



CONRAD MARTENS COLONIAL ARTIST

Conrad Martens was born in 1801 in the Parish of Crutched Friars, near the Tower of London. His father was a German merchant from Hamburg who settled in England and married an English woman. Conrad Martens brothers were Henry and J.W. [his names are not known] and a sister, Mary Ann, who all became painters.

Conrad Martens chose as his teacher, Copley Fielding, who was a well known painter and teacher of the period.

It would appear that Conrad Martens was a late learner, as in 1837 he was still studying at Fielding's studio at Newman Street London. Conrad Martens was well acquainted with the works of Turner and the other masters of the "Old Water Colour Society" and attended all the exhibitions.

The last drawing that Martens made in England was a pencil sketch of Marly, the estate of Sir G Broderick, which is dated 1st March 1832

The next that is heard about Conrad Martens was when he arrived in Montevideo in August 1832. What drew Martens to South America is not known, but while Martens was in Montevideo, HMS Beagle arrived with Charles Darwin aboard. Martens joined the crew of the "Beagle" as a topographer.

Martens remained on board the "Beagle" for two years and there are many sketch books now in the Mitchell and Dixson Collections, that date from this time. On the 23rd July 1834, the "Beagle" arrived in Valparaiso and Martens disembarked from the ship. It has been reported that Martens left the "Beagle" because of an argument with Darwin, but in light of a letter that Martens wrote to Darwin, twentyeight years later, that does not seem to be the case.

Martens arrived in Sydney, intending to stay for only a couple of months, but he decided to stay in Sydney, where he set up a studio at "The Rocks". He must have been well paid as a

teacher, as early in 1837 he married Jane Brackenbury Carter, daughter of William Carter, Registrar-General of NSW. They had two children, Rebecca in 1838 and Elizabeth in 1839. To help with the family finances Martens produced the "Sydney Prints" which are still popular today.

In 1844 Martens had moved to St Leonards, as the North Shore of Sydney was then called and had built a cottage on several acres of land that his wife owned, at what is now Edward Street North Sydney.



Conrad Martens home, "Rockleigh Grange" Nth Sydney

A son, William Conrad was born on the 11th March 1844, but sadly died six weeks later and was buried in the garden. Later he was interred at St Thomas' Church cemetery at West Street North Sydney.

Martens was commissioned to do many paintings for the gentry of Sydney, amongst whom was the family of Patrick Leslie's wife, the Macarthur's of Vineyard.

He was also the Churchwarden at St Thomas' Church at North Sydney and designed and carved the font that is in the church to this day.

Conrad Martens journeyed to Queensland and was commissioned to do many paintings for the landed gentry around Brisbane. Martens died 21st August 1878 and is buried at St Thomas' Church West Street cemetery and his wife died sixteen years later and was buried with her husband and son.

Conrad Martens made several trips to Brisbane where he was made welcome and was given many commissions to paint the properties of the landed gentry, including all three Leslie brothers. Below is the list of the painters that Martens executed for them



Conrad Martens, late in life.

PAINTINGS FOR LESLIE BROTHERS

DATE	TITLE	CLIENT	PRICE
			<u>Guineas</u>
<u>1852</u> 31 ST Dec.	Canning Downs.	George	Five
<u>1853.</u>			
21 st Nov	House & Garden	Goomburra. Patrick	Two
23 rd Dec.	Washpool	Goomburra Patrick	Two
<u>1854</u>			
10 th Mar	Mount Dumaresq	Patrick	Five
1 st May	Crossing Place	Canning Down George	Two
4 th May	Heifer Station	Canning Down George	Two
29 th Jun	Coochin Run	George	Five
9 th Sep	Killarney	Canning Down George	Five
13 th Sep	Heifer Station	“ “ George	Five
23 rd Sep	Crossing Place	“ “ George	Five
<u>1856</u>			
19 th Oct	View of North Brisbane	George	Six
5 th Nov	Forest, Cunningham Gap	George	Six
<u>1858</u>			
5 th Mar	Mt Mitchell from Gladfield	Walter	Five
8 th Mar	Cattle Plain, Goomburra	Walter	Five

As can be seen from the above list of paintings, that Martens did for the Leslie brothers, a lot of his work was around the Brisbane area, but his favourite area to paint was Sydney.

Barrie Leslie Gordon NSW

LESLIE CASTLE

During my recent tour of the United Kingdom with my sister, Beryl Tremain and my children, Michael and Beverly, we were fortunate enough to visit David and Leslie at Leslie Castle via Inch Aberdeenshire, on the 12th July 2001.



from left, Beryl, Leslie and Elaine at Leslie Castle

We shared a most enjoyable morning with them and also Barrie Leslie whom we had arranged to meet. David and Leslie asked to be remembered to all the people they met and those who attended the 1995 Clan Gathering at Leslie Castle.

Elaine Wood. West Pymble. Sydney NSW.

FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

We are saddened to report that **Lance Sullings Edwards** of Blackalls Park NSW, one of our members of Clan Leslie Society, died suddenly in July after a long battle with cancer. Our condolences go to his family and friends. He will be missed.

KIRKIN OF THE TARTAN.

A Kirkin of the Tartan service, was held at Scots Kirk Mosman Sydney, on the 16th September 2001, by The Celtic Council of Australia.

The service started at 10-00am on the Sunday morning after the entry and blessing of the flags and tartans. The service then started with the hymn, “All People That on Earth do Dwell”, and then a prayer for the people of America following the terrorist attacks of the 11th September.

The Flags and Tartans were then picked up from the altar and a Pipe Band headed the March to the Mosman Art Gallery and Community Centre, where a magnificent lunch had been prepared.



Scots Kirk 9 Belmont Street Mosman

It was a marvellous day and I would urge CLS members to attend this function next year.

Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.

KIRKING OF THE TARTAN

The Kirking of the Tartan service is not a Scottish custom. "Kirkin" was originally the first attendance of a married couple in their church in Scotland.

The Kirking of the Tartan service was started in America during World War II, by the Rev Peter Marshall, an American Presbyterian minister and former Chaplain to the U.S. Senate.

Older members may remember a movie that was produced and released in the mid 1950s titled "A Man Called Peter", starring Richard Todd as the Rev Peter Marshall.

This Church service is becoming more and more popular in Australia, but I believe is not held in Scotland.

Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.

HELP REQUIRED

I need help to continue to publish the newsletter and also articles are required to present in the newsletter. If you have any items that you think *might* be of interest, please let me know. We also need a **Secretary and**

Treasurer to help with the task of building up Clan Leslie Society. This Society is for you and your children and **their** children. We want to get as much family information as we can and also preserve it all, for following generations. Please help. If you can help please contact me.

Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.

GENEALOGICAL RESOURCES

Here is an internet source of information. It is called :- Scottish Genealogy Resources.
<http://www.abeshaus.com/new/Genealogy/scotish.htm>

The purpose is to find Scottish Genealogy resources, including CD Roms and books.

Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.

WHITEBAIT FRITTERS

Here is a recipe that readers might find interesting. Australian readers should be aware that what is called "whitebait" in Australia is actually twice the size of what is called "whitebait" in New Zealand and that they should get the smallest whitebait that they can. The amount of batter is personal preference, but I prefer them with enough batter only, to hold the fish together.

1 egg	1 cup of whitebait
1/2 cup of milk	lard or oil for frying
2/3 cup plain flour	lemon for garnish
salt and pepper to suit	
yield about 12 fritters.	

Add the egg to the milk and mix. Sift the flour with the salt and pepper into a mixing bowl. Stir the egg and milk mix into the flour to form a smooth, lump free batter. The quantity of flour or milk can be adjusted to get the right consistency, which should be that of thick cream.

Leave the batter to stand while preparing the whitebait. Put the whitebait into a colander and run cold water through them and leave to drain. When you are ready to cook, mix the drained whitebait with the batter.

Heat the lard or oil until very hot [just smoking]. Drop a tablespoon of the whitebait mixture into the hot oil, cook until golden, then turn over and cook the other side. Drain

on kitchen paper and keep warm until the rest are cooked.

This whitebait mix can also be cooked as a Frittata. Like an omelette. Enjoy.

Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Included with this, the Christmas edition of our newsletter is an invoice for renewal of your membership of Clan Leslie Society for another year.

I have got this edition out early so that it arrives before you all get busy with your Christmas shopping. I would ask that you send your renewals in early, so that I do not have to go to the extra cost of following up to see if you received the newsletter or just forgot.

I wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and trust that these terrorist difficulties will soon be behind us and we can get on with the business of living.

Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE, 2001.



Dear Clan Leslie and Friends.

Leslie and I would like to extend to you and your family, the seasons greetings.

As I sit here during the week between our holiday breaks at Craighendarroch, I find it difficult to believe that Christmas 2001 is only eight weeks away and yes! We are still living in the castle, a whole year and a half after selling it. Fortunately the new owners are in no hurry to move in, although we now feel a bit like "squatters".

The application for the new house, adjacent to the castle lumbered on with the local Planners and Historic Scotland, despite all approaches for speedy approval, with officials letting bureaucracy run mad. Finally on 28th September, after a year and three quarters and

the day the new owners arrived for their second sixteen night stay with us, the official approval documents dropped through the letter box and I am pleased to announce that work has commenced on site with an expected completion in Spring 2002. It has taken more time to gain approval for the coach house than it took to have the restoration works for the castle approved.

Although Leslie is now on medication for her high blood pressure, receiving planning approval has at least relieved her of some of the stress and now she is eagerly planning with certainty for the move and setting up our new home. At her last checkup, the Doctor was very pleased with her results.

In May/June, Leslie and I had a fortnights holiday in Tenerife which we thoroughly enjoyed and returned home refreshed and ready to spend the summer tackling the usual extended list of gardening tasks required of us to keep the castle garden in order. Like last year however, after June the weather was extremely changeable and it was again difficult to plan simple jobs like cutting the grass.

At the beginning of July we were invited to attend the Royal Garden Party at Holyrood Palace in Edinburgh, which we turned into a mini holiday with a stay in Edinburgh which took in Leslie's birthday and our friends, Mark and Elaine Strachan joined us for two of the days.

Our daughter Angela and her family received news that Lee, her husband had been promoted and was to take over the Houston, Texas office of the company that he works for. Twelve weeks later on the 22nd of August, after a mad scramble to organise the sale of their house, car etc, they departed taking two of our grandchildren, Andrew four and a half and Rachel two and a half with them and leaving their two cats with us, which don't count as substitutes, doubling the number of cats we have to four.

The events of September 11th in New York not only shook the world, but made us all realise just how vulnerable and at risk we all are. and now that our family is separated from us by many thousands of miles, we feel a much

greater sense of worry and unease about the risks we face daily in our lives.

On a happier note Angela, Andrew and Rachel are returning home for a fortnight as they have air miles to use up and we are looking forward to their short visit commencing 17th November.

Our other daughter Yvonne and her family joined us at Craighdarroch last week for five days and we enjoyed having our other two grand children, David eleven and a half and Rebecca four and a half with us. Leslie's mum has her ups and downs but is still doing well for an almost 95 year old.

Leslie's elder brother Michael and his wife Kathleen have retired and moved to Aberdeen, from Leslie in Fife which makes it easier for him to visit mum and it's great to have them living nearer us.

Next year, after we have moved into our new house, we hope to be able to visit Angela, Lee, Andrew and Rachel in Houston and perhaps visit some other parts of America at the same time.

Christmas this year will be strange, not having all the family together for the first time and this will definitely be our very last celebration in the castle. We will be having a traditional Christmas Day with Yvonne and her family and a buffet lunch for our friends on Boxing Day. Leslie really loves Christmas and puts an enormous amount of work into organising decorations and food associated with that time of the year.

The Leslie's of Leslie wish you and your kin a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy, Prosperous New Year.

With our kindest regards.

David & Leslie

David and Leslie, Baron and Baroness of Leslie

IN A CHURCH PULPIT?

On my recent trip to Scotland I was busy trying to trace the various places where my ancestors had lived. One of these was the Kirktown of Durriss, close to Banchory in Kincardineshire.

Roger and I went down the drive and found the Church and the graveyard. I was looking around, but could find no trace of my GGGG Grandfather, Alexander Leslie who was born 29th Oct 1733 at St Fergus in Aberdeenshire and was the Minister at the Kirktown of Durriss from 1757 to 1771 and then retired to Stonehaven in Kincardineshire where he died 15th Sept 1803.

It had started to pour with rain, when two parishioners came into the Churchyard. We started to talk about my GGGG Grandfather and they offered to go and get the key to unlock the church.

Inside the church was a plaque stating that the Rev Alexander Leslie was Minister from 1757. They suggested that it would be a good idea if I went into the pulpit and had a photograph taken.



In the Pulpit at Kirktown of Durriss.

I think that this will be the only time that I will be seen in a church pulpit.

Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.

IRISH WEB SITES

Listed below are various websites for the person who is searching for Irish ancestors.

National Archives of Ireland.

www.nationalarchives.ie/genealogy.html

Irish Family History Foundation.

www.irishroots.net

Irish Genealogical Project.

www.irishgenealogy.ie

National Library of Ireland.

www.nli.ie

The General Register Office of the Irish Republic

www.groireland.ie/research.htm

I hope that these websites are of help to those members whose ancestors come from Ireland.

Barrie Leslie. Gordon.NSW.

TRIPS HOME TO SCOTLAND

I have received an e-mail from Alan Mitchell of Ardoch Guides in Braco Perthshire, who runs a tour service and I give the following as a informational service. [*Barrie Leslie*]

My name is Alan Mitchell and I operate bespoke tours throughout Scotland for groups of all sizes – literally from a couple of folk to full coach parties. In general, the smaller the number, the better, since this allows a greater degree of flexibility in the tour.

Because each enquiry is dealt with by myself, personal attention is assured at all times – including guiding whilst on tour. We work together to come up with the trip you want. I have no pre-packaged tours.

For some ideas why not have a look at my web site.

If the above information could be passed on through your newsletter I am sure any of your society members contemplating a trip to Scotland would appreciate it.

Thanks and Regards.

Alan

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Merry Christmas to one and all.

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