
grip fast



DOWN UNDER

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

Vol. 4, No 4, Oct, Nov Dec 2007.

REPORT ON CLANZ.

Well here we are on the rundown to the end of another year. Unfortunately I have to say that we have lost a few members who did not renew their membership of CLANZ for a variety of reasons and we have not managed to replace them. If you know of any potential members, please try to get them to join CLANZ.

I would ask that there must be some members who can assist me in the running of CLANZ. We have now been running for nine years and in that time I have been single-handedly running the Society, handling renewals each year, watching and keeping track of our finances, researching Clan history, compiling the largest database of Leslie's in the world and publishing the newsletter Grip Fast Down Under.

The strength of any Society is reflected in the number of members who assist in the running of the Society and with my health concerns over the last few years I really could do with some help.

Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.

CHANGE OF CONTACT DETAILS

Please advise if you have changed any of your contact details, especially your email address.

CEUD MILE FAILTE *

David Gordon Lingard North Ryde. NSW
Jane Anderson Dixon Como. W.A.

* One hundred thousand welcomes.



SGT RICHARD DUNN LESLIE
13/2216 North Auckland Mounted Rifles.



Sgt Richard (Dick) Dunn Leslie 13 / 2216

Richard Dunn Leslie was born at his parents home, Settlement Road Kaiwaka, North Auckland at midnight 11th November 1893, which gave him reason to celebrate two birthdays in later years.

He was the fifth child and second son of William Leslie, a Shetlander who arrived in New Zealand at the age of one, in 1859 and his wife Francis, nee Welsh who was born in Carlisle, northern England in 1863.

As a pioneering couple, they relied on the knowledge of William's parents, William and Ann Leslie, who were among the first European

landowners in the Kaiwaka district, with the elder William being a sailing master.

Richard, or Dick as he was known had five sisters and four brothers and with two uncles living nearby, who both had large families, there was a multiplicity of young Leslie's in the area.

With most of the income derived from timber, supplemented by digging for Kauri Gum, the home farm was built up with no shortage of labour, most probably forced, from the children. Dick's schooling was basic and not enjoyed as he often showed his grandchildren, the place on Settlement Road, where he and his siblings dug a large hole in the then, track, and covered it with branches, so the female teachers horse would fall and throw her, causing her harm.

He left school as soon as he turned fourteen and became a bushman fencer and roading contractor, the first two going hand in hand, as a member of the family had won a contract to fence the railway line, then pushing through the lower North, on its way to Whangarei and Dargaville. To reach Auckland from Kaiwaka in those days, meant either a boat trip from nearby Mangawhai or down the Kaipara Harbour to Helensville, on the west coast then overland to the growing city of Auckland.

Dick was about twelve when he made his first journey to the "Big Smoke" and along with his elder brother Charles, he got a clout around the ears, from his mother, for staring at the scantily dressed mannequins in the Queen Street shop windows. With so many brothers sisters and cousins, sport was a big part of their lives, with entries in his 1914 diary detailing preparations for sports meetings, building tennis courts, wood chopping, rugby and hockey. He was usually in the top placings for the wood chopping, the 220 yard sprint and the now obsolete standing long jump. In the 1912 hockey competition of composite male and female players, the Kaiwaka team had five male Leslies and three female Leslies.

With the onset of war in 1914, Dick's eldest brother Charles was badly wounded at Gallipoli and when Dick followed, he caught up with Charles on the island of Samnos. Frank, a younger brother, fought in France and all told, seven Leslies from Kaiwaka served in the Great War, with two being killed. Dick landed at Gallipoli on his 22nd birthday. His keen sense of

humour showed through, even in his diary, for we find entries, such as "*Left Albany (West Australia) in Indian Ocean*

Y R
R O
E U
V G
H

and when nearing Gallipoli the entry reads "*Lost in fog on lookout for SUB*

M
A
R
I
N
E
S

Dick was a member of the North Auckland Mounted Rifles, which was comprised of men from Kaiwaka, Maungaturoto, Paparoa, Waipu and Whangarei, who were mostly of Scots descent and also men from Kaikohe and Kaitaia who were from further north and were in the Auckland Mounted Rifles.

After Gallipoli the North Aucklanders remained in Palestine and Dick and his mates spent the rest of the war, galloping around Palestine and Jordan, fighting the Turks and on several occasions met and worked with Lawrence of Arabia. I remember, listening wide eyed, when I was a child, how he and his men, for he was now a sergeant, crossed the Jordan River and charged the Turkish Cavalry, in what would be one of the last times in modern warfare that two groups of cavalry charged each other with rifle and bayonet and the triumph as he and his men swept into Jerusalem, which he said was just a collection of filthy hovels.

After four and a half years of service he returned to Kaiwaka and soon married Isabelle Grace Benton, the daughter of English pioneers and as an example of their differences, Dick with his many brothers and sisters rarely had shoes until they could afford them, while Belle, who was the only child of two marriages, whose mother died in childbirth when Belle was three, had never been allowed outside without shoes.

Dick and Belle had two early children and then their lives were disrupted by the "great depression of the late twenties and early thirties. They had bought Dick's grandfathers land, but income had to be supplemented by outside work,

forming roads with a horse drawn grader, carting metal by horse and dray and the breaking in of young horses with Belle doing her share of the hard work, as Dick often left home early and returned home in the dark, with Belle doing the farm work with the two eldest children left to their own devices.



Dick and Belle on their Wedding Day

Dick had taken over his fathers position as Chairman of the Local Dairy Co-op and was building up a herd of pedigree jersey cows, while his father, who was a prominent Mason helped them buy their first car, so that he could have transport when he needed it. Dicks father was soon to be elected Grandmaster of the New Zealand Masons.

Dick was very mindful of the hardships that the 1914 - 1918 war had caused and took a very senior role in the formation of many Returned and Services Association Clubs, also in the mid 1930s he started to take part in local politics, being elected to the Otamatea County Council.

With the Second World War came the dramatic realization that New Zealand was in danger, with both Dick and Belle playing their part. Dick going to Officers Training School and Belle prominent in the oranization of Nursing Classes and Welfare but was hampered by the birth of a second son in 1940.

Dick was the Area Commander of the Home Guard and was allowed to keep his brand new 1939 Ford V8, with an extra petrol allowance. Much patriotic work was done by both Dick and

Belle, with parties for men going away to and returning from the war, ensuring that families whose men were overseas were looked after. Many of the houses did not have electricity and getting ample supplies of firewood was an important part of life.

Wounded American GIs were entertained and after the main threat of invasion was past, Dick arranged for many of the Home Guard drills to be held in the grounds of the local hotel at Mangawhai, which had to be stopped because too many men were getting lost while on Home Guard duties. After the war Dick spent much of his time on the Rehabilitation Board, ensuring that the returning servicemen got a fair deal and he worked with the government of the day, in purchasing waste and unproductive land, to be made into productive farms for the soldier settlements.

He was also a voice in the Federated Farmers, Returned and Services Association, County Council and also a Northland Hospital Board elected member as well as Chairman of the Local School Committee and a prominent Mason. He was of course first and foremost a farmer and his jersey herd was one of the best in Northland, but much of this must be attributed to Belle, who did all the bookwork and spent much of her time in the cowshed

In the late fifties he was the President of the newly built Kaiwaka RSA Club and was a founding member of the Bowling Club which had been built alongside, About this time he was given the job of being a Judge on the Land Valuation Court and this became almost a full time job with the North being in a state of development after years of neglect and with the added responsibility, he had to give up many of his other Offices and he also sold his farm to his youngest son, William and he and Belle moved to Mangawhai. Amongst all the work he did, he still found time to play bowls, but after a wonderful life, in his 79th year his heart decided that it had had enough and gave up halfway through a game of bowls at the club, which he had helped to establish, many years before.

In 1953 he had been awarded the Coronation Medal and was also a Returned Services Association, Goldstar holder and his War Service medals are on display, along with his photograph in the Hakaru RSA Club.

He was a man who helped his fellowmen, often to the detriment of his own family, for I can remember visiting people who he had helped, who had houses with flushing toilets, hot and cold water and carpeted floors while I was brought up with the outside "long drop", an electric kettle and a wood burning stove.

Dick was a man of the horse era, going to school, going to work, going to sport and fighting a war on one, then courting his wife on one, using them to supplement his income, working his farm with the last draught horse until 1961 and of course he liked to bet on them.

Belle lived on till she reached the age of 93, so all the hard work the couple did, didn't shorten their lives, but one certainty is that Dick could not have done what he achieved in later life without Belle.

They had a daughter and two sons, who at the time of writing this tale are still in good health with two of them being in their mid eighties.

Many thanks to William (Bill) Leslie of Settlement Road, Kaiwaka, Northland, NZ for this story of his family and although it is rather long, I believe that it is a tale worth recording.

Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.

**MESSAGE FROM THE
HONOURABLE ALEX LESLIE
ACTING CHIEF OF CLAN LESLIE.**

Homecoming

There is an event that is happening in Edinburgh, in 2009 that just might be the 'event to remember for this generation'. It is called "The Gathering" and it is supported by the Scottish Government and the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, of which I am an associate member. It is set to be a milestone in modern Scottish history.



The dates are the 25th and 26th July 2009, and it will take place in Holyrood Park. It will be the largest Highland Games to take place in Scotland.

In addition, and perhaps more importantly, there will be the first ever International Clan Convention on Friday 24 July 2009.

The point of the Convention will be to examine the role of the Clan in the 21st Century - something which I think is extremely important as a point of discussion. I believe that this is something that becomes more relevant and more a part of the fabric of communities such as Clan Societies, if there is a consensus on the meaning and role of the Clan in modern society.

There will be approximately 80 individual clans at the event, with representatives from many more - the Leslies should be among them.

Watch this space for more news, and visit <http://www.thegathering2009.com> to find out more.

Best wishes

Alex Leslie. Perth. Scotland.

FURTHER CONTACT INFORMATION

If you do not have access to the internet and emails, you can write to:-

The Gathering 2009 Ltd.
27 Queen Charlotte St.
Edinburgh. EH6 6AX.

Telephone + 44 131 561 1323.

Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.

**GEELONG HIGHLAND GATHERING
ASSOCIATION INC.**

I have been approached by the above committee to see if we can attend their next Gathering in 2008. If anyone is interested in representing Clan Leslie please contact the Secretary Mrs Tanya Hunter PO Box 798 Geelong Vic 3220 phone 03 5274 9193 of mobile 0425806045 and keep me informed. We do have Public Liability Insurance.

Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.

BUNDANOON HIGHLAND GATHERING, 3 MAY 2007.

It was a wet Highland Gathering at Bundanoon in the NSW Southern Highlands for the first time in many years. The mud was rather clinging but it still was a great day.

There were the usual Bands and Scottish events and even with the rain there was still a big crowd. CLANZ members Charlotte Mitchell, Simon Leslie and Ron Leslie attended the Gathering.



Barrie Leslie with Ron Leslie

Even though it was a wet day, it was still a very interesting day and it was great to see members of CLANZ at the Gathering.

Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.

A BANNER FOR CLANZ.

I am very happy to tell our members that Ron Leslie of Pennant Hills NSW has donated a length of the **Red Dress Leslie Tartan** for a Gonfallon Banner for CLANZ. I have purchased a length of backing fabric for the banner and all I have to do now, is to get the banner made up and then mount it.



Ron Leslie.

Many thanks to Ron for his generosity.

COMBINED SCOTTISH SOCIETIES OF NSW GATHERING.

The Combined Scottish Societies of NSW will be holding their Annual Highland Gathering at the Castle Hill Showground, Carrington Road, Castle Hill on **Saturday 4th November 2007**. The gates will be open to the general public from 10-00am.

Clan Leslie Society of Australia and New Zealand will have a Clan tent there and I hope that many members of CLANZ will come and support us. There is plenty of parking available and there will be many aspects of Scottish life on display. CLANZ will have our own Public Liability Insurance to cover any little accidents.

Please come and give your support and make yourself known to us.

Barrie Leslie, Gordon, NSW.

GEORGE 2ND EARL OF ROTHES AND STIRLING CASTLE.

Stirling Castle is the most grand and strategic of all of Scotlands magnificent castles. The Picts most certainly had a fort there, as it is built on the top of an extinct volcano. King Alexander I (1107 – 1124) built a timber and earthwork castle on the site.

It was a favourite place for the Kings of Scotland to stay. King David I stayed there many times and his grandson King William the Lion died there in 1214 and is buried at Arbroath Abbey.



Stirling Castle from the South West.

Malcolm Canmore had the earliest castle recorded at Stirling. It was seized by King Edward I of England in 1296, recovered by William Wallace in 1297 and then lost to the

English again in 1298, but then regained by the Scots in 1299 and held until 1304 when during a siege by the English it was bombarded by great balls of stone and lead balls, made from lead which had been taken from nearby Church roofs. The garrison eventually surrendered in July of that year and the English then held the Castle, until it was retaken by King Robert the Bruce, after the battle of Bannockburn, who then dismantled the castle to stop the English from retaking it, but it was rebuilt several times after that.



The Main Gate to Stirling Castle.

We are mainly interested in Stirling Castle, George Leslie 2nd Earl of Rothes and King James IV.

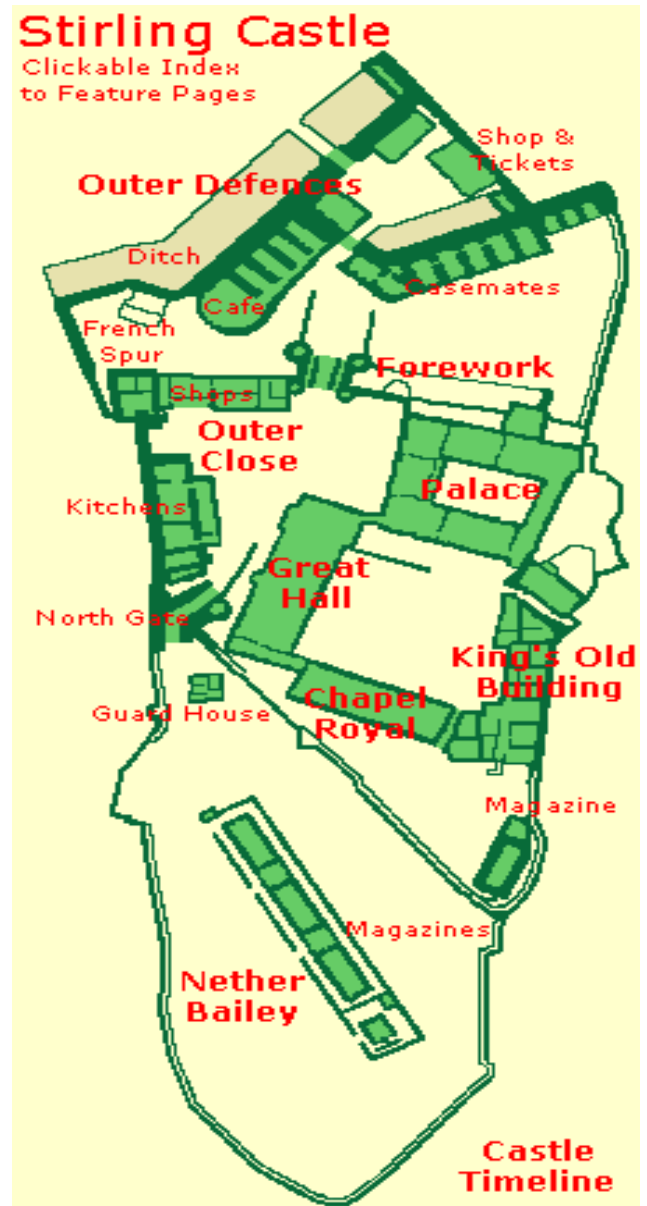
King James IV built the Great Hall at Stirling Castle, which was designed by Robert Cochrane, who was a favourite of King James III and it really is the finest example of Renaissance architecture in Britain. King James IV also started building the Palace, which was finished by his son King James V of Scotland.



The Palace at Stirling Castle.

King James IV had started the building of the Great Hall in 1501 and it was finished in 1504.

The Great Hall was built to impress, as it was the largest hall ever built in Scotland and measures 138 ft by 47 ft,



Plan of Stirling Castle Courtesy of www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk

King James IV opened Parliament in 1505 and all the Earls who were then present, had their Crests represented in the stained glass windows when the Great Hall was restored in the 1990s. King James and his Queen, Margaret Tudor, daughter of Henry VII of England are represented by two of the stained glass windows and the Earls who were present are represented in the other windows. The design of the windows is by Craer McCartney and the 24 stained glass armorials, were made by Christian Shaw in 1999 and were all checked for authenticity by the Lord Lyon.

King James IV was born 17th March 1473 at Stirling Castle, crowned 24th June 1488 and died at the Battle of Flodden Field 9th September 1513 aged 40, along with the cream of the Scottish aristocracy.

composition of the Barony of Ballinbreich, which was adjudged to be in the Kings hands.



The Great Hall, Stirling Castle

George Leslie 2nd Earl of Rothes was the eldest surviving son of Andrew, Master of Rothes and his wife Lady Marjory Sinclair and he succeeded his grandfather George 1st Earl of Rothes about 1490. George 2nd Earl of Rothes, was either a lazy occupier of his lands or just did not know about his lands, as on several occasions, George 2nd Earl was denounced at the horn (basically outlawed) first for not appearing to answer a charge of murder of a George Leslie (alias Dunlop) as then on other charges. After George Leslie 2nd Earl had not appeared on several occasions, his younger brother William appealed to King James IV that George 2nd Earl was wasting his lands and disinheriting William as the brother and heir-presumptive of George Leslie 2nd Earl of Rothes. King James IV by a letter under the Signet replied that he was not willing that so noble and famous a house as the Earldom of Rothes be destroyed, granted to the said William Leslie, full licence to give good counsel for the government of his person (George 2nd Earl) so that he be not misguided and his lands wasted, 2nd March 1506. George Leslie 2nd Earl of Rothes, died unmarried before the 31st March 1513, which is proved by an Act of Parliament of that date, which ratified a



Crest of George Leslie 2nd Earl of Rothes, at The Great Hall, Stirling Castle.

James IV was the son of King James III and Margaret of Norway, most probably born at



King James IV

Stirling Castle 17th March 1473 and ascended the throne, when his father was killed at the Battle of Sauchieburn, 11th June 1488. James loved ships and realised the importance of having a strong navy. He acquired about 40 ships for the Scottish Navy and oversaw the creation of a new carrack, *Michael I*, which was launched in 1511 and weighed 1000 tons, was 240 feet long and was the largest ship in Europe at that time.



*The Royal Arms of King James IV at
The Great Hall Stirling Castle.*

**Many thanks to Sheena & David Leslie of
Banchory, Kincardineshire. Scotland for the
photographs of the Great Hall.**

Barrie Leslie, Gordon, NSW.

CHRISTMAS PRESENT FOR YOUR LESLIE RELATION.

Now is your chance to buy this book as a Christmas present for your relation who is interested in their Leslie ancestors. This book,



THE LESLIES IN HISTORY, by Alexander Leslie Klieforth, is the first book on the Leslie family since 1862 and is now available from stock on hand at a cost of \$95-00 AUD postage paid to Australia, please

email for postage to other destinations which will be discounted by the Australian postage.

Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.

**Commissioner
Clan Leslie
Aust & NZ** **James Barrie Leslie** 61-2-9418-2262
43 Rosedale Road. Gordon.
NSW. 2072. Aust lesliejb@ozemail.com.au

Convenor CLANZ **J. Barrie Leslie** as above

Patron of CLANZ **Rt Rev Kenneth Leslie OBE. BA. Th. Schol.**
6th Bishop of Bathurst.

**Secretary
Membership** **Malcolm W Leslie** 61-7-4635-8358
1 Mannum Crt. Toowoomba. Qld.4350.Aust
mle98103@bigpond.net.au

Treasurer [acting] **Elaine M Wood** 61-2-9498-5068
41 Kooloona Cres West Pymble
NSW 2073. Aust elawood@ozemail.com.au

Newsletter newsletter editor or committee required

**Webmaster &
IT Manager** **Andrew C Leslie** 61-2-9958-6284
19 Douglas Ave Chatswood.
NSW 2067. Australia
aleslie@amalgamated.com.au

**New Zealand
Representative** **Ruth M Leslie** 64-9-634-9022
1/76 Wallace Rd Mangere Bridge.
Manukau City New Zealand
Clickimin@ihug.co.nz

**Queensland
Representative** **Selwyn J Leslie** 61-7-4630-7023
32 Gowrie-Tilgonda Road. Gowrie Junction
Qld 4352.Aust selwyn.leslie@bigpond.com

**South Australia
Representative** **Audry M Fry** 61-8-8331-9688
37 Ormond Grove, Toorak Gardens,
South Australia 5065. Australia.

**Victoria
Representative**

**West Australia
Representative** **Robin Stott** 61 -0405 390 585
25 Hartford Ave. Viveash.
W.A. 6056. Aust. perostott@hotmail.com

WEBSITE for CLANZ. <http://www.clanleslie.org>

Previous issues of Grip Fast Down Under:-

www.electricscotland.com/familytree/newsletters/leslie/index.htm

Acting Chief of Clan Leslie **Hon Alexander John Leslie**
Cupar, Fife, Scotland

Clan Leslie Society International

Chieftain Bob (Robert C) Bailey. 6113 El Toro Court. San Jose.
CA 95123. USA email:- clanleslie@sbcglobal.net

SUBMITTING OR USING ARTICLES IN GRIP FAST DOWN UNDER

Submitting articles to Grip Fast Down Under

Articles, photographs may be submitted by post or e-mail. Please include your name and address. If the articles are from another publication, either print or electronic, permission must be obtained from the copyright holder if the article is subject to copyright, and included with the article or photograph. If you are emailing a colour photograph, please send it as an IBM PC, **jpeg** format at 360dpi. If in greyscale, please send it at 300dpi, both at **25%**.

Using articles from Grip Fast Down Under

Please note, that unless otherwise stated, copyright rests with Clan Leslie Society of Australia and New Zealand, [CLANZ], but organisations may use articles in Grip Fast Down Under, providing the source is acknowledged as Clan Leslie Society of Australia and New Zealand at the time of printing.
