

GRIP fast



DOWN UNDER

THE NEWSLETTER OF CLAN LESLIE SOCIETY
OF AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND. (CLANZ)

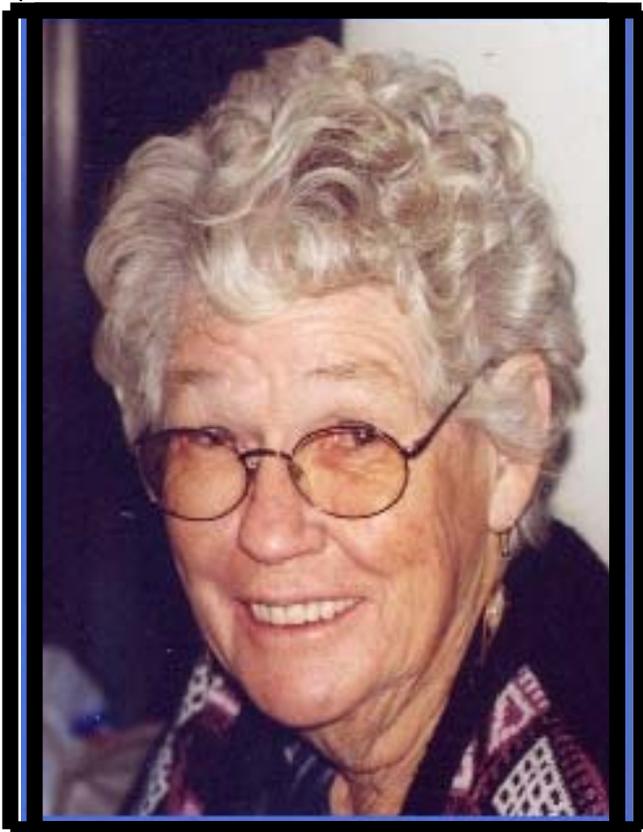
Vol. 4, No 1, Jan, Feb, March 2007.

“FLOWERS OF THE FOREST”

I am sad to report that CLANZ member, Margaret Pearce (nee Leslie) died in Western Australia on the 13th September 2006.

Margaret’s sister Robin Stott, has given me the following information.

“Margaret was born 6th April 1937 to Hugh Alan Leslie, who was born in South Africa 17th April 1900 and Isabel Margaret Dawson, who were married at St Saviour’s Anglican Church, Wyalkatchem Western Australia, 26th December 1931.



Margaret Pearce. nee Leslie.

Margaret’s father entered State Parliament in 1942, which meant a move to a suburb of Perth. Margaret spent her primary school years at Kelmscott and her high school years at Perth

Girls High School, then Perth Modern School. She graduated from Claremont Teachers College after attaining a Diploma of Teaching in 1956. She spent the following years at a number of country schools and in 1963 she married a farmer from Yornaning. Within 12 months they had moved to Hyden, where they brought up 3 sons on their farm. Margaret was an active member of many clubs in Hyden, including tennis, golf, Lions, Isolated Childrens Parents Association and Revise. The last being an organization to send retired teachers to isolated children who needed educational help. She loved the farm life and was renowned in the area for her organizational skills of the farm, her husband, the boys and in assisting any of the local clubs, as well as the cooking. In the short winter months she and her husband could escape the farm and they would travel, mostly in the last few years, to Carnarvon, for the bowls season in the northern part of Western Australia. At various times they travelled to every State, with their caravan in tow. They were at Carnarvon when she fell ill in July.

Margaret passed away after suffering, thankfully for only a short time on the 13th September 2006. She leaves behind her husband, 2 sons, a brother and 3 sisters who will all miss her greatly.

Robin Stott. Western Australia.



**SQUADRON LEADER
LESLIE SULLINGS EDWARDS.
0211649. RAAF.**

Les Edwards is the grandson of William (Bill) Leslie born 1886 and Florence Roach. Bill died in 1953. Bill was the grandson of James Leslie, born 1826 and Jane Phillips who were married in

Ireland and came to Australia in 1852 and had 10 children.

Les Edwards served in the RAAF, both in the Active Reserve and the Permanent Air Force for a total of 28 years.

Born in 1928 in the northern NSW scottish town of Inverell he spent much of his early life with his grandparents Bill and Florence Leslie. Bill was a prominent stockman employed by major wool companies.

Initially Les worked for the Department of Agriculture as an information officer, located at Orange and later at Lismore. He specialised in using the mass media communication, in getting specialised information to the rural community. Over several years he researched and developed various media systems in farmer education.

For this work, he was awarded a Churchill Fellowship in 1968. This enabled him to continue studies at the University of Illinois USA.

Shortly after returning home to Australia, the RAAF offered him an appointment in the Permanent Service at Butterworth, in Malaysia. For the next ten years, Les saw service in several countries, including Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Japan, Egypt, Thailand and Vietnam. During his Vietnam service and at the defeat of South Vietnam, he participated in the rescue of some four hundred orphans, who were flown to Australia. However, the attempt to rescue long serving Vietnamese staff from the Australian Embassy was rejected by the then Prime Minister, Gough Whitlam.



Medals awarded to Sqn Leader Les Edwards.

During his Reserve Service, Les was awarded the Reserve Forces Decoration (RFD) and he is now retired and living on the NSW South Coast town of Broulee.

Thanks to Les Edwards.

LORDSHIP OF LINDORES

In 1863 the great niece of the last Lord Lindores died in "very reduced circumstances" in Edinburgh. The following spring, in accordance with her will, the British minister in Turin presented Prince Charles Edward Stuart's watch to " His Majesty Victor Emmanuel, King of Sardinia (and now, I suppose, King of Italy), as the indisputable representative of the royal race of Scotland, with my prayers that he be made wise unto salvation through faith in Jesus Christ". Elsewhere in her will she refers to herself as the " My Unfortunate self, the last tip of the Leslie tail" and to her many genealogical and other papers, including music, poems, pencil drawings of Scottish kings; she also made a lengthy statement concerning her family quarrels: clearly a very eccentric character.

Why she, a member of a family which had been staunch supporters of the Hanoverian Kings, should have had a watch of Bonnie Prince Charlie and was clearly a Stuart romantic and regarded herself as the last representative of the Leslie Lords Lindores needs some explanation, not least since the House of Lords had ruled in 1793 that the Lindores title had become extinct with the 5th Lord in 1718. The origin of the watch remains lost in history but the story of the Lords Lindores is an interesting aspect of the Leslie history - and their determination to try and keep the name of Lindores alive.

The 17th century was the apogee of the Leslie: they were numerous, they held one Dukedom - too briefly-, two earldoms, two baronies, one baronetage and various knighthoods; never had they been so powerful and influential. Yet by 1718, the peerages had all died out in the male line - although fortunately Rothes and Leven by the terms of their creation were able to continue in the female line - and the family largely disappeared from the historical headlines.

However, in two cases, Lords Newark and Lindores, the families were determined not to let the titles die and for over 70 years they were successful, in spite of the fact that they had largely lost their wealth and their landed base. In both cases they took advantage of the fact that with the Act of Union with England in 1707 the Scottish political institutions disappeared and with it, the supervision of titles. It was not until the 1780's that the Committee of Scottish Peers,

who were responsible for electing 25 of their number to the British House of Lords - which continued until 1963-, started to query the rights of some of the peers to take part in elections and to claim the title. The creation of peerages in Scotland had taken place in several ways over the 300 years up to their end in 1707 : in most it, allowed claims by "heirs of the body" either male or either male or female , but in a few by " heirs general". The original record of creation had sometimes disappeared and it was left to tradition to decide. In the 1780's a number of Scottish peers, led by the Duke of Buccleuch argued successfully to the Committee and the Lord Chancellor, the Scottish Earl of Mansfield, that in neither the Lindores or the Newark case was there any proof that the creations were other than for "heirs male of the body" and the respective claimants ceased to be allowed to vote as peers. After their deaths, all claims ended and thus two of the Leslie peerages finally disappeared forever.

The title of **LORD LINDORES** had been created for Patrick Leslie, the son of the 5th Earl of Rothes, in 1600 following his grant by James VI of the estates of Lindores Abbey, most of which were squandered by his son Patrick 2nd lord. Following his death in 1649 at the siege of Dundee, the title passed to his brother James, 3rd lord who died in 1667, whence it passed to his son John 4th lord who died in 1706 and thence to his son David, 5th Lord, who died without sons in 1718. The title was then improbably claimed by a distant cousin, Alexander, whose great grandfather, Sir John Leslie of Newton, was another son of the 5th Earl of Rothes; and younger brother of the 1st Lord Lindores. Sir John had left a son, Alexander Leslie of Quarter in Fife,- whose son John was the father of Alexander, an officer in the Army, who assumed the title of 6th Lord Lindores, apparently without challenge. He had a distinguished military career in the German campaigns of the 1740's and 1750's, when he commanded the 41st Invalid Regiment - otherwise known as the Chelsea pensioners. He died at Chelsea Hospital in 1764 and was buried there. By his wife Jean, niece of Sir James Campbell of Aberuchill, Bt, he had one son, James Francis who became 7th Lord. By that time, lands and money seem to have evaporated. Francis, 7th Lord, lived in London where he is recorded as writing in 1773 to the Government Minister Lord Rockingham, begging for supplement to his pension to

" enable him to seek the most proper and indeed the only means of recovery [from a stroke of the palsy] namely going to the Wells at Bath which I cannot at present owing to the smallness of my income, for which however I thank your Lordship and cannot help observing that since your administration promises are all I have got".. He died in London two years later in 1775 unmarried and was buried in unfashionable Hackney.

Lady Lindores, his mother, was clearly badly off, : in 1770 she was writing from Wardour St, Soho, London to the Lord Chamberlain, asking to be appointed as Housekeeper at Somerset House - not yet rebuilt. She died in Scotland Yard, Westminster, in 1790 leaving her few possessions to her servant, Elizabeth, wife to Thomas Lindores.

However that was not the end of the self - styled Lords Lindores. The title was assumed by yet another cousin: John Leslie of Lumquhat, whose great grandfather James of Lumquhat, in Fife, was yet another son of Sir John Leslie of Newton, who had died in 1705 leaving a son John, who had died in 1728, leaving a son, John who died in 1771, whose son John, an officer in the 26th regiment, assumed the title on the death of his distant cousin Francis, the 7th Lord in 1775. He voted at several elections in the Scottish Committee but in 1793, as we have seen, the House of Lords voted to dismiss his claim. Fortunately, he had married a wealthy lady, Jane daughter of Sir Thomas Reeve. He lived at her property at Bray in Berkshire until his death in 1813. His widow continued to be styled Lady Lindores until her death in 1837.

In 1846 the Edinburgh papers reported the death in Cupar, Fife "of Miss Hughina Leslie, aged 100, the last representative of the distinguished house of Leslie of Lindores." This was the last surviving sister of John self styled 8th Lord Lindores, incorrectly shown in the Historical records of the Family of Leslie as the sister of Francis, 7th Lord. There would appear to have been no other male Leslies of this line to come forward to launch a claim, but John and Hughina did have an elder sister, Elizabeth who was married to a Major Thomas Hewan and, dying in 1811, left a large family in Edinburgh. It was one of her grandchildren, Elizabeth Findlater, who assumed her grandmother's name of Leslie and until her death in 1863 remained the self

styled custodian of the Lindores family Leslie - and guardian of the Watch.

Surprisingly, the title of **LORD NEWARK** proved equally attractive. Created for David Leslie, the covenanting general and younger son of the 1st Lord Lindores, by Charles II in 1660, the title died out with the death of his son in 1694, but his eldest daughter, Jean who had married Sir Alexander Anstruther, the younger son of a Fife landed gentry family, assumed the title as 3rd Baroness until her death in 1740 on the basis of what appeared to have been a forged re-grant of the title to heirs female. Two of her sons, William, 4th Lord and Alexander 5th Lord attended successive coronations, and Alexander's son John, 6th Lord, took the name of Leslie and successively assumed the title, until 1793, when his claim was challenged. John fought hard: lawyers were consulted, documents produced, statements made on oath, but to no avail: the Lords dismissed the claim and found the use of the title invalid and he cease to use them. He was advised not to use the title and to call himself John Anstruther, otherwise Leslie, commonly called Lord Newark. This did not discourage him and it was as Lord Newark that he died in Exmouth in 1818, leaving £10 to the poor of the parish. Thus ended, too, the Anstruther/Leslies , Lords Newark.

Many thanks to Sir Peter Leslie U.K ©.2006

In the next issue of Grip Fast Down Under, I shall have an addendum to the above story and news of two other contenders for the title.

Barrie Leslie

JOHN LESLIE (1749-1837
and the Silversmiths of Aberdeen
(1993)

We know from the archaeologists' finds that skilled metalworkers were at work in the Celtic part of Scotland and Ireland long before the Romans invaded Great Britain. Items mainly of bronze and gold have been found showing highly developed skills in form, taste and decoration. Silver, although known much earlier, did not come into common use in Scotland until the late 7th century. Initially it was not as popular as copper or gold, since it needed some

knowledge of metallurgy to extract metal of reasonable quality. The heyday of silver wrought in "provincial" Scotland, i.e. outside Edinburgh or Glasgow, was between the 15th and 18th centuries; after that the work lost its "Scottishness" and with few notable exceptions, such as the Quaich, it became British in character. A parliamentary Statute in 1836 required all work done in Scotland to be assayed in Edinburgh or Glasgow, and this effectively ended the "provincial" trade.

By the 15th century Aberdeen had established the usual structure of a small town run by the merchants and craftsmen. Within the community there would have been "freemen" and "unfreemen". The "unfreemen", having little money and no skills, played no part in the organization of the town, while the "freemen", the merchants and craftsmen who provided the financial prosperity of the town, conducted the affairs of the community. The merchants formed the Merchants Guild and the craftsmen the Craft Guild, both governed by their own strict set of rules of behaviour. Sadly but inevitably, the two sides quarreled increasingly for the next three hundred years, both guarding their own positions ever more jealously; the craftsmen refused to co-operate with the merchants and traded in their own raw materials, which the merchants resented, and the merchants, who exclusively provided all the members of the Burgh Council, refused to allow the craftsmen any say in the running of their town. The solution came eventually in an Act of Parliament in 1834.

Originally there were six Trades within the Aberdeen Craft Guild: the Hammermen, the Bakers, the Wrights and Coopers, the Tailors, the Cordiniers (shoemakers) and the Weavers. In 1657 a seventh, the Fleshers, was added making up the Seven incorporated Trades of to-day (the Trades). The Hammermen included the crafts where the hammer was a leading feature, as with blacksmiths, pewterers, armourers, saddlers, and hookmakers among others. Each craft was ordered by its own elected council, presided over by a Deacon and a Convener Court, who exercised full jurisdiction over every other member, journeyman and apprentice in his trade.

A boy wanting to become a goldsmith would start his apprenticeship, usually at the age of fourteen, by signing an "Indenture". This bound him as an apprentice to a particular goldsmith

and laid down the conditions and duration of the apprenticeship, usually five or seven years, during which time he would live with the goldsmith and be maintained by him but receive no wage. The goldsmith was entitled to a "prentice fee" but seldom exacted it. The Indenture required the signature of a "cautioner", a respectable citizen often the boy's father, who stood surety for the "honesty and fidelity" of the boy and for the completion of the apprenticeship. The completed Indenture then had to be registered and a fee paid before it was legally recognised. This was to the boy's advantage, for legal recognition of his apprenticeship meant a reduced fee for his eventual "freedom" as a Burgess. In due time, at the end of his apprenticeship, this was recorded in the Minute Book of the Hammermen and the apprentice became a "journeyman".

The journeyman now had to work for a master goldsmith for a minimum of two years; during this time he gained experience and was able to earn a wage and start saving for the future. There was no requirement for him to move on up the ladder - many never did - but if he wished to do so, having saved up enough money, he could apply to be admitted as a member of the Hammermen. In this case an "essay" would be prescribed for him to make to prove his ability. Whilst making it he would be closely watched over by the Deacon and masters to make sure he received no outside help. If the finished article (his Masterstick) was judged to show him proficient in his craft, he was admitted to full membership of the Hammermen on payment of a fee. Two thirds of this fee would eventually be put to the "Common Good" of the town, and the remaining one third retained by the Hammermen. At any time after that he could apply for admission as a Burgess of the town. However, usually there was a respectable pause of 8-10 years before he took this step. No doubt the time was spent saving up some money to establish himself in his chosen craft. Eventually, when he applied, the Deacon would present him to the Council and hand over the two thirds of the fee. Once accepted, his admission was entered in the Burgess Register and he became a "Freeman" - but free to work only at his own craft.

Although the behaviour of the goldsmith himself was strictly controlled, it was not until the end of the 15th century that any control over the quality

of the gold or silver was introduced. Acts of Parliament in 1457 and again in 1483 required each article to be marked by the maker, the deacon and the mark of the town, and minimum degrees of purity were laid down. In due course, in 1784 another Act raised duty on every article and required the additional mark of the sovereign's head signifying payment of the duty.

From the 15th century the term "goldsmith" was used to describe a craftsman who worked in gold or silver. It applied equally to apprentices, journeymen and the master who employed them. By the 18th century the term "silversmith" was in common use, as were others - jeweller, watchmaker, cutler - describing other trades.

Before the Reformation, the silversmith's main customer would have been the Church, whose tremendous wealth included many ornate and precious artefacts. However, the enormous expense of maintaining armies soon absorbed much of this wealth: first the army of the Covenanters, then Cromwell's army under General Monck, and finally the forces of the Rebellions of 1715 and 1745 soon used up these riches, and the impoverished Church became a poor customer; new customers had to be found among the laity. Fortunately, the local landed gentry were increasingly using tableware, and they were also becoming more prosperous. In the 15th century two or three goldsmiths were working in Aberdeen, by the 18th century there were five or six, in addition to the journeymen working in related trades, such as jewellers and watchmakers.



*A fine teapot, repousse and chased with flowers.
C 1770, Maker James Wildgoose.*

John Leslie, silversmith and prominent citizen of Aberdeen was born in 1744, when Aberdeen was still important and prosperous. Trade with Europe across the North Sea had made it the most important port of Scotland, and it was not until the Industrial Revolution and the development of trade with America in the 19th century that Glasgow expanded and eventually superseded Aberdeen as the major port and second city. We do not know where John Leslie came from, he first appears in the accounts of one James Wildgoose, a prominent silversmith, in 1770, when the end of his apprenticeship is recorded.



George III. Bead Edged Teapot by John Leslie

On 2nd November 1774, he was admitted as a member of the Hammermen, and eight years later, in 1782, he was admitted as a goldsmith Burgess. He was then 38 years old. From 1779 until 1814 he took six apprentices, the last one being Robert Leslie.

John Leslie was undoubtedly a talented artist in his craft. In the Leslie Collection we have a toddy ladle made by him bearing his mark IL. It was IL not JL since at that time there was no J in the alphabet. Apart from his craft he had a long and active career in the offices and affairs of the Trades. He was elected Deacon Hammermen on three occasions, Deacon-Convener in 1802 and again in 1803, when he was the Trades representative on the Council, he was also instrumental in setting up a fund for the widows of the Trades. In 1822 he wrote a book - nothing to do with his trade - entitled *Interesting Anecdotes, Memoirs, Allegories, Essays and*

Poetical Fragments tending to amuse the Fancy with many other Curious Things. With a title like that it must have been a best seller! He gave the manuscript and the resulting profits to the Shipwrecked Seamens' Fund.



George III Sugar Bowl by John Leslie

He continued to live in Aberdeen after his retirement and died on 24th May 1837, aged 88 years. The History of the Aberdeen Incorporated Trades remembers him thus: "John Leslie, a worthy citizen, whose hand is visible in many good works among his fellow citizens". Happily some of his work remains to this day, beautiful reminders of the "worthy citizen".

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“LESLIE” name on the WELCOME WALL at Darling Harbour Sydney NSW.

On Sunday the 12th November 2006, was the unveiling of 777 new names on the two new Bronze Panels, numbers 42 and 43 on the Welcome Wall at Darling Harbour, which has now almost 16,000 names on it. About 1200 people were present.



Elaine Woods at the Welcome Wall

The inaugural Opening Ceremony of this wall was held in January 1999. The wall is at the northern end of the Maritime Museum (near the Lighthouse), and is 100 metres long and just under 3 metres high. It will eventually hold 88 Bronze Panels



Elaine Woods, pointing to her ancestor's names.

Names need to be registered with the National Maritime Museum, phone 02 9298 3667

Our ancestors and the people who arrived in Australia from 126 countries, range from the 1st Fleet to new arrivals last year. The names are not in alphabetical order.

LESLIE James and (PHILLIPS) Janes.
 The above names appear on Panel No 42, Column No @ and Line No 061.

There is a database, www.anm.gov.au/ww that will give information about the names registered on the Welcome Wall.

Thanks to Elaine Woods of West Pymble. NSW.

THE "ASHES"

It seems appropriate to mention in this year of the visit by England's cricket team to try and retain the "Ashes" that in the English cricket team of the Hon Ivo Francis Walter Bligh in 1882-83 was a talented cricketer by the name of Charles Frederick Henry LESLIE, who was born 8th December 1861 in Mayfair Westminster London England and died 12th February 1921 in Mayfair Westminster London. He was the youngest member of the English team at just 20 years. He was a middle order right-hand batsman and was a very good fast change bowler, who

had an impressive record at Rugby School and then went up to Oxford in 1881 and scored a century on his first class debut.



Charles Leslie, seated at far right

When his cricket career finished he became the Managing Director of William France, Fenwick & Co Ltd Fenchurch Street London, Coal Merchants and Ship Owners and his great Grandson is the former England cricketer Matthew Fleming.

The Cricket Test matches between England and Australia are called the "Ashes" after Australia won the Test Match in 1882 and all England went into shock and an English journalist put the following obituary into "The Sporting Times".



Tongue in cheek obituary in The Sporting Times.

Charles Leslie played in all four tests and in Melbourne, Charles, while bowling took 3 wickets for 31 runs and also scored 144 against New South Wales.

Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.

KOKODA TRAIL 1942.

A tribute written to Captain Douglas Leslie (younger brother of the Rev Ken Leslie 6th Bishop of Bathurst. Patron of CLANZ) by Sgt Deacon Kelly. 2/33rd Battalion. 2nd A.I.F.



Capt Doug Leslie at Myola Two. Kokoda Trail 23rd October 1942. 2/6th Field Ambulance.

ARMY DOCTOR.

In a steaming teeming clearing on the virgin jungle rim

Stands a little spot of mercy in the midst of human sin

It's a tiny Red Cross Hospital, a place of ease and rest

Where the marks of mans bestiality, by God is recompensed

All around in pungent forests, slaughter foul and cracking guns

Take their toll of human bodies, neath the reeking scorching sun

Down a winding bush-girt pathway, ankle deep in clinging mud

Come the victims of the battle, helpless aimless spilling blood

In a tent on marshy richness, by a stream that's swift and pure

Rich endowed with healing magic, is the hand that's cool and sure

It's the hand of the Army Surgeon, waiting patiently and calm

A blessing to the wounded, to the sick a healing balm

From a hundred thankful homesteads, in a sunny beach-bound land

Grateful hearts will turn towards him, of the sure and learned hand

Prayers of gratitude will reach him, in the peaceful years to come

A tribute to his staunchness, in a job so nobly done.

Myola Two, Kokoda Trail. 2nd November 1942.

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Previous issues of GF DU:-
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