

DEATH IN NEW ZEALAND

Not many people are aware that a Leslie dynasty ended in New Zealand.

The Barons of Balquhain are descended from Sir George Leslie, fifth son of Sir Andrew Leslie and his wife Mary Abernethy, whose arms are quartered with those of her husband, and make the distinctive arms of most Leslie families. The three buckles of Leslie, with the lion rampant gules, surmounted with a ribbon sable, for Abernethy.



Extract of Matriculation of the Earl of Rothes

Sir George was granted the lands of Balquhain in 1340, and the ancient castle of Balquhain was built then

Among the Leslie families descended from the Barons of Balquhain are the Leslie's of The Counts of Germany, Pitcaple, Kincaigie, Baronets of Wardis, Warthill, New Leslie, Kininvie, and Crichtie. Tarbet & Glasslough in Ireland, Clisson in France and many others, and perhaps one of the most famous men in Scottish history, John Leslie, Bishop of Ross, confidant of Queen Mary, of the Leslie's of Cults.

One of the most well known of the Barons of Balquhain was the 26th Baron, Colonel Charles Leslie K.H, who wrote the book, Historical Records of the Family of Leslie, which is a reference for all Leslie researchers. Col Charles Leslie's GG

grandson was Alastair Patrick Leslie, who was born in Sussex England.

He was in the Fleet Air Arm, but was invalided out after an accident. He migrated to New Zealand and after service in World War 11 he settled in Rotorua and died there in 1989, leaving no male heir, and thus this ancient branch of the Leslie family came to an end.



Arbroath Abbey where the 1320 Declaration was signed

OFFICE BEARERS for CLS

The Clan Chief, William Leslie, is asking for nominations for Office Bearers for Clan Leslie Society, at the election to take place and be announced at the Gathering in October 2000.

Similarly, we in the Australia & New Zealand branch would like broad assistance, and members to stand for official office in 2000.

If you are prepared to give a little time in the interests of the Society, would you kindly indicate the way or ways, you could help.

Please give Barrie Leslie a call and have a chat on how you can help the Society.

[2] JOHN LESLIE BISHOP OF ROSS

John Leslie was born on the 29th Sept 1527 in Morayshire Scotland and died at the Monastery of St Augustine near Brussels on the 31 May 1596.

He was the son of Gavin Leslie, an eminent lawyer, and Judge Official of the Diocese of Moray. A dispensation of legitimation was granted to him on the 19th July 1538, enabling him, despite the defect of his birth to receive holy orders. His father Gavin Leslie was the brother of Sir Beroald Leslie whose daughter married John Leslie of Aikenway, who was granted the lands of Bridge of Spey on his marriage. This makes John Leslie Bishop of Ross, my 1st cousin, 11 times removed.

John Leslie, Bishop of Ross was descended from Andrew Leslie 3rd Baron of Balquhain.



*John Leslie Bishop of Ross
Courtesy Sebastian Leslie of Warthill*

John Leslie was educated at the University of Aberdeen, Paris and Poitiers and showed early signs of his academic genius. He taught canon law at King's College Aberdeen, and took his degree as Doctor of Laws. In 1558 he received holy orders and was appointed official of the diocese of Aberdeen.

At this time the doctrines of the reformation were spreading throughout Scotland, and the Rev Dr John Leslie was detained in Edinburgh, and ordered not to preach again.

With the troubles increasing in Scotland, it was thought necessary to invite Queen Mary home from France. John Leslie was sent to Paris, by the Earls of Huntly and Athole to bring her back to Scotland, and he became her trusted advisor, holding judicial office, a privy councillorship and from 1566 the Bishopric of Ross.

When Queen Mary was forced to abdicate, John Leslie remained loyal to her. He defended her at the enquiry convened on the 4th Oct 1568 at York and was her accredited representative at Queen Elizabeth's court.

John Leslie was engaged in many schemes to return Mary to the throne, one of which was to depose Elizabeth in 1571 with the help of Spanish troops, and another to marry Mary to the catholic, Thomas Howard, 4th Duke of Norfolk. Norfolk was executed for treason, and Leslie was imprisoned in the Tower of London. In 1573 John Leslie was released and ordered from England

He went to the Netherlands where he tried without success to obtain help for Mary. While in Rome to see the Pope in 1578 he published, in Latin, his history of Scotland titled, "De Origine Moribus et Rebus Gestis Scotorum".

When the news of the execution of Queen Mary on the 8th Feb 1587 reached Brussels where John Leslie was then residing, he was filled with horror and retired to the Monastery of St Augustine in Brussels, where he carried out his devotions until he died in 1596.

Barrie Leslie. Gordon NSW.

[3] PUBLIC LIABILITY

In Australia and New Zealand we have tried a number of ways and means to increase our local membership of the Society. And despite differing outlooks and cultures we have been keen to adopt the methods that have been used by the parent body in building up their membership.

As members are aware it was our intention to follow the “tent” programme and set up a stall at a highland gathering, where interested Leslies could discuss clan/family matters and be encouraged to join the Clan Leslie Society.

However, arising out of our first trial “tent” at Toukley the fact became apparent that we were at risk under public liability; and that risk extended to all ANZ members and even to all overseas members of the Society.

Under these circumstances our intention to set up a “tent” at Drummoyne Highland Games in November became impossible and our plans were therefore terminated.

Your ANZ office bearers were naturally concerned and coupled with obtaining a quote for public liability insurance, which is far and above our local resources, we sought advice from the parent body as to how they handled these circumstances.

We were informed that the parent had no public liability insurance to cover any of the society’s activities and that incorporation was only being considered in regard to fund raising and taxation.

The parent body acknowledges that there is a risk, and leans on the fact that in the 20-year life of the society there has been no detrimental incident.

Your ANZ office bearers are concerned as the matter is outside and beyond the ANZ Branch’s authority and capacity. Further, for example, action arising out of a “tent” representation in the USA, could affect every member.

Initially, at a local ANZ Branch meeting on 12 November 1999 we passed the following motion:

“Until suitable public risk insurance can be arranged it is considered appropriate to protect the interests of all members of the ANZ Branch of Clan Leslie Society by restricting activities of the Society to news sheets, genealogy, and history, with meetings held in private homes.

“Forthwith until minuted, office bearers and members attending public meetings, highland games, etc. do so in a private capacity only and in no way represent the Society or carry on its official activities”.

As indicated above, our concern goes beyond our ANZ boundaries because irrespective of how unlikely or not legal action could be taken against the Society, at present legal claims can go beyond the assets of the Society to the whole assets of each member, even crossing national borders.

Because we view this as a matter of prime importance we have requested Council of the Society to:

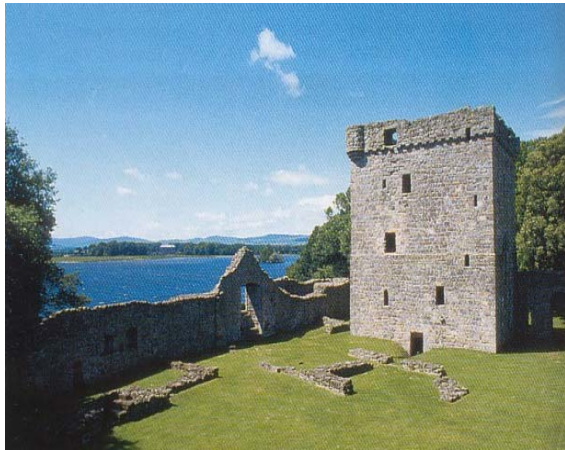
1. Immediately proceed to incorporation of the Society thereby eliminating every member’s personal risk and limiting risk only to the assets of the Society.
2. At the same time take out public liability insurance thereby giving full cover to both the Society and its members.

The Council’s initial reaction to our requests has been somewhat lethargic but

[4] we feel that once they realise the importance and ramifications of the situation they will take remedial action.

We have been advised by the Chieftain, William Leslie, that the Council has decided that Clan Leslie Society and Branches should have public liability insurance, and they are considering incorporation of Clan Leslie Society.

We will keep you informed, but if you would like to discuss this matter further, both Barrie Leslie and Russell Lesslie would be pleased to talk with you.



Lochleven Castle where Mary, Queen of Scots signed her abdication.

ARTICLES REQUIRED

If you have any stories, anecdotes or items that could be of interest to other members of Clan Leslie Society, please let us know.

We need articles to put into Grip Fast Down Under, so if you have anything of interest, even if you are trying to find family members who you have lost track of, let us know. For instance, maybe your Grandfather had a brother who went to America, while he came to Australia/New Zealand, and has lost touch with the family.

Drop us a line, who knows, maybe we might just be able to find lost family members for you.

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