



A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE HON ALEX LESLIE.

Christmas and Hogmanay are here again. Each year, they seem to arrive quicker and quicker.

This year has been a difficult year for my family, with the death of my father, and more recently, the death of the farm manager, who was part of the family farm for forty years.

The good news is that my mother is rallying to the task of managing and maintaining the estate in the south of England, with great enthusiasm, which is a pleasure to see.



Alex and Tina Leslie at the 2005 Gathering.

As we come to the end of the year, there seems to be a new energy and direction taking shape.

I hope that Leslie's in Australia and New Zealand have had a good 2005 and are looking forward to 2006 with enthusiasm.

A very happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year to CLANZ members and Leslie's everywhere.

Alex Leslie, Acting Head of Clan Leslie.



At the New Zealand Society's Annual Dinner at the Dorchester Hotel in London, on the 5th February 2005, the Chairman of the New Zealand Society Scotland, Peter Leslie was voted "the New Zealander of the Year".

Peter Leslie was born in Ashburton, Canterbury New Zealand in January 1964. The son of Clan Leslie Society of Australia and New Zealand members Barbara and Brian Leslie of Feilding Canterbury.

Peter is descended from Peter Leslie (a soldier) and Margaret Yorkstone from Edinburgh who, had a son, Peter, born 3rd March 1802 at Slateford Edinburgh. The first of the family who emigrated to New Zealand was another Peter, born 20 September 1826 who first appeared at Ashburton and married Margaret Isbister and drowned in the Ashburton River, 22nd March 1898, while collecting firewood.



Peter Leslie and his wife Sandra, at the Dorchester Hotel after receiving the award.

KIWI FROM "HEARTLAND NZ" WINS AWARD.

First published on 9th February 2005.
By Mark Hotton. New Zealand News UK.

Peter Leslie didn't expect to win an award on Friday night. In his words, he wasn't enough of a celebrity to be named, The New Zealand Society's, New Zealander of the Year, at the Annual Waitangi Day dinner at the Dorchester Hotel.

"I'm not a celebrity, I'm not from academia, from the arts or from politics. I'm just from heartland New Zealand".

But the judges obviously disagreed.

The award recognised the achievements he has made in promoting New Zealand in Scotland and strengthening the ties between the countries.

Leslie is a founding member and chairman of the Society's Scotland branch, but is quick to point out that he isn't solely responsible for the group's rapid expansion.

The group has seen its numbers swell due to the hard work of Leslie, working tirelessly to promote its activities.

He's quick to acknowledge those who work behind the scenes with him, to make sure events are organised and people contacted, but it's his work in presenting an "outstanding positive image of New Zealand in the UK" that swayed the judges.

Air New Zealand's Simon Bean, who presented the award, said *"we were delighted to present the award to Peter. Through his quiet achievements, he has shown exceptional dedication in promoting New Zealand and Scottish relations. Having founded the Scottish New Zealand Society, he has been pivotal in organising the Arbroath ANZAC ceremony, a memorial to New Zealand airmen and the 150th Otago Settlement. His commitment is a great example to us all"*.

Leslie said that he didn't expect to win the award, for which he was nominated alongside Hilary Alexander (fashion editor of the Daily Telegraph) and Tim Bevan (co-founder of the British production company, Working Title Films). Previous winners include Dame Judith Mayhew Jonas DBE, celebrity chef, Peter Gordon and golfer Michael Campbell.

Leslie told New Zealand News UK that the award had capped off his 10th wedding anniversary on Friday.

He acknowledged the support that she had given him and the flexibility to "let me go and do things with the Society". Leslie didn't prepare a speech for the occasion, because he was certain that he would not win, *"I actually thought that the film guy (Tim Bevan) was going to get it, to be honest"*

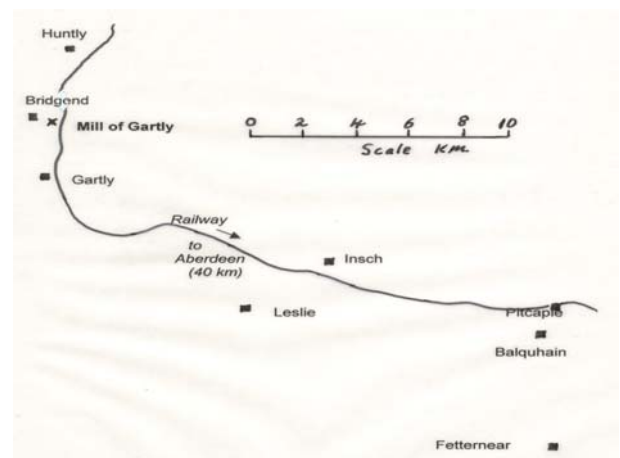
During his acceptance speech, Leslie told the 400 people who attended the dinner, about the robust group of about 80 New Zealanders who made up the Scottish group.

He also paid tribute to the late Rachel Windsor, who had been a significant figure in the expatriate community, *"She did a power of good for New Zealand in the UK"*.

The New Zealand Society also presented its Lifetime Achievement Award to acclaimed concert organist, Dane Gillian Weir, DBE. Weir arrived in London in 1961 to study at the Royal College of Music and stayed in the UK to make her mark in the world of classical music.

CAN YOU HELP?.

Allan Jamieson, PO Box 608. Burnie, Tasmania, 7320. email aoki@southcom.com.au asks if any members can help him with information on his G G Grandmother Jane Leslie from Gartley in Aberdeenshire.



Map of the Gartley area.

Jane Leslie was my great great grandmother. Jane was baptised at Gartley, Aberdeenshire, on 23rd February 1799, her parents being, John Leslie and

Elspe (nee Spence) who already had one son, John. Jane's own son migrated to Australia in 1854, but Jane lived the rest of her life on her brother's small farm at the Mill of Gartly. That farmhouse still exists today.



The farmhouse at Gartly Aberdeenshire.

Unfortunately I cannot establish any family tree for Jane that extends back, beyond her father.

Can anyone offer advice on where (or how) I might gain some confirmation of my descent from the Leslie's of Balquhain, or some other Leslie family.

*Thanking you in advance.
Allan Jamieson.*

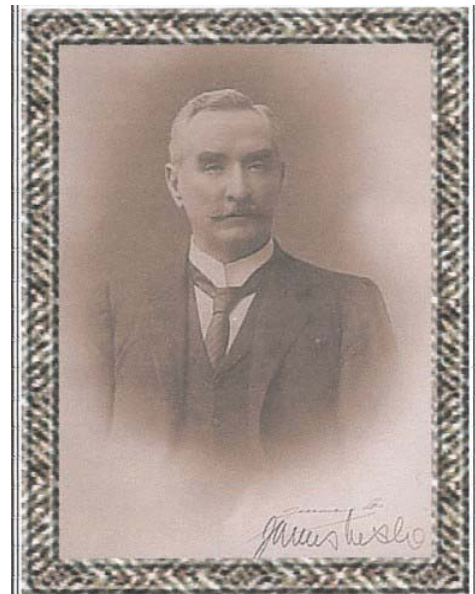
LESLIE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH & MANSE, BLACKHEATH. SYDNEY. NSW.

How many of you have been driving through the Blue Mountains of NSW, and passing through Blackheath, have not noticed the sign "Leslie Memorial Church", or having noticed it, have not stopped to look? Guilty? Well you have missed a great slice of Leslie history in Australia.

James Leslie was born at "Woodville" on the Paterson River in NSW, in 1848, to James Leslie and his wife Mary McMaster who arrived in Australia in 1838 on the "St George" from their ancestral home, Laggan, Inverness-shire, Scotland. James Leslie Snr died at "Milthorpe" Hunters Hill Sydney on the 30 July 1876.

James was educated at Kings School Parramatta, NSW and when he was about 25 years of age, was appointed manager of Binna Station, the property that belonged to his uncle, Duncan McMaster. He

subsequently purchased Nerida Station, near Muttaborra Station in Queensland, a large sheep raising property that he held for 17 years. After he sold Nerida Station, he took up residence in Sydney, NSW as a Stock Exchange investor. During the First World War, 1914 – 1918, he offered his home, "Balquhain" at Blackheath in the Blue Mountains, NSW that he had built in 1880, as a convalescent home for Officers. He also donated the money to build the Leslie Memorial Presbyterian Church and Manse at Blackheath, as well as donating a motor vehicle to the Presbyterian Church.



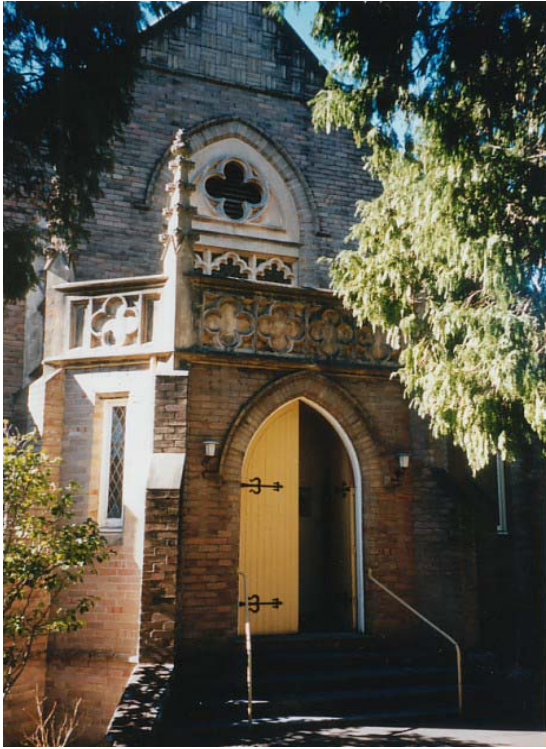
James Leslie Esq.

Before his death on the 19th July 1934, James Leslie gave his home "Balquhain" at 161 Govetts Leap Road, Blackheath, to the Presbyterian Church, as a rest home for the clergy. Unfortunately the Presbyterian Church sold "Balquhain" to the Fairfax family and it is now a Bed and Breakfast facility.

James Leslie married Elizabeth Waddell in 1888, the sister of the Hon Thomas Waddell.



The sign outside the Church at Blackheath.



The front entrance to the Church.



Some of the stained glass windows in the church.



The old Church, which is now the Church Hall.



The side of the Church.



The old Church from the side.

“Balquhain, was built in 1880 for James Leslie, which he donated to the Presbyterian Church and which is now a Bed and Breakfast facility.



Inside of the Church towards the altar.



“Balquhain” as it now presents.



Lounge rooms at "Balquhain"



Main bedroom at "Balquhain".



Part of the 2 acres of grounds at "Balquhain"



Govett's Leap at Blackheath, Blue Mountains, NSW.

If you wish to see "Balquhain", the address is 161 Govett's Leap Road Blackheath, NSW 2785 and it is 90 klm west of Sydney and 1 klm from Blackheath village.

The phone / fax number is (02) 4787 7026.

Email:- balquhain@ozemail.com.au

At the time of printing the accommodation rates are 2 people for 2 nights – from \$350-00 (inc GST) or contact for a quote.

Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.

A FOND FAREWELL AND A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF

JOHN ARTHUR LESLIE.

"JACK"

John Arthur Leslie, better known as Jack died on the 20th July 2005 at the Governor Philip Nursing Home at Penrith and a service was held at the Leura Memorial Gardens and Crematorium.



*John Arthur Leslie (Jack)
15th February 1926 – 20th July 2005.*

Jack was born in Stockton, NSW to Arthur and Irene Leslie (deceased) as are his brothers Hal and Ian and his beloved wife's Ruth and Florence.



Jack as a young man with "friends".

He is sadly missed by his daughters, Sue, Di, Brenda & Debbie, Father in law to Ric, Rob & Luke. Grandfather to Luke, Todd, Leon, Renee, Justin, Joel Lyndal, Eden, Ben & Gabi

Special thanks to the Rev Ted Evenden of Yeoval NSW.

Brenda Leslie. Blue Mountains. NSW.

A VERY IMPORTANT ARTICLE FOR ALL LESLIE'S.

FAMILY TREE DNA GENEALOGY SEQUENCING.

I would like to bring to the attention of all Leslies the advantages of a Leslie name DNA Project. This project would enable all those males of the name of Leslie to identify their male ancestors and possibly, in time, even settle the question whether Bartolf was from Hungary or Flanders.

I will attempt to give an explanation of DNA in laymans terms.

DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) is the chemical, inside the nucleus of all living cells that carry the genetic instructions for all living organisms. A DNA molecule consists of two strands that wrap around each other to resemble a twisted ladder. Each strand of the DNA molecule is held together at its base by a weak bond and four bases pair in a set manner. These Base Pairs are the basis of Y-chromosome testing.

Chromosomes.

Chromosomes are paired threadlike packages of long segments of DNA contained within the nucleus of each cell. In humans there are **23** pairs of chromosomes. In 22 pairs, both members are identical, one deriving from the persons mother, the other from the father. The 23rd pair is different and in females this pair has two X-chromosomes. In males it comprises one X and one Y. It is these chromosomes in the 23rd pair that determine sex.

Y-Chromosome.

Human sex is determined by the X and Y chromosomes. A female has 2 X-chromosomes and a male has an X and a Y-chromosome. When a child is born, it gets one X-chromosome from its mother and either an X or a Y-chromosome from its father. The chromosome from the mother is always an X, but the chromosome from the father is either an X or a Y. If it is an X the child will always be a girl, if the child gets a Y from the father, it will be a boy.

The Y-chromosome has certain features and the main one is that the Y-chromosome is inherited as an integral unit and is passed from father to son without **ANY** alteration and that is where the Y-chromosome benefits the genealogical searcher. The vast majority of the time the Y-chromosome is passed from father to son, unchanged, but there is sometimes a mutation. The advantage with DNA searching comes when you have a large number of people of the same name undertake DNA testing and the number of markers can indicate the closeness of a relationship.

I earnestly suggest that members of Clan Leslie contact Family Tree DNA under the Surname Project and start a Leslie DNA Surname Project. See the Family Tree DNA website and see the Leslie Project for the Leslie Surname Project DNA application form at. There are no participants yet, although I will be taking the test.

<http://worldfamilies.net/surnames/l/leslie/>

The cost of a 12 marker test is approx \$99US, but if a match turns up, you can go back and get the DNA sample checked again for a 36 marker, which unfortunately will cost more if you decide to get the more accurate test. Further information can be seen on the Family Tree website at www.familytreedna.com or do a Google search for genealogy DNA. I am willing to enter into correspondence on this subject as I consider that it will be a great benefit to the ongoing search for linked relatives and as I said at the start, in time it could solve the ancestry of Bartolf.

The Y-chromosome test is only for the male members of the family, but there is another test, which can be used for the maternal side of the family, which is called the Mitochondrial Haplogroup, but that can be looked into later.

Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.

THE KINGS OWN SCOTTISH BORDERERS.



The Crest of the Kings Own Scottish Borderers Regiment.

Upon a Saltire, the Castle of Edinburgh with mottoes, In veritatem religionis confido (*I trust in the truth of my belief*) and Nisi dominus frustra (*In vain without the Lord*) all ensigned with the Royal Crest.

You will most probably be aware that there has been a push from the British Government to amalgamate the Scottish regiments into one super Scottish regiment, to be called The Royal Regiment of Scotland.

The Kings Own Scottish Borderers, The Black Watch, The Royal Scots, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and The Royal Fusiliers and the Highlanders would all be combined and would have a single cap badge.

Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon has confirmed that Scotland's regiments will be combined into a single unit and the Scottish National Party MP, Annabelle Ewing was thrown out of the House of Commons for calling Geoff Hoon, "a backstabbing coward" over the proposal, which Mr Hoon said "was vital as part of a drive to improve efficiency in the deployment of soldiers".

As I see it, it is only a device to reduce the spending on defence and I would say to Mr Hoon if you want to save money, reduce the salaries of MPs and also reduce their "perks".

General Sir Mike Jackson, Chief of the General Staff said that the battalions would keep their roots in Scotland and that they would still continue to recruit from the same areas in Scotland and would still wear items, such as The Black Watch's red

hackle and the Highlanders' blue hackle. There is no sign of recruitment being carried out and what is a small piece of cloth to losing the identity of the battalions.

If the amalgamations are being carried out to improve efficiency and to save money, why not return to Scotland some of the billions of pounds being taken from the oilfields of Scotland, by England, and retain the proud history of these Scottish Regiments and improve the infrastructure of Scotland, which has been shabbily neglected.

The Kings Own Scottish Borderers Regiment was initially raised in Edinburgh, in 1689 by the Earl of Leven (Leslie) under a Commission given by a Committee of the Convention of Estates to oppose the advance of the Highlanders at the Pass of Killiecrankie, where it withstood the charge of the Highlanders, and other regiments fled. It was originally named, Leven's or The Edinburgh Regiment.

It next saw action in Ireland in 1691 at the sieges of Athlone, Galway and Limerick. In 1692 – 1697 the Regiment was in Flanders and won its first battle honours at Namur in 1695, during The War of the League of Augsburg. The Regiment has been in action in most campaigns since that time and is still an active serving Regiment in the British Army.

The Regiment has the privilege of recruiting in Edinburgh without obtaining the permission of the Lord Provost and it has the right to march through the streets of Edinburgh with fixed bayonets and colours flying and this is the heritage that the British government wish to dispense with.

The Kings Own Scottish Borderers Regiment was recalled by the British Government to fight at Culloden and then returned to Flanders for further action and it was fighting on the Continent during the Seven Years War of 1756 – 1763. It is possible to go on and on about the various engagements that the Regiment has fought. Sufficient to say that during The Great War 1914 – 1918, the Regiment fought on the Western Front, Gallipoli and Palestine and during the Second World War 1939 – 1945 in served in France until Dunkirk and after the Normandy invasion it had battalions fighting in North West Europe, Burma and the 7th Battalion was in the Airborne Division at Arnhem.

Barrie Leslie. Gordon, NSW.

I STILL NEED HELP TO RUN CLAN LESLIE SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND.

Unfortunately I have had no offers of help to run Clan Leslie Society of Australia and New Zealand.

I desperately need someone to carry out the duties of **Hon Treasurer**, which by itself is not onerous, but at the end of each year the membership renewals have to be handled. The main requirement is to be on email and it would also be helpful if the person was in Sydney, but that is not a necessity.

I also need someone to act as the **Hon Secretary**, which again is not onerous, and enter genealogical information into the computer program, but for one person to do all the work is just not fair.

I have to go into hospital again on the 13th December and if there are no complications, I should be out on the 15th December, but I have to stay home and relax for at least a week after that.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS FOR 2006

For the members who receive their newsletter by email, I will be sending out a separate email with a renewal form and all the instructions will be on the form. You can pay by cheque for bank directly into the Societies bank account

For those members who receive their newsletter by post, there will be an invoice included with the newsletter with full instructions

For the members who live in New Zealand they can send a cheque to Jillian Burcher in Auckland in NZ dollars, which will save the heavy cost of getting a bank draft and sending it to Australia or the heavy bank charges if you send a NZ cheque to Australia.

I would ask you to please send the payment as soon as you receive the notice, as it costs money to send out reminder notices. It also puts a heavier burden on me if I have to keep checking to see who has not paid and then send out reminders by post or phone.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.

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

Previous issues of GFDU:-
www.electricscotland.com/familytree/newsletters/leslie/index.htm

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