



Leslie Clan Gathering 12th 13th 14th, August 2005.

The dates for the August 2005 Clan Gathering are finally fixed.

Celebrating the 10th year since the Leslie Castle Gathering and 935 years of Clan Leslie

The **PERTH HIGHLAND GAMES** will take place on Sunday the 14th August 2005.

This gives us the opportunity to have a three day event and make the most of your holiday.

The gathering will be held in the **ISLE OF SKYE hotel in PERTH.**

The hotel is giving us the same room rate in 2005 as today. The cost **per room** is £45 per day. **This includes breakfast.**

The hotel has 50 rooms so book early. Some rooms have more than two beds, ask when booking. There is plenty of parking.

Booking can be done by phone 0044+1738+624471, Fax 0044+1738+493902 or on line by email to sales@isleofskypeperth.co.uk please quote Clan Leslie, and inform **us** after your booking is confirmed.

An all day Carvery/Bufferet runs from early to late so eating should not be a problem.

A two-course meal costs £6.00 and a three-course meal costs £10.00.

It is envisaged to hold the opening ceremony on the evening of Friday the 12th. On Saturday the 13th a coach trip will run and in the evening a dinner/dance/Ceilidh.

Enjoy the games on the Sunday the 14th.

The application forms, ticket prices, maps, menus etc. will be coming later when we have all the quotes in from various companies.

Hoping this makes it easier to fix dates for all your holidays.

Cheers for now
Brian & Petra.



WARRANT OFFICER RAYMOND WILLIAM GIBSON LESLIE.



*Warrant Officer, Raymond William Gibson Leslie.
NZ 415702. 489 Squadron RNZAF.*

Ray was born at Christchurch New Zealand, 25th July 1920, only son of Richard Sheridan & Catherine [nee Gibson] Leslie. He received his secondary education at the Canterbury College School of Art, Christchurch and gained the Senior Free Place. After leaving school, he played cricket for the Riccarton Cricket Club.

He was employed in the family Service Station at Riccarton as a mechanic, when he applied for enlistment in aircrew on 27th June 1940.

Ray was enlisted at the Initial Training Wing, Levin on the 19th October 1941 and proceeded to No 1 Elementary Flying Training School at Taieri and was then posted to No 1 Service Flying Training School at Wigram where on the

24th April he was awarded his Flying Badge and promoted to Sergeant and on the 10th May 1942 he embarked for the United Kingdom. He undertook several advanced flying courses at Rissington Gloucestershire, Montrose Scotland, Leconfield Yorkshire, Cranwell Lincolnshire as well as several other locations. On the 14th March 1944 he was posted to East Fortune Scotland, where he crewed up and flew Beaufort and Beaufighter aircraft. In the meantime he had been promoted to Warrant Officer.

He took part in 38 anti-shipping missions from France to Norway and on the 27th October 1944 the Squadron moved to Dallachy, Scotland on the Fochabers to Spey Bay Road.



Dallachy Strike Wing Memorial, Fochabers-Spey Bay Rd.

This move was in association with No 144 Squadron R.A.F, No 404 Squadron R.C.A.F. No 455 Squadron R.A.A.F. and No 489 Squadron R.N.Z.A.F. These Squadrons were called "The Beaufighter Strike Wing, Dallachy and they had an important role in stopping the Germans from using their coastal shipping to supply their troops in Norway and Heligoland.

The New Zealand 489 Squadron was equipped with torpedoes and the Australian Squadron 455 was equipped with anti-shipping rockets.

On the night of the 28th January 1945, Ray Leslie took off, at 7.07pm on a rover patrol, searching for three German "Narvik Class" destroyers, which were sheltering in Boml fiord, just south of Bergen Norway. The Narvik Class Destroyers were regarded as the "Graf Spee" of destroyers as they were so large and heavily armed. After the end of the war it was determined that Ray Leslie and his navigator, Flying Officer Neville Heffernan had crashed their Beaufighter on Foeuroy Island, Boml Fiord and the occupying German forces had recovered their bodies and

had buried them in Mollendal Cemetery, Bergen, Norway.



Headstone of W/O Raymond Leslie in Bergen Norway

Ray Leslie had amassed the large total flying time of 1061 flying hours and was awarded the 1939-45 Star, the Atlantic Star, Aircrew Europe Star, the Defence Medal, the War Medal 1939-45 and the New land War Medal.



Warrant Officer, Raymond Leslie's Medals.

You ask how I know so much about Ray Leslie? He was my cousin and I wear his medals with pride every Anzac Day and Remembrance Day.

Barrie Leslie, Gordon NSW.

SCOTTISH HOUSE GENEALOGY FAIR

The Scottish House Genealogy Fair was held at Bankstown, in Sydney's western suburbs on Saturday 20 March 2004. This will not be held again until 2006.

Clan Leslie Society of Australia and New Zealand had a Clan Stall there, which I manned.

I had quite a lot of general enquiries, but no specific Leslie enquiries. [Where were you all?]



Clan Leslie information desk at the Genealogy Fair.

As can be seen from the photograph, I had my laptop computer and lots of reference material, but unfortunately not much custom.

On the day, there were 16 Clans on hand as well as several Family History Societies and Scottish items for sale.

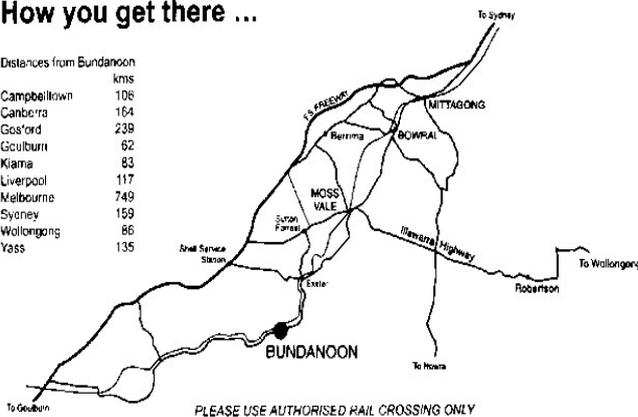
Barrie Leslie Gordon NSW.

BUNDANOON IS BRIGADOON SCOTTISH GATHERING 2004.

Well it is that time of the year again and the Bundanoon Scottish Gathering is on again. If you can get there you will really enjoy a great day out. It is the largest Scottish Gathering in Australia and each year it gets better and better. I hope that the map below gives you some help in getting there.

How you get there ...

Distances from Bundanoon	kms
Campbelltown	106
Canberra	164
Geelong	238
Goulburn	62
Kiama	83
Liverpool	117
Melbourne	749
Sydney	159
Wollongong	86
Yass	135



The place is Bundanoon and the day is Saturday 3rd April 2004 and Clan Leslie is at Stall C13

LANE COVE, SCOTTISH GATHERING

On the 19th June, Doug and Margaret Swan, of Swan of Grangemouth, in conjunction with Lane Cove Council will be having a Scottish Gathering in the Lane Cove Shopping Mall. Lane Cove is a northern suburb of Sydney, just off the Pacific Highway. The previous Gatherings have been very interesting and I will be representing Clan Leslie. It is timed to start at 10-00am and a great time will be had by all. Please get there if you can and help me represent Clan Leslie.

Barrie Leslie, Gordon NSW.

FOR THE SCOTS – IRISH

This page may give a bit of help to the Leslie's who come from Ireland!! Good Luck.

<http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~merle/index.htm>

It is a bit slanted towards the American descendants of those who went to America but who knows what information you might find.

AUSTRALIAN 1ST A.I.F. 1914 –1918

The Australian War Memorial has in recent years transferred data on the fallen soldiers of the Great War 1914-1918 onto the Internet, allowing anyone who is interested and in many of the cases, the background of the fallen is also attached. These records are called, personal detail forms,[PDF] which is information given by the family of the fallen soldier and is attached to many of the Official Records. Go to the following address:-

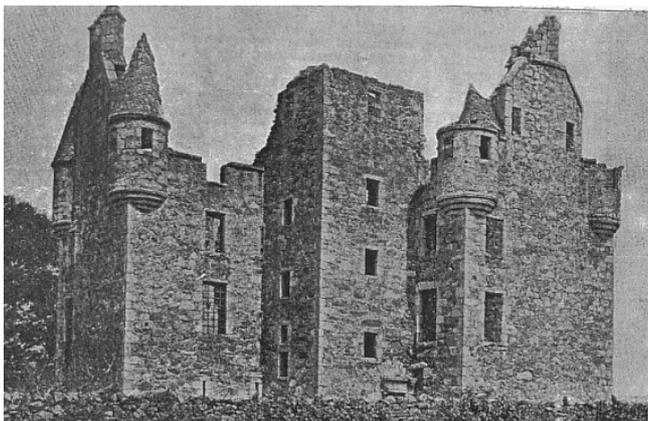
<http://www.awm.gov.au> for information on the 1st A.I.F. Go to "biographical databases", then go to World War I nominal roll for the basic records of all those known to have served overseas during that war. To view details of those who are classified as having died on "active service" click on the 'Roll of Honour'. The PDF, if one exists, will appear as a small box beside the Military record. You can search by the soldiers name or by unit. eg, 7th AFAB should be typed in as 7th bde Australian field artillery and you will find that 121 men were deemed to have died on active service and you can check their record.

Barrie Leslie, Gordon NSW.

LESLIE CASTLE ABERDEENSHIRE.
ARTICLE IN SCOTTISH NOTES & QUERIES
Vol III No I [Third Series] January 1925.

LESLIE CASTLE.

The picturesque ruined Castle of Leslie, in the Aberdeenshire parish of the same name, stands on the left bank of the Gadie Burn, about 2 1/2 miles south west of Inch. The lands of Leslie were the original home in Scotland of the great family to which they gave their name, and which was settled here in the 12th century – Malcolm, son of Bartolf, having received a grant of the lands from David, Earl of Huntingdon, circa 1171 – 1199 "Collections on the Shires of Aberdeen and Banff" [Spalding Club pp546-7] But the castle, the ruins of which now remain, was built in 1661 by William Forbes, whose father, a son of the Laird of Moneymusk, had acquired the property by marrying the widow of the last Leslie proprietor. [Incorrect, it was a debt owing to W. Forbes. BL] William's son John sold it to the Leiths of Leith Hall, to which family it still belongs. Though the present castle has thus no proper connection with the Leslie's, they undoubtedly had a seat here, as is proved by their taking their territorial title from the place at least as far back as the time of Norman de Lesselyn, one of the Barons who submitted to Edward I at Aberdeen on 15th July 1296 "Ragmans Roll" [Bannatyne Club] p. 142:- J Bain "Calendar of Documents Relating to Scotland" Vol II p 195



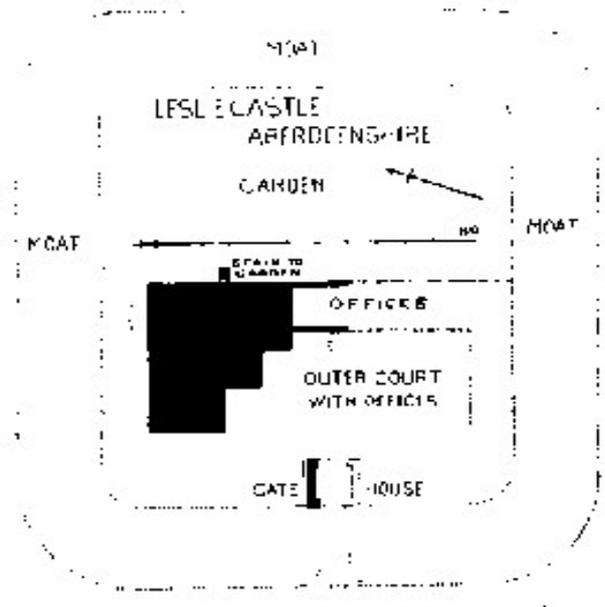
Leslie Castle, Courtesy Aberdeen Press & Journal

The ditch which surrounds the Forbes mansion is almost a relict of the ancient fortalice of the de Lesselyns, which doubtless was a moated and palisaded enclosure of a common early type. Lang states that William Forbes "finding the Castle decaying, pulled it down and laid the foundations of a lesser building, June 17th 1661" "Donean Tourist [1828] p 292" He also says that at the foot of the Gatehouse, "the ruins of the former buildings are conspicuous".

The site of the Castle is a few hundred yards north-east of the parish church, which although rebuilt in 1885, occupies the ancient stance. Here therefore, as so often in Scotland, we see how the early parish originated in the manor of a territorial lord, the church and the castle remaining side by side as the civil and ecclesiastical nuclei of the early parochial organisation. Across the Gadie Burn is the farm of Mains of Leslie, representing the demesne land of the ancient manor; and northward, behind the castle, is the Gallow-hill.

The Church still retains the orientation of its medieval predecessor," *the orientation is 10° N of E* [F.C. Eeles in Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland 1913-14 p. 182" Like many others in the Garioch, Leslie Kirk was impropriated to the great Tironensian Abbey of Lindores]

On approaching the ruins of the Forbes mansion, the great ditch of the de Lesselyn Castle that preceded it becomes strikingly apparent. It measures about 30 feet in breadth, and is still in places as much as 6 feet deep, having a prominent counterscarp mound. The enclosure within is oblong in form, with rounded angles,



measuring about 160 feet east and west by 140 feet north and south. There is no evidence of the interior space having been surrounded by a *motte* and the probability is that the early manor house was a moated homestead rather than a castle of the mount-and-bailey type. The mansion of the Forbes is built on the north side of the western half of the medieval enclosure.

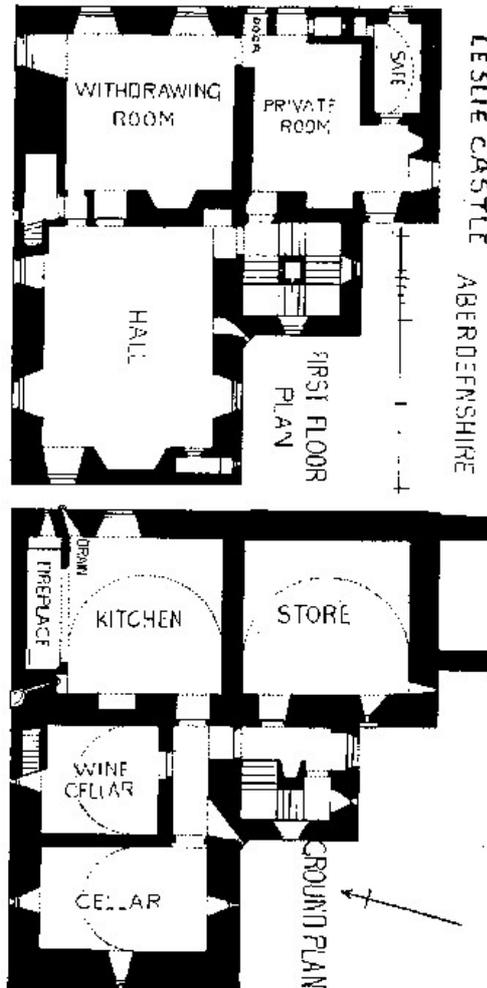
This picturesque ruin is in every respect one of the most interesting and valuable specimens of ancient domestic architecture in Scotland. Its importance consists in the fact that it is *perhaps*

the latest example of a fortified house in the country. Though erected well beyond the middle of the 17th century, and long after the turmoil of the Civil Wars had ceased, it still retains all the external paraphernalia and some of the serious defences of a feudal castle, while exhibiting, at the same time, the latest improvements in domestic accommodation. In a similar way, though its architectural detail is in the main Scottish in character, it also distinctly reveals the infiltration of English and Renaissance feeling. It thus stands on the threshold betwixt old and new, combining the last lingering characteristics of a bygone age of sturt and strife and intense self-centred nationalism with the new conditions of security, increasing comfort and contact with the wider world.

The building is designed on the L-plan, the longest sides, east and north, measuring 48 feet 6 inches and 57 feet respectively, while in the re-entrant angle, looking south, is a large stair tower, 13 feet 6 inches square. In this design the military ancestry of the house is evident. The L-plan in its origin is simply the old rectangular peel-tower with a wing appended to one side, in order to provide additional accommodation, and also to ensure flanking defence for the doorway in the re-entrant. In earlier instances of this plan, its evolution is clearly shown in the internal disposition of the building, which always contains on each flat a large room in the main portion, with a small apartment adjoining it in the wing. But here in this latest example the traditional arrangement of the L-plan, recalling its descent from the simple tower is abandoned, and the whole interior space is treated as a unit, to be broken up into apartments as required, without reference to the original plan, whose outline alone is preserved. In other words, the military ancestry of the design has been quite forgotten, and its retention in the outline of the building has become merely a matter of tradition reinforced no doubt by the fact that the L-plan, defensive considerations being discounted, is still *per se* a convenient mode of arranging a house. A similar tale is told by the elevations of the castle, in which all the walls are built with a batter or inward rake. This is a survival of the old habit, universal in early Scottish castles, of building the walls thus in order to relieve the open corbelled defensive parapet. Here although there is no parapet, and defence from the wall-heads is not intended, the old fashion of building is retained as a tradition. *"A still later example of how this fashion persisted is seen at Culter House, built about*

the end of the century, and displaying otherwise no features of the Scottish style".

In the basement the walls vary from 3 to 6 feet thick, and are pierced with loops for light, and with wide-mouthed shot-holes. This type of shot-hole, with a broad horizontal outward splay, is an early survival, the later form of shot-hole having more usually a plain round external orifice. Shot-holes of this later type are found in the turrets above. The horizontal shot-holes at the ground level are wrought into ornamental shapes, and are grouped to bear upon the approaches to the entrance. This occupies the south face of the square tower, and is a lintelled door with moulded architrave, much defaced, and a relieving arch above. On the lintel is incised the motto: HÆC. CORP, SIDERA. MENTEM "No doubt some word like *DELECTANT* is understood"



The entrance was defended by an iron gate and an inner wooden door. Within, a short lobby gives access to the stair which fills the tower. In this stair the introduction of new ideals of comfort is strongly apparent. It is no longer the old inconvenient spiral stair, but a handsome square stair, nearly 4 feet wide, on the scale and

platt design, consisting of alternate short flights and landings arranged round a square newel. Under the ascending stairs of the first flight, space is found for a narrow guardroom, or porter's lodge, opening at the entrance. At the foot of the newel is an aperture like a small fireplace, above which a flue is carried right up the newel, with narrow slits opening on to the stair at all levels. The purpose of this curious contrivance is revealed by an old description of Cassilis Castle, wherein mention is made of,

"a fine stone stare, turning about a hollow casement in which are many opens from the bottom to the top, that by putting a lamp into it gives light to the wholet urn of stairs" [R Pitcairn, *Historical and Genealogical Account of the Principal Families of the Name of Kennedy, Bannatyne Club p. 168*]

A similar contrivance occurs at Strathmartine Lodging in Dundee.

From the entrance lobby access is obtained to the vaulted apartments in the basement. These comprise three cellars with a large kitchen in the "heel" of the building. The kitchen has had the usual great arched fireplace, now fallen, a sink with drain, and an external water trough with conduit into a recess by the fireplace. The vault of the kitchen has collapsed, and its ruins cumber the floor. The smallest cellar, which is contracted to allow a passage of access to its neighbour, had been the wine room, and contains the usual narrow straight mural stair to the hall above.

The main stair is now in a greatly ruined state, most of the plats [formed of single slabs] and several of the steps being gone. On the first floor are three handsome rooms, a hall in the western portion of the building, a drawing room in the heel, and a private room beyond. The hall and private room are entered from the stair; the drawing room communicates with both. The hall measures 26 feet by 19 feet. It has good large windows, a great fireplace, and a guardrobe. On the massy lintel of the fireplace are carved the Forbes arms [three bears heads coupéd muzzled] with a buckle between them for Leslie, and the founders initials, W.F. At one time the hall had been subdivided by a wooden partition, the marks of which remain on the plaster still adhering to the side walls. The drawing room has no special features. The stair from the wine cellar below lands at the passage between these two rooms, so that either could be readily supplied. At the stairhead a small pantry or service closet is formed. The private room is furnished with a vaulted safe or strongroom, having an inner mural locker. On the east side is

an outer door, from which steps doubtless led down to the garden.

The upper floors have been similarly arranged. In the main house are four storeys. The topmost partly in the roof, but the tower has been carried up a story higher. Its uppermost flat, above the stair-head, contained a living room, reached by a small internal mural stair, with a finely moulded corbel-base. It is not clear whether the tower had an open parapet, or [as seems more probable] was capped with a pyramidal or broach roof rising to the vent of the hollow newel.

It is in the treatment of the upper portions that the designer has found full scope for effective grouping and a picturesque com-mingling of styles. The wall-heads have finished in a moulded cornice. At the angles are bulky round turrets resting on finely moulded corbellings, the uppermost course of which is carved with a festooned enrichment of renaissance character. These turrets contained well-lit oriel rooms, and their walls are pierced with plian round shotholes, some of them raked through the corbel courses. One of these turrets, at the north-west corner, still retains part of its tall conical, slated roof. [as shown in our photograph, the other roofs have disappeared only in recent years.] Between the turrets the gable ends at first rise perpendicularly, as often in late Scottish work, and then are carried up gablewise with flat overlapping skewes, not wrought with level beds. The moulded cornice at the wall-heads is also continued up the gables. The gables are not brought into a single "lum", as usual in Scotland, but finish with a flat tabling upon which the chimney vents are set in separate shafts. These shafts are square on plan, seated diagonally. They are built with fine ashlar and have moulded copes, but are now much ruined. The absence of corbie-stepping and the separate diagonal chimney stacks are entirely English in inspiration, while the large angle turrets and the gables at first carried up vertically between them are no less decidedly Scottish. The result produced by this commixture of styles is altogether charming and distinctive, and reflects the utmost credit on the master-mason.

The windows have all been grooved for glass and bored for "grilles" of iron bars. One of these gratings still remains precariously *in situ*; another lies uncared for at the foot of the wall outside. As always, the mode of intersection of the bars is reversed in opposite quarters. Some of the windows have also been provided with sliding shutters. The masonry is the usual rough

rubble of surface boulders with small horizontal pinnings, the quoins and openings everywhere being carefully dressed. On a corner of the stair-tower is incised FUNDED. IUN. 17. 1661 "*Laing [Donean Tourist p. 292] states that a window bore the date 1664, probably the year the building was completed*", while near by is an empty moulded recess for a coat-of-arms. In the infilling of a built-up window on the east side is a stone carved with the initials W.F. A carved cap of pronounced classical pattern lies in one of the cellars.

The house, being situated in the moated enclosure of its medieval predecessor, space is found for a court of offices and a garden. A range of "laigh bigging", now demolished, ran south from the house, dividing the ancient enclosure. The western part formed the court, and was entered from the west through a lodge or gatehouse, of which some portion was extant recently. It is stated to have borne the Leslie motto and the date 1663. "*Sir A Leith Hay. Castellated Architecture of Aberdeenshire [1849] p.63 [Laing, Donean Tourist p. 292, who gives the date wrongly as 1643]* No doubt a bridge spanned the ancient ditch. On the east side was the garden, reached by the outside stair down from the private room. Along the back of the castle a row of old "arn" trees still flourishes.

It is sad to conclude this account of one of the most original and delightful architectural compositions that bygone ages have bequeathed to us, by stating that Leslie Castle is now in a deplorable state of ruin. Large parts have recently fallen, and more are about to fall. The main vaults are rotten, all the wall-heads are in a bad state, the picturesque chimneys are tottering, many of the lintels are cracked, and the outer walls in more than one place are riven from top to bottom. The entire ruin is littered with rubbish, and altogether presents a melancholy spectacle of heartless neglect.

I am indebted to Dr Thomas Ross, Edinburgh, for permission to reproduce two plans made by the late Dr David MacGibbon about 40 years ago when the castle was in a less ruined state than now.

W. Douglas Simpson.

This account of Leslie Castle dates from 1925 and is a very complete description of its condition then and is certainly worthy of repeating. One of my Forbes family are the ones who rebuilt Leslie Castle, hence my interest.

Barrie Leslie Gordon NSW.

WEBSITES FOR YOUR INTEREST

Books of Scottish interest. Used & rare books.
<http://www.biblio.com>

Scotsmart, Scottish Directory of Websites.
<http://www.scotsmart.com>

Telephone Directories of the United Kingdom
<http://www.tedir.com/eng/euro/uk>

Prinknash Abbey. The Earl of Rothes property
<http://www.prinknashabbey.org.uk>

Scottish Archive Network
<http://www.scan.org.uk>

Irish Obituaries
<http://tiara.ie/obframe.htm>

Irish Registration Districts
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~bifhsusa/irishregnc.html>

Michelin Maps
<http://www.viamichelin.com>

National Archives of Australia, WWI Records
<http://www.naa.gov.au>

New Zealand Defence Force Personnel Archive
http://www.army.mil.nz/nzarmy/grids/b_grid.asp?id=161&area=17

Queensland State Archives
<http://www.archivessearch.qld.gov.au>

Ireland Genealogy Projects
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~irlwgw/>

New Zealand Genealogy
<http://www.coraweb.com.au/nzsites.htm>

Documents Online
<http://www.documentsonline.pro.gov.uk/default.asp>

Royal New Zealand RSA
<http://www.rsa.org.nz>

NSW Births, Deaths & Marriage Certs at cost
<http://www.marbract.com.au>

That is enough websites for this month. I hope that they work for you.

Barrie Leslie Gordon NSW.

ARTICLES REQUIRED FOR GRIP FAST DOWN UNDER

Do you have any articles of interest, or family anecdotes that can be printed in GF DU.

We also require further photographs, and stories, of Leslie's who went to war whether they were killed in action or returned to their families.

If you have anything of interest, please send.

Barrie Leslie Gordon NSW

TRIBUTE TO LESLIE

If you ever cross the hills tae Bonnie Scotland
and ower the Firth o' Forth you come to Fife,
Take the bus frae the Lang Toon up to Leslie
It's a place you'll no' forget in a' your life.

Lying snug amid the cradle o' the Lomonds
The Bishops in their beauty gazing down,
Do you wonder that it grips the very heart bonds
And its memory takes away life's weary frown.

As a bairn you used to guddle in the Cammie
As a youth you took a daunder doon the dyes
Aye the hill road air's romantic and sae balmy
When a lad is wi' a lassie that he likes.

And whether we are making pens or paper
At De La Rue or doon at Fettykil
Or spinning yarn to hand ower tae a draper
Or other jobs you do at Prinlaws Mill.

We are proud of Leslie gem of God's own beauty
And its kindly folk are awful hard tae beat
Frae Paradise to Eden, it's their duty
To pass a cheery word whene'er they meet

And if there's going to be a life hereafter
The townfolk will be wanting-just you see-
The Grand Architect to make his heaven a copy
of the bonnie job he made of Fair Leslie

Andrew Hunter.

Folk in Leslie are called "Leslians"

In 1457 Leslie was erected into a Burgh or Barony by Charter in favour of George Leslie, 1st Earl of Rothes by King James II 1st March 1457.

Sent in by **Ruth Leslie of Auckland NZ** with this comment "Found this poem in the 1457 – 1957 The Auld Toon O' Leslie souvenir booklet celebrating their 500 years since receiving their Chartered Burgh status. [Set to Galway Bay?]"

Clan Leslie Society of Australia and New Zealand

Commissioner James Barrie Leslie 61-2-9418-2262
Clan Leslie 43 Rosedale Road. Gordon.
Aust & NZ 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 Malcolm W Leslie 61-7-4635-8358
Membership 1 Mannuem Crt. Toowoomba.
Queensland. 4350. Aust. leslies@icr.com.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 & I T Manager Andrew C Leslie 61-2-9436-1284
14/88 Shirley Road. Wollstonecraft
NSW 2065. Australia. acleslie@ram.net.au

New Zealand Representative Jillian A Burcher 64-9-444-9734
9/86 Bentley Ave. Glenfield.
Auckland. NZ jillianburcher@paradise.net.nz

Queensland Representative Selwyn J Leslie 61-7-4633-3949
21 Brigalow Street Toowoomba
Queensland 4350. Aust sleslie@vtown.com.au

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

Victoria Representative Lea Hess 61-3-9740-9960
10 Rigby Place. Sunbury.
Victoria 3429. Australia hess@melbpc.org.au

West Australia Representative Margaret A Pearce 61-8-9880-7022
P. O. Box. 52. Hyden.
Western Australia. 6359.

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

Chief of Clan Leslie Ian, 21st Earl of Rothes
Tanglewood, W. Tytherley, N.
Salisbury, U.K. SP5 1LX

Clan Leslie Society International

Chieftain Edmund J Leslie 402-359-4107
2003-2004 Waterloo, NE. USA
e-mail: eleslie@direcway.com

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Submitting articles to Grip Fast Down Under

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