug. 14, 2016 (Bus tours are planned for Thursday, Aug. 11 departing at 8AM, so you might want to consider arriving on Wed., Aug. 10th).

For those able to arrive early enough for the events on Thursday, we are planning a choice of one of two bus trips (a) Full day bus trip to Niagara Falls, Ontario or (b) Full day bus trip to St. Jacobs and Mennonite country.

Friday will be another busy day. In the morning, the staff at the University of Guelph library will welcome us with a seminar on genealogical research, as well as giving us the opportunity to view our Clan Leslie collection held in their archives. Following that, we will board a bus and travel to Streetsville and be welcomed by the staff of the Leslie Log House Museum. Returning to Guelph, those registered for the full weekend will enjoy a meet and greet at the Holiday Inn. Some may also wish to travel to Fergus and take in the Friday evening events at the games.

Saturday will be our big day at the Fergus Games. We will have a large hospitality tent for our Clan to visit each other and receive those interested in Clan Leslie. Our Chief will be on the reviewing stand for the parade and as the Featured Clan, we will lead the parade. Saturday evening, back at the Holiday Inn, we will have another highlight of the Gathering. At the Chief's banquet we will enjoy a good meal, be greeted by our Chief and others, and also enjoy entertainment.

Sunday morning will again be busy. We will have our Bi-annual CLSI meeting and also have the opportunity to attend the Kirkin' O' the Tartan Service at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Fergus. There will be a lot going on at the Games during the day, ending with closing ceremonies at 4 PM.

Accommodations have been arranged at the Holiday Inn on Stone Road in Guelph. A block of 30 rooms has been set aside for us. Details for booking rooms are in the Gathering Information Package, but don't wait too long. During the Highland Games, hotels fill up.

The gathering information package was too much to include in this issue of the Grip Fast Journal, but the next issue scheduled for January will be mainly devoted to the Gathering. If you would like to view and download the information and registration package sooner, please visit the Facebook page set up for the event:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1219493438077202/> and look for documents titled: PROGRAM, TOURS, REGISTRATION, ACCOMMODATIONS and SURVEY. For those not wishing to use Facebook, please send me a request at email address r832leslie@gmail.com, and I will send the information package to you.

Yours aye,

Robert Leslie, Acton, Ontario.



CLSI ACHIEVES 501(C)(3) IRS STATUS

At last, the Clan Leslie Society International has achieved tax-exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). It's been a long effort, dating back to shortly after our Society was formed. Attempts have been made several times, but the last application by Loren Leslie and S. Mark Weller and with input from the Council was successful. Now donations and dues to the CLSI are tax-deductible to the donors. And the unreimbursed costs to those hosting CLSI tents are tax-deductible to the hosts. But now we have to take certain actions to KEEP our tax-exempt status. One requirement is that we file IRS Form 900 or 900-N annually. Also important is that we continue to operate in the PUBLIC interest as well as to our Society interests. One example would be articles in our publications that are from research about Leslies, the Septs, Scotland or the contributions of Scots who have been scattered around the globe. Another example is our Scholarship Program. Donations to this program are absolutely necessary to keep the program viable. We might consider broadening the requirements to facilitate our Society funding a graduate student at the University of Guelph to conduct research on items in the Clan Leslie Collection and writing a scholarly paper on this research. A third example would be donations to the Clan Leslie Library Fund. These donations could be cash which is always needed, or books, manuscripts, old photographs, etc. that are about Leslies, the Septs or Scotland. Our efforts must include topics beyond just Clan Leslie, or we revert back to 501(c)(7) status which is for Social and Recreational Clubs or Family Organizations. Donations to (c)(7) organizations are NOT tax deductible to the donors.

Before contributing books or manuscripts about Scotland, it is suggested that you check the University of Guelph Library holdings to determine if they already have that reference. Thomas G. Leslie, KSG, of Chorleywood, England has been most generous in contributing books by or about Leslies.

David Leslie White

Welcome New Members!

Lesley Looper Craddock
Greenville SC

Brenda Meyer
Simpsonville, SC

Dana Reeves
Naples, FL

Chris Leslie
Pottsville, PA

Joseph Cairney
Ontario, Canada

Eva M. Thomas
Greensboro, NC

Erin McCullough
St. Louis, MO

Carl McCullough
Imperial, MO

Carol Lucas
Georgetown, TX

The Celtic Croft

Clan Leslie Society International is a participant in the Celtic Croft Clan Associates and Affiliates Program. Clan Leslie Society International members can receive a 5% discount on all merchandise purchased from The Celtic Croft either at their store, from their catalogue or on line. The Celtic Croft is located at 8451 Xerxes Ave. N, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55444. Their telephone number is (763) 569-4373 and their web site is www.kilts-n-stuff.com. In turn, we are listed as an affiliate on their web site under the Clan Associates and Affiliates Program in which they direct interested prospects to our web site.



Scotland Trip, June 2015 by Leslie Weaver

My niece, Emily, was interested in learning about some of her family roots which include a great-grandmother who was half-Scottish, so we took a trip to Scotland last June. Our family uses the Leslie name frequently, and not only as a last name. A Great-Aunt was called Annie Laurie Leslie; her sister, Emily's Great-Grandma was named Edith Leslie, and Emily's Grandma was Phyllis Leslie Garrison. I was given "Leslie" as my first name; but for my niece, "Leslie" is again a middle name. Obviously we wanted to see the sites important to the Leslie Clan which are centered around Aberdeen.

Linda Flowers sent me a list of the important sites in Scotland for the Leslie Clan, as did Brian Lesslie. This list was also published in the CLSI newsletter in October 2014 (Volume 2014-6).

Online, I found Warthill B&B and booked it due to its proximity to Leslie Castle. (<http://www.aboutscotland.com/aberdeen/warthill.html>). Later I found out that Warthill is owned by Candida (Candy) and Sebastian Leslie, also members of CLSI. What a wonderful choice! Candy was an excellent hostess and full of Leslie family knowledge. She showed us different parts of the house, as well as a beautiful, hand-drawn Leslie family tree which goes back to 1067, when Bartholomew Leslie came to Scotland from Hungary as the chamberlain to Queen Margaret of Scotland.

Candy also gave us a personal tour of some of the Leslie sites in the area, such as Lickleyhead Castle, which is available for rent. (<https://www.scottscastles.com/scotland/highlands-and-islands/15th-century-castle-39.html#overview>). According to Candy, "Lickleyhead Castle (near Leslie Castle) was built by the Leslies in the late 15th Century, changed hands several times over the years and was bought by my husband, Sebastian's, Spanish grandmother in the 1920s. So it has come back into the family!" Lickleyhead Castle and Leslie Castle are quite similar in design as you can see.

According to Wikipedia, Lickleyhead is the ancestral home of actress Rose Leslie, of Downton Abbey and Game of Thrones fame, and the daughter of Candy and Sebastian. However, Rose's mom told us that isn't totally true. Candy told us that she raised her five kids mainly at Warthill Castle.

Candy also took us to the Chapel of the Garioch which was unfortunately locked, but we were able to see the beautiful Harlaw Cross outside.

Unfortunately, Warthill will no longer be open as a B&B after this season, but Candy and Sebastian Leslie will open a B&B at Lickleyhead Castle in the early summer of 2016 and they welcome all CLSI members.

Leslie Castle is nearby so we wandered around outside it and took some photos, which seems to usually be possible even though it is no longer in the hands of a Leslie Clan member. David Leslie and his wife Leslie live in the coach house next to the castle.

There are many other Clan Leslie historical sites near Aberdeen and Edinburgh that we didn't have time to see, so we'll just have to make another trip to Scotland and keep exploring our roots!



Leslie Weaver and her niece, Emily, in front of Lickleyhead Castle.

Dues Are Now Due

Members owing 2015 membership dues should have received an invoice by email or mail in the middle of July. Dues are now due. Please pay your dues as soon as you can. Dues can be paid by check, money order, PayPal, Visa, MasterCard or Discover card. If paying by check or money order, please mail to Linda Flowers CLSI Treasurer, 302 SW 3rd St. Tuttle, OK 73089. If paying by PayPal, use the PayPal email address LFLOWERS1954@YAHOO.COM. If paying by credit card, I need the card type, name on the card, card number, expiration date, and security code on the back of the card. If you have questions, please contact me at LFLOWJINGO@SBCGLOBAL.NET or 405-381-3577.

IN MEMORIAM

LESLIE, Alpheus E. Mr. Alpheus Ezekiel Leslie, 87, a longtime resident of Sandy Springs died on Thursday, the 6th of August 2015. A native of Decatur, Al retired from Kraft Foods after a long and successful career. He was past Chieftain of the Clan Leslie Society and attended Dunwoody Baptist Church. His favorite hobby was woodworking. A number of Leslies may have one of the wood boxes he made. He also enjoyed the creation of the Decatur aread where he grew up, thru which he ran a model train. He served in the US Navy. He and his wife, Lafern, enjoyed Scottish Country dancing. Al was preceded in death by his first wife, Kathryn Leslie. Surviving are his wife, Lafern Leslie; son, James Jones; 5 grandchildren; 10 great grandchildren; brother and sister-in-law, Donald and Marian Leslie; sister and brother-in-law, Mary and Jim Williams; and nieces.



LEE, Doris Leslie, 100, died July 27, 2015, one month after her 100th birthday. If you remember, she was featured in Grip Fast for her 100th birthday celebration. Doris was born in Williamstown, Missouri. Doris graduated with a nursing degree from St. Joseph Nursing School, Keokuk, Iowa. She was a registered nurse working as a school nurse in the Council Bluffs, Iowa Community School District for 15 years. She was a volunteer with the American Red Cross for 20 years, Salvation Army, and Telephone Pioneers. She is survived by her son John Lee, daughter Dana Reeves, sister Emma Meyer, and brother David Leslie, Jr.



Heraldry Panel

The Kingdom of Scotland has long been the last bastion of the true mediaeval system of heraldry or armory. The fundamental aspect of armory in which no two individuals own the same coat of arms at any one time, has been maintained in Scotland by the Lord Lyon King of Arms through his ancient Court which has remained part of the judicial system of the Realm. Identification of the Chief, Chieftains, and Duine Uasil (armigerous gentlemen) of the Clan is vested in the e signs granted, which remain the personal property of the individual who has title to them and, other than for legitimate display, should not be used by anyone other than the rightful owner. (from www.clancrest.net)

We have been able to purchase 8 heraldry panels from Clan Crest that shows the armorial bearings of Clan Leslie. These panels are exquisite and are made by Clan Crest in Scotland. They are 11"X14" and will fit into a standard size frame. If there is enough interest, we can try to obtain more. You can read about the panels and view the Leslie panel at <http://www.clancrest.net/page18.html>

The panels are \$40 which includes shipping. If you are interested in purchasing one, please contact Linda Flowers, LFLOWJINGO@SBCGLOBAL.NET or 405-381-3577.



Fergus Highland Games and Scottish Festival August 7, 8, 9 2015

The Fergus Festival was a great success this year. The President, David Radley has made many changes that have improved the visibility of the Clan Tents and increased the traffic for the Clans. Half of the tents were new, with the other half to be replaced next year, and the location of the Clan Village was moved nearer the main stadium so that people could find them easily. The Festival also provided a Hospitality Tent for the Clans which served coffee and scones with jam and cream. We had the largest number of visitors we have ever seen at a Clan Leslie Tent and spoke to some very enthusiastic Langs and Cairneys who will very likely join our Society. Of course Robert Leslie and I with some help from my brother Brian Leslie talked a lot about the 2016 Clan Leslie Gathering that will be here in Fergus next year. Fergus has this Children's Passport which requires kids to go to the Clan Tents to get their passports stamped; this can keep one person in the tent busy for most of the day.

Robert Leslie and I carried the Leslie banner in the Parade of the Clans, where there were 38 Clans represented. The Festival holds the Guinness World Record for the largest number of cabers in the air at one time and they set out to break it this year. They set a new World Record with 69 cabers in the air at the same time, 90 caber tossers participated. As many of you know, when you are hosting a Clan Tent, you do not have much time to go around and enjoy all the other events at a big festival. However, Robert did get a chance to attend the Tattoo and Lighting of the Hearth on Friday night but had to leave before the Red Hot Chilli Pipers did their show. Brian enjoyed the parade and pubs downtown Fergus on Thursday night and I did get a chance to look in at some of the interesting historical Scottish lectures and demonstrations. I will be looking forward to meeting you in Fergus this time next year.

If you want to see all the entertainment that is offered at the Fergus Festival, just cut and paste this link into your browser:
<http://www.fergusscottishfestival.com/festival-weekend-events>



William Leslie

Commissioner Clan Leslie, North America

Kerr County Celtic Festival

This was the first, and hopefully not the last, Kerr County Celtic Festival & Highland Games. The festival was held August 15 and 16 at Point Theater, Ingram, Texas and Clan Leslie Society International was there! Although the weather was hot, the humidity was relatively low with the Guadalupe River close by. Lynne and I participated in the opening parade and ceremony on Saturday. Numerous people dropped by to look at what we had on display and find their clan home areas on the Clan Map of Scotland that was posted at the tent. Various activities and sanctioned heavy athletics took place throughout the area. Saturday Night a ceilidh was held in the Gazebo lounge at Inn of the Hills Hotel in Kerrville. We provided a fifth of Glenfiddich 12 year old Single Malt scotch for the ceilidh. A good time was had by all at the ceilidh! Sunday was another hot day with low humidity. The various activities of Saturday continued on Sunday. A Barbershop Quartet, called Unfinished Business, wandered throughout the area and sang at several of the Clan tents. No Leslie's, or members of the Leslie sept, visited. So the tent log is empty. We plan to be there next year for their second annual festival next year.

Frank Leslie



Frank Leslie

Chaplain's Corner

Samantha Gray, Chaplain, CLSI

The Bride, The Groom, and the Grail: Mary Magdalene in Scotland.



I was tuning my harp in order to play a new piece of music I had recently ordered, and also considering what to write for this edition of Chaplain's Corner while I prepared to play. When I say "play", understand that I use the term liberally. If I practice for another 15 years more, I may be able to say with confidence that I play the harp. I settle at

present for getting most of the right notes in most of the correct tempi, and calling it music. Those who have heard me practice are free to disagree. The music in question was the Hymn to St. Mungo, transcribed for clairsach (also spelled clarsach) or Celtic harp. St. Mungo himself was a Scottish saint about whom I wrote some years back. But I have never written about Scotland's premier instrument, the harp. I can hear the protest now: "But Scotland is known for bagpipes!" This is true. But the national instrument of Scotland was for centuries the harp, until it was usurped by our Irish neighbors, and the bagpipes took its place. Given that fact, this seemed a fitting topic for this edition of Grip Fast. No one really knows where the first harps originated, but evidence suggests the Middle East or the Eurasian steppe country. The most ancient harp found in Scotland is approximately 2,300 years old. In the West/Northwest of Scotland, harps with wire strings have been found suggesting that they may have been brought by the invading Scoti. Metal work was already known to the Irish Celts and they favoured wire strings for their instruments. In the East/Northeast areas of Scotland where the Picts were most prevalent gut strings were used, reflecting the influence of the invading Angles in those parts. Pictish stone carvings depicted (no pun intended) harpers holding what would come to be known as "folk harps" with their classic triangular-shaped frame. In the 4th and 5th centuries, missionaries from Ireland came to Scotland with chants and plainsong, and the harp was considered the preferred instrument to accompany them. From then on, harps were associated with sacred as well as secular music. The name "harp", which derives from the vernacular of that

time for "plucked", was not universally used until the middle ages. And sacred music was not universally learned either. Folk songs which arise in every culture were sung in Scotland to the sound of a harp. Wealthy families had their own harpers who taught music to the children of the household in addition to entertaining. Often the harper, if not blind, was a scribe as well. And many were blind. In a time when children went out by age 10 to earn a living, disease was rampant; measles, small pox, typhoid with its high fevers - blindness too often resulted from such diseases and left the child unable to do any work other than play an instrument. In compliment to the family that supported and treated its harper well, a status symbol (every age has them...) arose. A "planxty" - a special song - would be written in original music by the harper just for that family, and only the family members were permitted to play it. Neighbors, eat your hearts out! Many fine examples of planxties still exist today and are fun to play on the harp. Mary Queen of Scots played the harp, or clairsach, as it had come to be called by then, and a replica of hers is in a museum in Edinburgh. When the Protestant reformation went into full swing, Calvinist Scotland turned away from the harp as being too closely associated with the Roman Catholic Church service and music. Queen Elizabeth 1st of England, according to one source, ordered all harps destroyed and all discovered harpers burned at the stake. Enough escaped from England with their harps, and enough in Scotland escaped Calvinism's severe hand, that they were able to avoid persecution in the mountainous regions of Northwest Scotland and the Islands. Because of this, folk harp music survived along with some of the religious works written for harp as well. Traditional harpers had to be able to play three traditional types of music; songs which gave joy and lightened the heart; songs which were melancholy and empathized with grief; and songs which caused repose and restful sleep. One of the best known Scottish secular songs for harp is in the melancholy mode called "Twa Maidens" or "Binnorie". It tells the chilling tale of a harper who finds a beautiful but drowned-beyond-recall young maiden, and honours her by fashioning a harp out of her breast bone and using her long silken hair for strings. All unknowing, he is called to play in the drowned woman's family castle at the engagement feast of their elder daughter. As soon as he plucks the strings, the harp begins to sing with the dead maiden's voice and tells



with five octaves and foot pedals or an 'action' which changes the keys. Celtic or folk harps use levers which must be flipped individually during play and become part of a skilled harper's technique. The stained glass illustration herein depicts King David with his clairsach. In the Old Testament, the First Book of Samuel tells of a young David playing for King Saul during his madness to comfort and ease his mind. This would have been described as a song of repose to the traditional Scottish harpers. Numerous research studies have demonstrated over and over that harps actually cause a relaxation response in the human nervous system, and harp music is often used adjunctively in healing. Harp music is also used in hospice to ease pain and relieve stress of the patient and family alike. The Chalice of Repose Project, begun in the USA by Theresa Schrecker Shroeder has now become a world-wide phenomenon, and engendered an entire specialty of thanatological music. Bagpipes may be the glory of the Scot off to war, or the parade ground Tattoos, but the small harp or clairsach, sings his faith and his fireside songs far better. May each member of Clan Leslie find many blessings, repose, and grateful, peaceful moments as autumn settles in.

the tale of how she was murdered by her elder sister who was jealous and wanted the younger girl's fiancé for her own husband. There is yet another story of why harps got their name. Some say that it is a corruption of "arpeggio", the rippling flurry that is so characteristic of a musical 'flourish' of the harp, and sounds like liquid light pouring over the strings. Over the years, harps grew in size to reach the large concert harps

Samantha Gray, Chaplain, CLSI

Lang May Yer Lum Reek

"Lang may yer lum reek" is an old Scottish birthday greeting meaning "Long may your chimney smoke!" The intent of this was that the recipient of the greeting would live a long time to tend his or her own hearth fires. It is your Chaplain's privilege and pleasure to wish all the members of CLSI having birthdays in November and December many blessings, health and happiness in their upcoming personal year.

November: Darrell Abernethy and Anne Hooper - 11/2; Bonnie Simmons - 11/3; Carolyn Linebarrier, Mary Anne Regling; Kristina Nellis - 11/6; Craig Leslie, Jack Merrill, Steven Olling and David Leslie White - 11/7; Bonnie Rudinsky - 11/9; Ysabella Arnaud, William G. Leslie and Murna Nason - 11/11; Leslie Evans - 11/12; Heidi Hanson - 11/13; Robert Leslie and Karen Leslie - 11/14; William F. Leslie - 11/17; L. Leslie - 11/19; Richard Leslie and Monica Roderiguez - 11/21; Libby Gray and Harold Wilcox - 11/28; Janice Abernathy - 11/29; Karel Leslie - 11/30.

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

Return to Leslie

If anyone has a copy of Return to Leslie written in old Scots (Auld Scots), I would greatly appreciate having a copy. I believe that copies were given to those who attended the 1995 Gathering at the Leslie Castle in Leslie, Aberdeenshire.

If anyone has a copy of the A.C.L.S. Journal Summer, 1987 issue, the original was republished there.

LESLIE'S RETURN TO LESLIE

Composed by James Leslie of Melton, North Ferriby, North Umberside, in November 1985 to commemorate David Leslie's return to Leslie Castle at Leslie, Aberdeenshire, Scotland. The following is a translation from the original version which was written in "Auld Scots" (see A.C.L.S. Journal –Summer, 1987).
Translated by the composer in 1987

Leslie of Leslie steps my hall
His banner ennobles my rooftop
A happier day I never saw
Since Leslies have come home to me.

So doleful and woeful was I yesterday
Stone cold and abandoned for many a day
My escutcheon* from my chimney breast gone
Assunder in shards my honor lay.

Full many a day I have given shelter
To strangers with little grace
That never thought to love me well
And keep me trim and tidy.

They stole my stones to build a hall
Over by Kennethmont town
They tore down the roughcast from my wall
My curtain wall and buildings.

Now blythfully upon my knoll
I proudly stand, restored in pride
My gates are strong my testing done
The alighting owl is here to stay**

Leslie of Leslie steps my hall
His banner ennobles my rooftop
My ingle*** bright, my prospect fine
Since Leslies have come home to me.

* coat of arms

** Crest of David Leslie's coat of arms

*** fireplace

David Leslie White
clanleslie@earthlink.net

Bonnie Prince Charlie

I am only 100 pages into a historical fiction book, but I'm enjoying it so much that I must share it with my kin. It is about Bonnie Prince Charlie's attempt to regain the Scottish throne. Side note: In about 1745, the Bonnie Prince was seeking support from various families and clans that he felt might support his cause, prior to his landing in Scotland, and an original painting of the Prince was sent to the Leslie's of Warhill as a gift, clearly in hopes of gaining their support to his cause. The painting hangs yet in the dining room of Warhill, where I had the opportunity to admire it upon my only trip to Scotland. Back to the story - it has so far revolved around a young man named Ronald Leslie, son of a Colonel Leslie of the French army (of course the Colonel is quite Scottish). So it is with a narcissistic delight that one gets to read a very entertaining story which deals with the efforts of the young Leslie to be reunited with his father, languishing in a French prison for daring to marry a woman whom King Louis had promised to a prominent French Nobleman. Young Leslie is having adventure after adventure in his quest. I could wait to tell more of the book after reading the whole thing, but instead prefer to whet your appetite; don't you want to know the rest of the story?? One can download the book for free here - I personally am reading it upon an Android tablet:

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

Or you can buy a physical copy of it on Amazon. It is entitled "*Bonnie Prince Charlie: a tale of Fontenoy and Culloden*", by G.A. Henty, published some time before 1900. I've seen both reprints, and original prints of it are available there, for about the same price. I am finding it very well written and entertaining, I hope you do as well.

Tim Leslie



Leslie Information on the Web

YouTube

These are great videos on Clan Leslie covering more Leslie history than you will find in one book.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ql-DVFved3k>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=enSXkLj9iuo>

Scots Heritage Magazine

The Leslie edition of Scots Heritage Magazine is up as the free sample copy on their website.

<http://edition.pagesuite-professional.co.uk//launch.aspx?eid=37ccd5e6-14b7-460c-be78-d73051006fdo>

Scotland Magazine

The Dec-Jan issue of Scotland Magazine has an article entitled “The Clan Leslie” - James Irvine Robertson reveals the complex history of a great Scottish family. It has a picture of Balgonie Castle.

<http://www.scotlandmag.com/magazine/issue83/12011390.html>



Kirkin' O' the Tartan

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

It was a beautiful morning on Sunday August 9th for the Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games. Along with Wayne and Marg Aitken, Marguerite and I were welcomed by the sound of the pipes and a friendly congregation to the Kirkin' O' the Tartan service at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Fergus, Ontario. St. Andrews is a lovely old church, sitting atop a hill at the end of Tower Street. The church was packed and several who attended wore their clan tartan. During the Blessing of the Tartans portion of the service, people were invited to come to the front of the Sanctuary and have their Clan Tartan blessed. Wayne and I had our Clan Leslie Tartans blessed, and Marg had her Sinclair Tartan blessed. After the service, Wayne and Marg returned to the Highland Games at the Centre Wellington Community Sportplex, a short distance from St. Andrews. Due to other commitments, Marguerite and I were not able to enjoy this final part to the Festival's three days of fun and celebration.



Not knowing the origins and history of the Kirkin O' the Tartan tradition, I did some research and found an article on the website of the Scottish Tartan Museum in Franklin, North Carolina. According to their account I learned the following: Contrary to what many believe, the Kirkin' O' the Tartan did not start in the brutal time of the “Act of Proscription” in 18th century Scotland, but rather during a service April 27th, 1941 at the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C. During the service that day, the Rev. Peter Marshall preached a sermon titled “The Kirkin' o' the Tartans”. The sermon was part of a series of prayer services held to raise funds for the British War Relief. And thus the name and the tradition began.

Next year at our 2016 Clan Leslie Gathering, we look forward to once again participating in the Kirkin' O' the Tartan.

Robert Leslie, Acton, Ontario

Rosslyn Chapel *by Joe Cairney*

It was the second last day of our ten day trip to Scotland, that saw my new wife, Val, and I make the pilgrimage to Rosslyn Chapel. This day would only be bested by our wedding day, which took place at the Mansfield Castle Hotel, in Tain, five days prior.

It was an easy two hour drive from the Cameron House, on the “Bonnie Banks of Loch Lomond” to the small village of Temple, which derived its name from the Knights Templar, who were stationed there between the 12th and 14th century. We couldn’t have picked a better day to visit this charming, little village located a mere 15 minutes from our main goal, Rosslyn Chapel. The sky was a brilliant blue, dotted here and there with, what we humorously call, Simpson clouds, after those seen in the animated series. As we made our way down a narrow, single lane road lined with cottages on each side, I just couldn’t help but wonder what life would be like to live in such a beautiful location, nestled away from all the noise and congestion of city living. My musings were quickly set aside as I turned a corner, and there before us, stood the gothic ruins of the Old Temple Kirk, proudly standing among its weather-beaten grave stones. Aside from Val and I, there was only one other visitor, a beautiful bearded collie, who was munching away on a bone and obviously enjoying life. The bone was fresh by the way, I checked it out. We called him Templar. He didn’t seem to mind. We visited for about an hour, taking picture after picture. After stopping briefly to sit on a bench and take in the moment, we said our goodbyes to Templar, who acknowledged us with a quick glance before burying his head back into the bone, and off we went to visit my holy grail.

As beautiful as the Old Temple Kirk had been, it paled in comparison to the majesty of Rosslyn Chapel. It literally took my breath away. I had seen pictures of Rosslyn Chapel, both inside and out, I had even seen the chapel on the movie version of Dan Brown’s bestseller *The DaVinci Code*, but nothing prepared me for the ‘up close and personal’ experience. After making our way through the visitor center, where we purchased our admission tickets, and later lunch and gifts, we stepped outside for our first view of the chapel. It was larger than I envisioned, wider, taller. The stone waterspout gargoyles watched our every move as we made our way around the exterior, snapping even more pictures than we did at the Old Kirk. There was just so much to see! Stain glass windows depicted images of religious figures, soldiers, various animals, and members of the St Clair family, to name but a few subjects. All had a tale to tell. It seemed that every square foot of the exterior had something depicted on it. I remember thinking that it couldn’t get much better than this. How wrong I was! As we walked towards the large wooden doors to enter the chapel, I noticed a sign warning that photography was not allowed inside the chapel. I reluctantly placed my camera into its bag, and walked somewhat disappointedly through the



Joe Cairney in front of Rosslyn Chapel

doors. This feeling was short lived, as I stepped through the doors into a world of intricate sculptures, stonework, art, and not to forget history. There is no way that I could describe the interior of the chapel in less than a few thousand words, so I won’t even try, for if every square foot of the exterior was ornate, then every square inch of the interior surely must be too. Val and I sat down on a bench beside, what turned out to be William, the Rosslyn Temple cat, who was sound asleep. Val later bought a book in the gift store, all about William. We sat quietly listening to a very knowledgeable guide talk about the history of the chapel, and point out some of the most prominent sculptures. It was all very interesting. After the talk was over, Val and I, along with about sixty other visitors, made our way around the interior taking in as much of its beauty as we could. At one point, I sat down on a bench, in the middle of the chapel, and tried to take it all in. There was just so much to see. I formulated a short list of three things that I must see before I left; the Apprentice Pillar, the death mask of Robert the Bruce, and last but certainly not least the sculpture of Bartholomew Leslie and Queen Margaret riding on a horse. I made a promise to William Leslie, our clan’s North American Commissioner, who I met at the Fergus Highland Games in Ontario, Canada, that I would seek out this sculpture of Bartholomew. So after visiting the apprentice pillar and the death mask of Robert the Bruce, it was time for me to pay my respects to Bartholomew. With the walk of a man on a mission, I made my way to a guide and, showing her a picture similar to the one shown to me by William, asked if she could show me where it was. As we made our way there, the guide mentioned that it was a sculpture of William St. Clair. “Or the founder of my clan.” I retorted. “Oh, you must be a Leslie then.” was the guide’s reply. We both laughed, as we made our way to the sculpture. Later, I purchased a book about Rosslyn Chapel, and in it, it showed a picture of the sculpture, noting that it could be William St. Clair or Bartholomew Ladislaus. We know who it really is, don’t we.

Eden Castle by David Leslie White

Eden Castle is mostly a ruin now, but the east side is being used as a cattle shed and the south side has a concrete cattle loading chute. Castle Eden is located just west of highway A947 that runs between Turiff and Banff. Items in brackets have been added to further identify or clarify an item.

THE CASTLE OF EDEN

The book *Banff and District* by Allan Edward Mahood and published by the Banffshire Journal Limited in 1919 provides an excellent description of Eden Castle. This article appears on pages 146-148 of that book, a copy of which has been purchased for the Clan Leslie Collection at the University of Guelph. This article by Stanley Bruce of Banff was also published in the April/May/June issue of *Grip Fast Down Under* and is transcribed as follows:

"The ruins of Eden castle are about 4.5 miles from Banff, half a mile from the east side of the river Deveron, and about 1.5 miles from King-Edward Station. The castle can easily be visited after seeing the Old Kirk of King-Edward. [King Edward is a small village and parish midway between Turiff and Banff]. The Old Kirk of King Edward (Gaelic: Cinn Eadar) with the historic graveyard [this graveyard has the grave monument of Sir Patrick Leslie] was founded about 1124 by St. Aidan. The last service in the old parish church was in 1848 and services moved to the new church along the main road [The King Edward railroad station is no longer in service.]

Approached from this side, the ruins are seen in the foreground of an extensive landscape, with the wooded Hill of Alvah rising on the far side of the vale of Deveron – the river is too low down to be seen., The view is especially pretty late in September and early in October, when the sun sets behind hill of Alvah. The castle forms an oblong 40 feet by 25 feet and three stories high. There are traces of a wing on the north side, and a tower projects a little on the southern part of the west front. The door is in the angle between the town and the rest of the castle. No trace of outworks is left or of the gardens. There are a number of vaulted rooms on the ground floor which have loop holes in the walls.

A narrow stair leads from the south-east vault to the first floor where the hall extends nearly the whole length of the ruins. During the early part of the 19th century, the roof was still intact, and this hall was used by the people around and their neighbours for dances. The bedrooms were on the 2nd floor. The date 1877 and the initials G.L. M.G. were on a lintel of one of the rooms, and 1676 is over the doorway and 1677 on the south gable. At that time a story was added by George Leslie, whose wife was Margaret Gordon.

HISTORY – Eden was in the old Earldom of Buchan, and about 1308 formed part of the tocher or dowry of Margaret Comyn, heiress of the last Norman Earl. Subsequent Earls of Buchan held it until 1415, and then Meldrums of Fyvie were the owners for over 150 years. The present castle was built before

1560, and early in the 17th century it belonged to Sir Patrick Leslie, whose monument may be seen in [the] King-Edward Churchyard. The Eden Estate was bought by the late Sir Richard Nicholson in 1901 and his trustees now hold it."

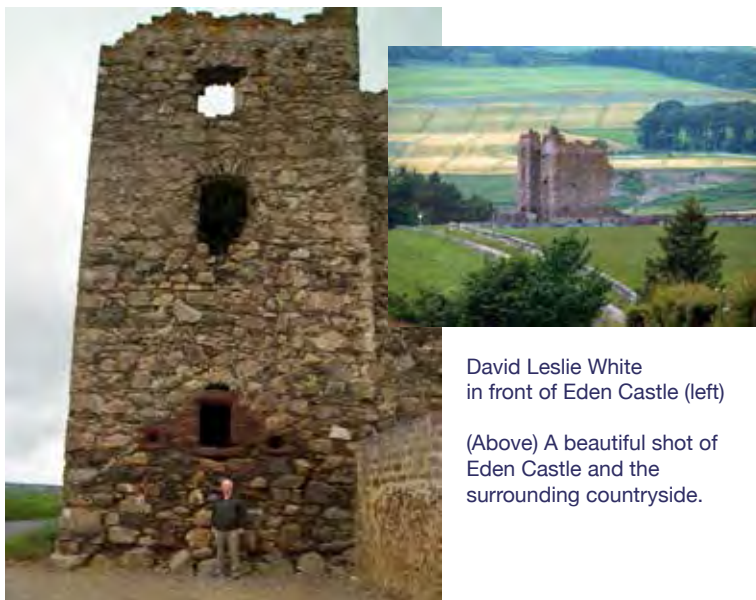
The remainder of this article is by Mr. Stanley Bruce of Banff.

Earlier references to Eden are written as Iden. The 1st Leslie laird of Iden was Sir Patrick Leslie (c1595 to 1660) Provost [the chief magistrate of a Scottish city] of Aberdeen at different periods from 1634 to 1647. He is said to have been ". . . a great man of great repute, and he figured much in the troublesome times of the Covenant, being a rigid Covenanter".

He bought the castle from the Meldrum family (Exact date unknown). Patrick married firstly Jean Leslie (b. c1595) daughter of John Leslie 10th Baron of Balquhain and Jean Erskine. c1633 he married his second wife Isabella Cheyne (c1614 to 1666). George the 2nd laird married Miss Gordon of Park.

Looking at the ruinous castle as it stands today it is to my mind a building at risk. Trees which are growing inside are certainly a risk to the masonry. I could not see the two date stones or the stone with initials on it as mentioned by Mahood. The castle is category B listed by Historic Scotland. Grid Ref: NJ697587.

The 'GL' initials on the 1677 date-stone are thought to be those of George Leslie (b. c1644) the 2nd laird of Eden. His son also George (b. c1644) was the 3rd laird, and his grandson also George (c1684 to 1740) was the 4th and last Leslie laird. The 4th laird of Eden sold the Eden Estate to Duff of Braco on or before 1740. George Leslie 4th laird of Eden purchased the Tyrie Estate from John Fraser 4th laird of Tyrie c1725/c1728, this purchase would have included the Mansion of Tyrie House. In 1690, James Fraser thought to be the 3rd son of Sir Alexander Fraser (c1536 to 1623) 8th laird of Philorth built Tyrie House. It is said to have stood due east of Tyrie Parish Church (built 1800). The house is said to have been magnificent, and had round towers, terraces, a canal and orchards. Nothing of the house can be seen today. Appropriately Tyrie in Gaelic means the 'Kings House.' Approximate Grid Ref: NJ9363.



David Leslie White
in front of Eden Castle (left)

(Above) A beautiful shot of
Eden Castle and the
surrounding countryside.

Clan Leslie Items for Sale

Clan Leslie items for sale 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. These books are out of print and in short supply. Get yours before they are gone! 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

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5) **Griffin Reprints** - 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.

6) **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).

7) **The Laurus Lesleana Compendium** - 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. Price is \$10

8) **Clan Leslie Christmas Ornaments** - We have 2013 and 2014 ornaments still available. The 2014 ornament is very limited so get yours before they're gone!

9) **Balgonie Castle Christmas Cards** - We still have Christmas cards featuring Balgonie Castle. There are ones with verse and without verse. They are on special—20 cards for \$14.

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.

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