

### A MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR MEMBERS

Well, another year is almost over and I am trying to get this newsletter out before Christmas, so that you can all enjoy it before you get too busy with your Christmas celebrations. I am enclosing the CLANZ **membership renewal notice** and hope that you can see your way to **renew your membership before Christmas**. I will send out the renewal with the newsletter to those members who get their newsletter by post and I shall send out an email to those members who get their newsletter by email.

I trust that you all have managed to find more information on your family history and have not come to that dreaded "closed door". It happens to all of us at some stage and that is one of the reasons for the Internet sites that I post in the newsletter from time to time and hopefully they will open that "closed door".

I still need some **help to run "Clanz"**. I am **falling behind in entering all the family information** that you have sent in to me. I could also do with a "Treasurer". Not that we have lots of money to look after, but it would be one less thing for me to do.

If any of our members have weddings or illness that they would like me to mention in the newsletter, send the information in and I shall publish it in the newsletter. Remember that we are all one large family and are cousins to some degree, if only we could all find the link.

The Clanz website, [www.clanleslie.org](http://www.clanleslie.org) has been a great success and has created a great deal of interest with enquiries from all around the world. Not many new members unfortunately, but it shows what interest there is in Clan Leslie.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and safe and Prosperous New Year.

Barrie.



### Roll of Honour

The Roll of Honour this month is about a ship, not just any ship but a currently commissioned warship. The Royal New Zealand Navy ANZAC frigate, Te Kaha.

On Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2003, the New Zealand Consul General in Sydney, Peter Heenan, invited me, along with the President, Vice President and Secretary of the NZ Sub-Branch of the RSL [NSW] Branch on board "Te Kaha" for entertainment and drinks.

A great night was had by all and I collected a lot of information and photographs to present to you.



*Te Kaha in the Antarctic.*

Te Kaha is commanded by a former Gisborne man, Commander Keith Robb who took over command on the 12<sup>th</sup> of August 2003.

Keith Robb was born in Gisborne and attended Lytton High School and was a member of the Tainui Sea Cadets. He joined the Navy 27 years ago as a junior seaman and was selected for the "Selected from the Ranks" scheme. He lived in Melbourne for 13 months while the first NZ ANZAC frigate "Te Mana" was being built in Melbourne and was appointed second in command of "Te Mana".

As an Operations Officer on board HMNZS Canterbury in the Persian Gulf in 1996 Cdr Robb carried out 38 boardings and 481 checks on vessels while enforcing the United Nations sanctions on Iraq.



*Cdr Keith Robb.*

On the 18<sup>th</sup> December 1999 "Te Kaha" sighted an oil slick, three nautical miles from the Australian coast, just west of Wilsons Promontory. Te Kaha took photographs and samples of the oil and the oil slick was found to have come from the 39,731 tonne tanker "SYLVAN ARROW" which was part of the Mobil Oil Company fleet. and they were fined \$A100,000 for the offence.



*Te Kaha in Tongan waters.*

Te Kaha's weapons control is managed by the Saab Tech 9LV 453 optronics director with Saab Tech J-Band radar. She is armed with one eight cell Mk41 vertical launching system for Seasparrow surface-to-air missiles, which have an effective range of 14.5km.

The main gun is a United Defense 127 mm Mk45 Mod 2 gun which can fire at a rate of 20 rounds per minute over a range of 20km. She also has two triple 324mm Mk 32 torpedo tubes for Mk 46 anti-submarine fitted. Mk 46 torpedoes are an active/passive torpedo with a range of 11km. She also carries a SH-2F naval helicopter [Seasprite] on board which extends her capabilities.

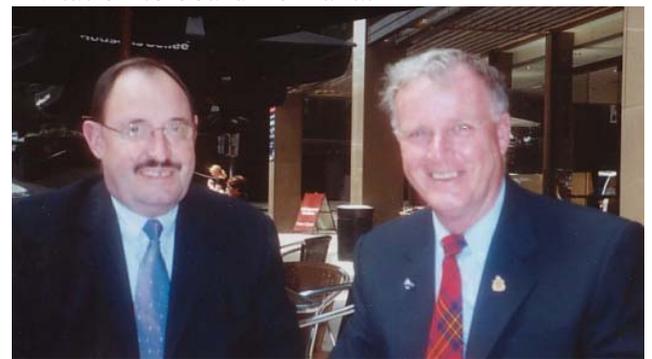


*Seasprite SH-2F helicopter from Te Kaha*

The Seasprite helicopter is fitted with Raytheon Maverick air-to-surface missiles with an effective range of over 30km.

Te Kaha is driven by a CODOG [combined diesel or gas turbine] system; one GE LM 2,500 gas turbine rated at 33,600hp with a power turbine speed of 3,600rpm; two MTU 12V 1163 TB83 diesels each rated at 4828hp at 1200rpm, twin shaft with controllable pitch propellers.

I would like to thank Peter Heenan, the New Zealand Consul General in Sydney for his kind invitation to board Te Kaha.



*Peter Heenan & Barrie Leslie [note Clan Leslie tie]*

**Postscript to Oct, Nov, Dec 2003 newsletter.**

Ruth Leslie of Auckland has advised me that one of the soldiers in the "Roll of Honour" Private James Quinlan Leslie of the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn Wellington Regiment N.Z.E.F. was a cousin of her father. Unfortunately no reports on the other soldiers.

*Barrie Leslie, Gordon, NSW.*

## REMEMBRANCE DAY

I spent the week before Remembrance Day, 11<sup>th</sup> November selling Poppies and Badges for the NZ Sub-branch of the RSL [New South Wales] and on the front of my tray I had put a Poster of the Flanders Poppies and the first line of the poem, in "Flanders Fields" and I thought that I would share with you, the background to this beautiful but haunting poem. For those who do not know the poem, here it is.

### *In Flanders Fields*

*By; Lieutenant Colonel John MacRae, MD [1872-1918]  
Canadian Army.*

*In FLANDERS FIELDS the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place, and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.*

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It is believed that Doctor John Macrae began the draft of his poem "In Flanders Fields" on the evening of 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1915 after witnessing the death of his friend and Officer in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battery, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade Canadian Field Artillery, Lt Alexis Helmer, who had just left his dugout and was



*Lt Alexis Helmer, [Courtesy Imperial War Museum]*

instantly killed when hit by an 8 inch German shell. Alexis was just 18 years old and before the war had graduated from McGill University in Civil Engineering.

What body parts could be found were buried by Major John MacRae in the absence of the Army Chaplain, in what became known as the Essex Farm British Cemetery. The grave site has now been lost and Lt Helmer is now commemorated in Panel 10 of the Menin Gate Memorial to the missing in Ypres. He is one of 54,896 soldiers who have no known grave in the battlefields of the Ypres Salient.

Major MacRae's Commanding Officer said that he had been told that the poem had been composed by Major MacRae to pass the time between the arrival of two groups of wounded soldiers.



**Graduation Photo of  
John MacRae, University  
of Toronto, 1894**

*Photo Courtesy Guelph Museums, Ontario, Canada*

The poem was nearly not published as Major John MacRae was unsatisfied with it and tossed it away. A fellow Officer retrieved it and it was sent to "The Spectator" newsletter in England, who rejected it, but "Punch" published it on 8<sup>th</sup> December 1915.

In the summer of 1915, John MacRae was transferred to No 3 Canadian General Hospital where in January 1918, Lt Col John MacRae contracted pneumonia, complicated by meningitis and died on 28<sup>th</sup> January 1918 and was buried at Wimereaux Cemetery, where he was buried with full Military honours as his horse "Bonfire" paraded with his masters boots backward, in the military tradition.

*Barrie Leslie, Gordon, NSW.*

## CONGRATULATIONS.

Congratulations to Charlotte Leslie of Thornleigh, Sydney, on her recent engagement to Stephen Mitchell.

Charlotte and Stephen will be celebrating their marriage at St Peter Chanel Church, in Hunters Hill, Sydney, on the 24<sup>th</sup> January 2004.



*Charlotte and Stephen.*

I am sure that all our members would wish the happy couple a perfect day for the wedding and a long and happy life together.

*Barrie Leslie Gordon NSW.*

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## LAND REGISTERS AND VALUATION ROLLS AS SOURCES FOR GENEALOGY

by Margaret D. Young, M.A.

Most genealogists are familiar to a greater or lesser degree with the Register of Sasines, the land registers of Scotland starting in 1617, and the Valuation Rolls, starting in 1855. These records, together with all the others mentioned below, are held at the National Archives of Scotland [formerly the Scottish Record Office] in Edinburgh. While pointing out some uses of these classes of record to the genealogist, it is worth widening the field to look at similar classes which preceded them and to suggest some ways in which they offer opportunities as source material perhaps not immediately apparent to the researcher.

Most official records are either the product of administrative necessity or of the need to correct abuses of one kind or another for the protection of the lieges. From an early period the importance of land, as representing a man's wealth and social standing, and the

significance of it passing from one person to another, were fully appreciated and, before any thought had been given to establishing a register of land rights, the notaries public in their localities were, from the early sixteenth century, recording such transactions in their protocol books. Many instruments besides instruments of Sasine were recorded in these books, and although the language is Latin and the writing is difficult to read, a number have been printed, notably by the Scottish Record Society. The original volumes are listed not only chronologically but by the locality also and, where printed, have been so noted in the repertory.

So far as they went, the notarial protocol books served their purpose, but the abuses which could arise when land was used as a form of security for debt and could be burdened in various ways by the owner without an intending purchaser knowing of such restrictions, led to the need for a more comprehensive register to cover the whole country. Two abortive attempts were made to institute a public register, in 1540 and 1555, and in 1599 the Secretary's Register of Sasines, arranged in counties, was established by an act of parliament. This register, however, only survived until 1609, due to opposition from the localities and lack of central supervision. Not all the volumes are now extant. On 28th June 1617 the Register of Sasines was established by Act of Parliament<sup>1</sup>, with a General Register at Edinburgh and Particular registers in the localities, and writs could be registered in either.

This system, although increasingly cumbersome, continued until 1868 when it was changed by the Land Registers (Scotland) Act of that year, whereby the Particular Registers were to be discontinued by 1871 and the General Register was to be kept in Edinburgh in county divisions as the sole register. This is the system operated until recently, when the Department of the Registers at Meadowbank House started to introduce registration of title whereby no search of titles will be required before completion of purchase; another stage in the history of the land registers is now passing. Separate registers for land held by burgage tenure in the royal burghs were instituted in 1681 and these burghs also had their own

protocol books.

The General Register of Sasines is indexed by persons from the beginning to 1780. The Secretary's Register up to 1609 is indexed by persons and the Particular Registers are indexed by persons to 1780 except for the counties of Orkney and Shetland, Perth, Renfrew and Glasgow, Roxburgh, Selkirk and Peebles, Stirling and Clackmannan and Wigtown. From 1780 there are combined abridgements for the General and Particular Registers indexed by person throughout and by places up to 1830 and after 1870. Indexes by places, 1830-70, are gradually being compiled. Where there are no indexes a search may be made in the minute books where they are extant.

The important point to remember about an instrument of Sasine from the researcher's point of view is that it is the final step in the transaction involving the change of ownership of land or its use as security for debt which might start in various ways as, for example, by disposition and charter or by the service of an heir, and that the instrument will contain this information. Thus, where a disposition or similar deed is mentioned in these writs, perhaps in the Register of Deeds, which will yield further information. The problem for many researchers is that the instrument of Sasine is almost always in Latin up to the middle of the nineteenth century, except for the Commonwealth period when Scots vernacular was in use. The consolation is that, almost without exception, when you have read one Sasine you have read them all, for the form rarely varies and relevant information is easily picked out.

The publication by the Stair Society of *A Formulary of Old Scots Documents* (edited by P. Goulesbrough, 1985) contains, among many other useful examples, the complete transcript of a Latin instrument of Sasine with translation. Land not only constituted a form of wealth but also, from early times, served as the basis of assessment for taxes and other dues exacted by central and local government. As a matter of interest, the assessment drawn up in 1275 by Master Baiamundus de Vitia, papal collector in Scotland, for financing future Crusades. Likewise, secular lands were assessed on a valuation called the 'Old Extent' which dated back to the reign of King

Alexander III (1249-85), supplemented by an Act of 1474 which constituted a new valuation of lands showing their real or valued rent, which system lasted until the 1660s. Cess or land tax was collected according to valued rent in the counties, while in the case of the burghs the particular quota to be paid by each was determined by the Convention of Royal Burghs and collection was the responsibility of the magistrates. The sum to be raised was apportioned among the burgesses and collected by stent masters on the basis of the burgh stent roll. Many burgh records contain these cess and stent rolls, which list the names and properties and often the occupations of the proprietors.

Among records of a similar type which predate the Valuation Rolls and are of interest to genealogists are the following. Two taxes were imposed by the Government in the 1690s to pay for army arrears including measures taken against Jacobites. One was a Hearth tax of 1690 of 14 shillings on each hearth<sup>2</sup>. The arrangement is by counties with lists of names of those assessed. Financially it is not very accurate and there are gaps, for, as is often the case, more information came in from the Lowlands than the Highlands. The West Lothian tax records for 1691 have been edited for the Scottish Record Society by Duncan Adamson in 1981, and the volume contains a useful introduction to the taxation system and a list of extant records. The other tax was the Poll Tax of 1693 based upon lists of pollable persons drawn up by the commissioners for the shires and the magistrates for the royal burghs<sup>3</sup>. These two series are part of the Exchequer records, as are the Schedules of Assessed Taxes levied between 1747 and the 1790s. Of particular relevance to genealogists, in that lists of names are given, are the Window Tax, 1793-98<sup>4</sup>; the Inhabited House Tax, 1778-98<sup>5</sup>; Male Servants tax, 1778-98<sup>6</sup>; and Female Servant Tax, 1785-92<sup>7</sup>. Assessment was by district, but the modern arrangement is by counties and burghs throughout.

Provision for a uniform system of valuation throughout Scotland was made by the Lands Valuation (Scotland) Act of 1854, to commence in 1855, covering all lands and heritages in Scotland including railways and canals. Originally the rolls were transmitted to Register House every six years, but they are

now transmitted annually. The arrangement is by counties and burghs, some of the burghs being merged with their counties in 1929 and 1956. The reorganisation of local government in Scotland in 1975 resulted in an arrangement in regions and districts. In the earlier period the rolls vary in accessibility, some having street or parish indexes and some not, while some of the modern rolls are on microfiche.

The Valuation Rolls name tenants and occupiers of the property as well as owners and thus can be used to supplement the Register of Sasines, which names owners of land only, and the Census records during the period between each census. A study of the Register of Sasines and the Valuation Rolls plus the Register of testaments in the Commissary Court records would give a fairly comprehensive picture of a person's heritable and moveable property as well as containing specific genealogical information about his family.

**Notes:**

1. Acts of the Parliaments of Scotland, iv, 545.
2. E.69
3. E.70
4. E.326/1
5. E.326/3
6. E.326/5
7. E.326/6

Selected and retyped by Gregory Lauder-Frost.

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**GOULD GENEALOGY**

This article is not meant to be an endorsement of Gould Genealogy who are at Modbury South Australia, but a service to let our members know what they have available. I have purchased their CD Rom, Scottish Parish Records, Northern Scotland and it is very informative.

You can look at their website at:-

<http://www.gould.com.au> and see what they have in their stock list. My next purchase will be "Decennial Indexes to the Service of Heirs 1700-1858" which is listed at \$115-00 Aus.

They also have "Scottish Handwriting 1150-1650; An introduction to the Reading of Documents, at a cost of \$57-00 Aus.

If you can read Latin, I would suggest that "Retours of Services of Heirs 1544-1699" would be a very good addition to your library.

They have lots more CD Roms available such as "English Parish Records" Lancashire [Salford and West Derby Hundreds] Cheshire, Flintshire, which is available at a cost of \$75-00 Aus.

*Barrie Leslie, Gordon, NSW.*

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**RUGBY WORLD CUP 2003.**

Well I don't know if you saw Martin Leslie in the Scottish team playing the USA. Martin Leslie was cited for allegedly kneeling an opponent, Jason Keyter of the USA team. Martin Leslie is the son of former All Black player and and 10 times Captain, Andy Leslie. Martin has been playing Rugby in Edinburgh and represents Scotland on account of his Scottish grandparents.



*Martin Leslie; photo courtesy AFP.*

The alleged offence was not acted on during the game, but was reported by a video review by the citing Commissioner, John West and the penalty handed out was a very harsh one. Twelve weeks

ban from the game, which was later reduced to eight weeks is still considered very harsh when compared to some of the other incidents in other games, such as the Fijian winger Rupeni Caucaunibuca who was banned for two weeks for decking the French flanker Olivier Magne with a king hit.

Martin Leslie had been fouled by other USA players before the incident, but no action was taken against them. Martin Leslie maintains that the incident was completely accidental and had not even realised "the incident" had taken place. Ian McGeechan, the Scotland coach did not attend the three hour citing hearing in Sydney, as he had to coach the Scottish team for the games against France.

This eight week ban looks certain to finish the international career of Martin Leslie, 31 who has won 37 caps, playing for Scotland, after a distinguished career in provincial Rugby in NZ.

*Barrie Leslie, Gordon NSW.*

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## BISHOP KEN LESLIE

I have received a letter from Bishop Ken Leslie wishing me a very Merry Christmas and asking me to pass his blessings on to all members of Clan Leslie and he included this prayer.



*Bishop Ken Leslie*

*Support us, O Lord, all the day long of this  
troublous life  
until the shades lengthen and the evening  
comes,  
the fever of life is over, and our work is done.  
Then, Lord, in Thy mercy grant us safe  
lodging, a holy rest, and peace at the last.  
[John Henry Newman]*

## SCOTTISH WEDDING TOASTS.

For anyone who is looking for information on Scottish Wedding Toasts, you may want to look at these websites and make a note of them.

<http://gaelicdreams.tripod.com/id205.htm>

<http://www.take2weddings.com/themes/scottish.asp>

I hope that the information will help someone.

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## MORE WEBSITES FOR YOUR INFORMATION

**Births Deaths & Marriages at Sea 1854-1890**

<http://www.nationalarchivist.com>

**How to find Shipping & Immigration Records  
in Australia**

<http://www.coraweb.com.au/shipshee.htm>

**Early Immigration Shipping to NZ 1835-1910**

<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Forest/2925/genealogy.htm>

**Irish Convicts Database**

<http://www.nationalarchives.ie/search01.htm>

**National Archives of Scotland**

<http://www.nas.gov.uk/>

**Hunter Valley NSW Genealogy**

<http://www.huntervalleygenealogy.com>

**East Ayrshire Family History Society**

<http://www.eastayrshirefhs.org.uk>

**National Museums of Scotland**

<http://www.nms.ac.uk/mos/>

**Discover Ship and Passenger Records**

<http://www.nla.gov.au/guides/discoverguides/shippassenger.html>

**Mariners and Ships in Australian Waters**

<http://mariners.records.nsw.gov.au>

**British Counties, Parishes, for Genealogists**

<http://homepages.nildram.co.uk/~jimella/counties.htm>

**Maritime Museums in Australia & NZ**

<http://www.maritimemuseums.net/aus-nz.html>

**Journal of Irish Genealogy and Heritage**

<http://www.IHAonline.com>

I hope that these websites give you something to do over Christmas and New Year.

*Barrie Leslie Gordon NSW.*

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**VALE.**

I am very sad to report that Clanz member, Brian Henry Leslie of Blenheim died from cancer in September. I would like to tender my deepest sympathy to Brian's wife, Prue and family.

He will be deeply missed.

*Barrie Leslie Gordon NSW.*

**THE BURNING OF ROTHES CASTLE**

PART II by Sir Thomas Innes of Learney, 1931.

*At Leslie, 17 March 1662, Obligation, John Innes in Conrack to [John} Earle of Rothes for £5750.*

*"Whereas the Right Noble Earle of Rothes is highly irritated for burning the house of Rothes, Therefore I, John Innes in Conrack, to testifie my submission and repentance for the samen, condescending to put ane "blank" in the said noble Earle his hand, for fulfilling thereof doe by thir presents grant me to be justlie restand awand to the Right Noble and Potent Earle, Johne Earle of Rothes, the sowme of ffyve thousand seven hundreth and fiftie pundis money at Whitsunday next to come.*

*Witnesses; Johne Malcolm of Balbedie,  
Harie Mackie, servant to the Earle of Rothes.*

The Earl in question was he who was eventually, in 1680, created Duke of Rothes, and whose career subsequent to the Restoration was notorious. John Innes in Conrack was the eldest son of William Innes of Tombreakie in Glenlivet Chamberlain to the Countess of Sutherland, but nothing definite is so far known, concerning the ancestor of this Gudeman of Tombreakie, to whom the Maquis of Huntly gave a wadset of that estate, 22 May 1626, for 3600 Merks. There is a tradition that the Tombreakie family were descended from the Innes of Invermarkie, as maternally, they undoubtedly were, through Conrack's marriage with Sir Robert Innes of Balveny's grand-daughter, but William Innes of Tombreakie was not, as was suggested by some of his descendants last century.

Unfortunately we do not know the terms of the "blank" which Conrack gave the Earl "in sign of repentance" and no doubt to save his neck from the consequences of his wilful fire raising, but the sum of £5750, for which Conrack gives bond in 1662, seems only the balance of a greater sum which had been contained in the "blank" and one deduces that Conrack was finding difficulty in implementing the obligation.

*Barrie Leslie, Gordon, NSW.*

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

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