



GRIP FAST

JOURNAL

The Newsletter of Clan Leslie Society International

May, 2017

Special Issue!
Games, Tents
and the 2016
CLSI Gathering.



Full photo
inside!



The Honourable Alexander Leslie with the Fergus Scottish Festival Master of Ceremonies.

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ABOUT THE COVER

A great looking group of Leslies gather for a photo before the Chief's Banquet at the 2016 CLSI Gathering in Fergus, Ontario, Canada.



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Aboyne

We opened the tent at 10:00 and had a look at the weather. All seemed well so we think the weathermen got it wrong again. Leslie & Petra were busy setting out the food table and David & Brian were dressing the tent. David's grandson, David, came to help.

We like to say that we had the best day in six years of being here at Aboyne. We had 49 people signed the visitors book and the other 50+ were family & friends of the visitors.

Look at the photo taken outside the tent and you will see a gnome on top of the Clan board. The owner another David Leslie from Australia in carrying it round the world with him.

The other photos are some of the visitors to the tent. We were on our feet for the best part of 9 hours. It rained at about 4:30 so it was short and sweet.

We are looking forward to next year when David & Leslie are on holiday so Sebastian has said he will be there with Brian & Petra.

Brian Lesslie



Grandfather Mountain

Clan Leslie was well represented at the 61st annual Grandfather Mountain Highland Games with Leslies, Abernathys/Abernethys, and Moores visiting from Georgia, New Jersey, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, and many from North Carolina. The tent was manned by three generations of CLSI members. Christine and Lewis, daughter Elizabeth and her daughter Mary.

Judy Abernathy and her son Brandon, a member of the Grandfather Mountain Highlanders Pipe and Drum band spent time with us in the tent. We are always glad to see them. Don and Janice Abernathy also joined us in the tent on Saturday.

On Saturday our special guests were Lesley Craddock and her family. You might remember that Lesley and her family hosted a tent for the first time at the Gallabree Games in South Carolina. On Sunday, Rhonda and Harlan Hambright joined us in the tent and Rhonda represented Clan Leslie in the parade of clan representatives after the Parade of Tartans.

Clan Leslie was honored by the presentation of the Best Clan Tent Award by Donald MacLaren, Chief of Clan MacLaren and officials from Grandfather Mountain Highland Games.

Lewis and Christine Johnson

Below Left: Christine Johnston with her daughter Elizabeth and granddaughter Mary.
Below Right: Rhonda and Harlan Hambright.



Salado

Convenor's report for the 55th Gathering of the Scottish Clans & Highland Games held in Salado TX 11 through 13 November, 2016.

A number of Leslie's stopped by the CLSI tent, co-located with the Clan Wallace tent, during the 55th Gathering of the Scottish Clans & Highland Games held in Salado, TX November 11 to 13, 2016.

The attached picture has past Society Chieftain, David Leslie White and Frank Leslie, convenor, seated in front of the CLSI display.

Many activities took place during the Gathering to include the addition of children's athletics and a dog fashion show. Lots of pictures of the Gathering may be found on the Central Texas Area Museum's Facebook page.

The weather was nice during the entire weekend.

Frank Leslie



Left: David Leslie White and Frank Leslie man the tent at the Gathering of the Highland Clans and Scottish Games in Salado, Texas.

New Hampshire Scottish Games

September 16-18, 2016 was a perfect weekend for the 41st annual New Hampshire Highland Games & Festival in Lincoln, New Hampshire. The tent was hosted by CLSI North East Convenor Laura Messing with some help from her husband Dean Messing. Quite a few Leslie's stopped by including a new member from the North East Region, Patrick Masson and his wife Jamie. They are going to be tent hosts here in the North East and we're excited to have them on board!

The day was capped off with a visit by Dr. Joseph Morrow, Lord Lyon who was kind enough to pose for a photo with me. He was so nice and asked about Chief Alex. We are looking forward to the 2017 Games and some additional festivals in Maine and Massachusetts.

Laura Sawyer Messing

Right: Patrick and Jamie Masson
in the Clan Leslie tent

Below: Laura Messing with Dr. Joseph Morrow, Lord Lyon



Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games



It was a soft day at the 71st Annual Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games in Fergus, Ontario, Canada. The Leslie's broke the drought and were subjected to a heavy downpour during the parade of Clans. Despite the rain a memorable and fun day was had by all!



More Fergus
Festival photos
on page 17!



St. Jacob's Mennonite Tour

On a hot Ontario summer day, we were glad to have a comfy bus with air conditioning and it was full of all our new friends - Clan Leslie folks from Gathering 2016.

A Mennonite guide boarded the bus to escort us through Mennonite country. Our first stop was in St. Jacob's at the Mennonite Museum. We saw three videos, all very high tech, one used mirrored walls to enhance the show. The videos discussed the different orders of Mennonites, wedding and funeral traditions as well as church and school protocol. The museum looked excellent - we would have liked to have had time to view the other exhibits.

Next stop was the West Montrose Covered Bridge with a visit to the General Store first. The friendly owner had lots of Mennonite yummy baking, Mennonite crafts, bonnets, aprons, rubber boots, straw hats, bulk foods and fresh blueberries and vegetables. A horse and buggy was parked outside and we were encouraged to sit in it. It was very rocky getting into it. The covered bridge is the last covered bridge in Ontario and is used all the time. The echo of horsed hooves clip clopping over the boards is something to remember.

Our guide toured us around the countryside and stopped at a church and school to explain what went on in these buildings. There were separate doors to the church. Girls would go in one and boys the other and they would sit on separate sides of the church. All children stopped school at age 14 and went to work on the farm or in the home. They learned a trade and went to work after that. We saw the tunnel for buggies under the expressway and saw a buggy go through it. Some crops in the fields were very poor because of our drought this summer but some were quite green and healthy. We went to the Crossroads Family Restaurant for a full buffet luncheon of excellent food. They had a very large gift shop with many quilts and we enjoyed visiting there.

The most interesting part of the tour was a visit to a Mennonite farm where we sat in the family kitchen and talked to the farmer and his wife. They welcomed us and talked openly about their life. The youngest son always lives with the parents. Their son and young family live in their own section at the front of the house. The women tend a large vegetable garden and there are always flowers around the garden. Most farms have flowers for sale at the end of the driveway. Each farm generally has a home business - this farm had a millwright shop and produced farm machine parts for other farmers. This farm had hydro and they seemed quite progressive.

We were taken next to the St. Jacob's Farmer's Market where hundreds of vendors sell their wares indoors and out. There are several buildings which have been rebuilt in recent years after devastating fires. Vendors sell anything from crafts, flowers maple syrup, baking, dry goods, fruits, vegetables, meats, cheese quilts and ready to eat food. It takes a long time to get around the whole market and there is an outlet centre across the road as well with shoe stores, and a LegoLand, dress shops, bedding and kitchen wares.

This was an excellent day with a peek into a different lifestyle in Ontario. We returned to Guelph in time to prepare for the Tartan parade in Fergus, which went on in between heavy rain showers later that evening.



Above: The Mennonite Covered Bridge.



Right: Steve Spitzer
on the bridge.

A Visit to the Leslie Log House

August 12, 2016 Mississauga, Ontario, Canada

It was a warm muggy day in Mississauga Friday, August 12 and there was the threat of rain in the forecast. Inside the log house after 9 am preparations were underway and we were expecting 150 guests for the visit of the Chief of Clan Leslie, the Honorable Alexander Leslie and his wife Miranda together with other members of the clan who had arrived for the 2016 clan gathering in Fergus. Chairs and tables were arranged in the shade under the tall trees and volunteers were busy preparing the food and drinks. We had a selection of fancy sandwiches and tempting desserts as well as a choice of beverages and all was ready for a great day.

Imagine our surprise when the first guests to arrive were Miranda and the Chief who explained that they wanted to arrive before the bus so they could have a nice quiet visit to the house and their wishes were granted when they were escorted through the building by the Streetsville Historical Society Archivist, Anne Byard. Miranda was delighted with house which had been restored for the public by the city of Mississauga.

The bus from the University of Guelph arrived soon after and the rain began, happily the rain amounted to enough to dampen our shirts for ironing and we were able to dodge the threat of further precipitation. It was a great pleasure to greet the Leslie guests as they stepped off the bus and were piped onto the grounds by Dave Sanderson from the Streetsville Branch 139 Royal Canadian Legion Pipes and Drums.

The greeting was arranged and hosted by the Streetsville Historical Society with assistance from Museums of Mississauga and the city's culture division and the idea was that the Leslies would be welcomed to visit the house and to spend an afternoon with us with no further duties but to

enjoy the day. It was a great opportunity for us to host Leslies from Scotland, USA and Canada.

Greetings were extended by Mississauga Mayor Bonnie Crombie, Ward 11 Councillor George Carlson who has been a great supporter of the log house and the Streetsville Historical Society, and a special guest, former Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion who is familiar to people worldwide and who delighted many visitors with her presence. Ward 8 Councillor Matt Mahoney was also present.

All events of this nature require preparation, planning and dedicated volunteers to see that things proceed satisfactorily and we were fortunate to have 21 volunteers and 4 staff members from Museums of Mississauga all of whom worked tirelessly to make it a great event. Our final tally was 175 visitors and we were well pleased.

One of the questions which was asked several times was the distance the log house was moved from its original location in 1994 and, embarrassingly, we did not know the answer. The question has been resolved: from the location of the farm in Meadowvale to the present location on Mississauga Road the distance travelled was 10.4 km or 6.46 miles. Both Meadowvale and Streetsville are now in the city of Mississauga.

As a final note the Leslie Log House is open to the public Wednesday and Sunday afternoons from 1-4 and visitors are always welcome. We greet members of the Leslie family as honoured guests and visitors from Scotland as special guests.

Malcolm Byard,
President,
The Streetsville Historical Society





2016 CLSI Gathering,



Photo: Tyson Spitzer

Guelph, Ontario, Canada

The Chief's Banquet

Clan Leslie Chief's Banquet, Aug 13, 2016, Guelph, Ontario

The Clan Leslie Chief's Banquet was held August 13, 2016 at the Holiday Inn in Guelph, Ontario. The evening was well planned and organized over the past two years by Robert Leslie of Acton, Ontario with assistance from the Clan Leslie Gathering Committee. The co-M.C.'s for the evening were Margaret Hibbs and Marilyn Dickson MacMillan, who kept the evening on track and running smoothly.

Before the festivities got started, everyone was asked to gather in the atrium of the hotel for a group photograph. Leslie Clan Chief Alexander Leslie and his lovely wife Miranda were placed front and centre in the picture. It certainly was a challenge for our photographer as approximately 180 clan members stretched over quite a horizontal distance!

Then it was back into the dining room for the formal part of the evening. The head table was piped in by David Borrett and they took their places. Robert Leslie introduced the head table and they each stood up. They included Clan Chief Alexander Leslie, Miranda Leslie, Chieftain Tom Huxtable, Commissioner William Leslie, Sue Leslie, Loren Leslie, Beth Meriwether, David Leslie White.

The grace was ably delivered by Ian Buchanan who quoted Robert Burns and also carried a deployed umbrella in reference to the deluge which had been wrought on the clan gathering earlier that day at the Fergus Highland Games. Frankly, it's amazing we didn't all float away with the volume of rain that fell during the Clan Parade, which was led by our Clan Leslie.

Dinner was sumptuous and was accompanied by wine. Clan Chief Alexander Leslie expressed his best wishes to the guests and his gratitude for being invited to Canada for the event. During dessert, there were several speeches and presentations which were enjoyed by all. It is interesting to note that an official called for a show of hands of how many of the attendees were from the USA and a surprising number of hands went up. It seems to this writer as if it may have been about forty or thereabouts.

Following desert, the group was treated to a very enthusiastic delivery of Clan history by Brian Leslie, a talented actor who took the role of Clan Patriarch Bartholomew, a Hungarian nobleman and the first to be named Leslie. Bartholomew was nothing if not effusive in his spirited interpretation of all things Clan Leslie. He strutted and fretted his half hour upon the stage and then sadly his time ran out. Bartholomew was heard from no more as M.C. Marilyn called a halt to the lesson although still in full flight. Everyone gave Bartholomew a hearty applause as he withdrew, sword in hand. He remained available for photos with many of the group. Many thanks go out to Brian for his wonderful and unforgettable presentation.

Then there was a beautiful dance presentation by the Fergus Scottish Country Dancers, including an opportunity for the audience members to participate in the Gay Gordon. This attracted about thirty or forty people to get up and try their hand/feet at that particular dance. It is surprising at how quickly they caught on with a little coaching from the experts.

Following the Scottish dancing, the festivities continued with live entertainment provided by the very talented Fergus band Thistlebank, whose members include Nick Gush, Janice Howie, Egan Baird and Terry van Dreumel. Sadly Terry was not able to be at the dinner as he was off on vacation in Scotland. Everyone enjoyed listening to the beautiful music of Thistlebank, while others kicked up their heels and danced. A good time was enjoyed by all and a heartfelt thank you went out to Robert Leslie for working so hard over the last two years to organize this wonderful event.

Jim Dickson and Marilyn Dickson MacMillan

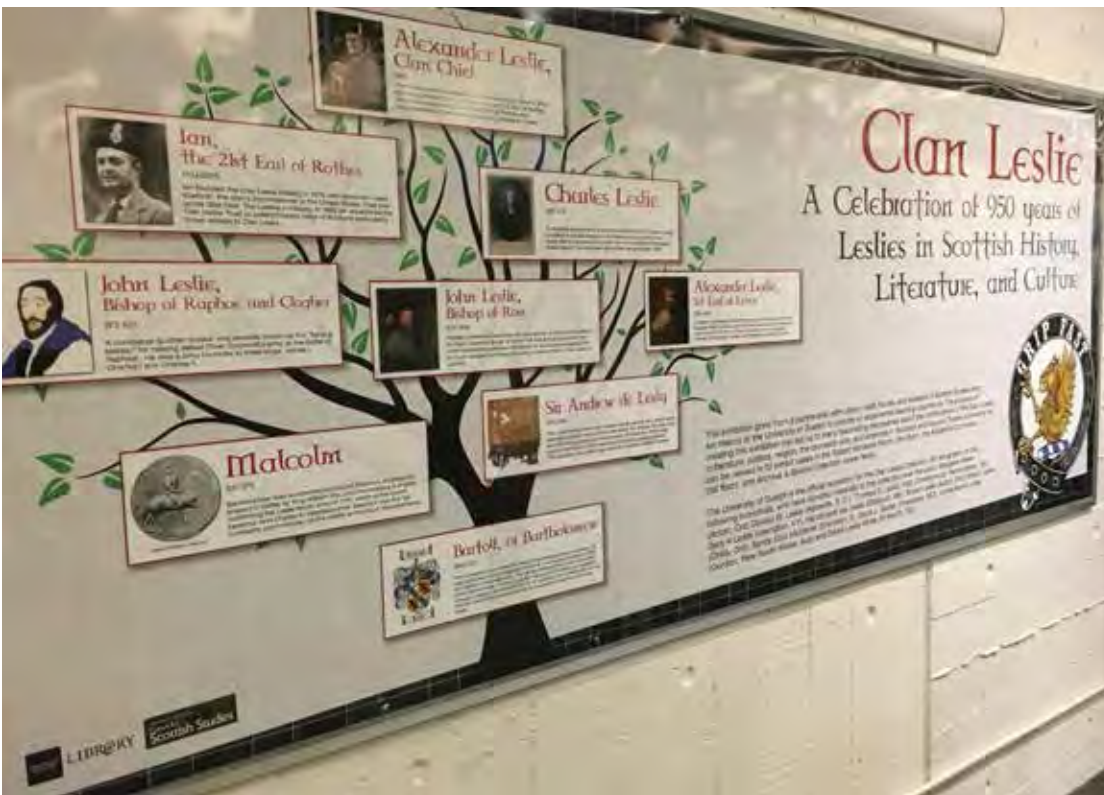




Clan Leslie Library at the University of Guelph



Alex and Miranda in front of one of the displays at the University of Guelph



Left and Above: Fantastic displays of Leslie history and famous Leslies at the University of Guelph.

More Gathering Photos!

Leslie Log House, Mississauga, Ontario



Left: The Honourable Alexander Leslie receives a proclamation from the mayor of Mississauga, Bonnie Crombie

Below: The wonderful interpretive display at the Leslie Log House.



Left: A beautiful day for Leslies to gather at the Leslie Log House.

Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games



Above: Oh the rain! We were all wet but in good spirits!

Left: Several members pose with Chief Alex and Miranda at the Leslie tent.

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