



REPORT ON OUR FIRST YEAR

Well we have survived our first year after the separation from Clan Leslie Society America and there is so much to report.

Thanks to generous donations from Clanz members, we have been able to pay for our website design and setup costs, as well as the domain name costs. We also have set up a link with Electric Scotland through our website, as well as many other links, but I am disappointed to say that I have still not been able to arrange links with Clan Leslie Society International.

We have also paid for advertising in the Scottish Banner and also Scots Heritage magazine. We have also paid for all artwork, stationary and other sundry expenses. At the moment we cannot afford to look at incorporating Clanz, as we cannot afford the cost of Public Liability Insurance. Maybe next year!! The prohibition on members representing Clanz at Gatherings still stands, unless the attendance of Clanz at the Gathering is covered by the Organizing Committee's insurance.

We do not have as much money left in our Bank Account as I would like and it would certainly help if members could try and sign up at least one new member during the year, from either their family or by phoning a Leslie in the local telephone book. I do not have a full financial statement for the year, but if members are interested, I could send them out a statement.

I am still rather overwhelmed by all the work that needs doing and desperately need someone to help with entering up all the genealogical details into the computer. It is a simple job, but it takes time, which is a commodity that I seem to be short of, as I am also the Vice President of the Chatswood RSL sub-Branch here in Sydney.

All in all, I think that we have come a long way in our first independent year and look forward to meeting all our members, as, although I have spoken to all of you by telephone, I unfortunately have not met you all in person.

Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.



Private John William Leslie 10/3936 2nd Battalion Wellington Regiment.



Private John William Leslie 10/3936 2nd Bn, Wellington Regiment, on right, with his younger brother; Private Harold Nelson Leslie 10/3935 on left.

Private John William Leslie, was the eldest son of James and Louisa Mary Leslie, nee Dustow, born 25th January 1897 of Kapuni, Hawera, New Plymouth, New Zealand.

He enrolled on the same day as his brother Harold and they commenced duty on 15th November 1915. He and his brother embarked on the 5th March 1916 for the Egyptian theatre and were then transferred to France.

Armentieres was occupied by the 4th Division on 17th October 1914 and remained in Allied hands until it was evacuated ahead of the German advance on the 10th April 1918.

There were many battles in the area around Armentieres and in the battle that took place on the 3rd July 1916, Private John William Leslie was reported missing, believed killed and his brother Private Harold Nelson Leslie, was also severely wounded.

Armentieres is a town in the Department of the Nord, on the Belgian border, 15 kilometres from Lille. From Armentieres take the D945 to Erquinghem-sur-la-Lys and you will arrive at The Cite Bonjean [New Zealand] Memorial, where the name of Private John William Leslie is recorded. This Memorial is within the Cite Bonjean Military Cemetery, and also commemorates the 47 Officers and men of the New Zealand Division who died in the neighbourhood of Armentieres and have no known grave. This is only one of seven Memorials in France and Belgium, to those New Zealand soldiers who fought and died on the Western Front and have no known grave

Private Harold Nelson Leslie, who was severely wounded in the battle on the 3rd July 1916, had a total war service of two years and 258 days. He returned to New Zealand, never married and died at Kapuni, near New Plymouth, 6th October 1930.

Many thanks to Beryl Harding of Palmerston North New Zealand, for the above information on her Uncles.

CEUD MILE FAILTE *

A new feature listing the new members who have joined Clanz since the start of 2003.

Gavin Wallace Leslie	Kelvin Grove. QLD
Simon David Leslie	Stanwell Park NSW
Fiona Margaret Blanch	Hawthorn. VIC
Athol Bruce Smart	Renwick NZ
Leslie Sullings Edwards	Tuross Head NSW
Paul Dougherty	Tuakau NZ
Flora Leslie Spencer	Cooranbong NSW
Lorna Margaret MacNeill	Bowral NSW
Suzanne Elizabeth Barnett	Mitcham SA
Margaret Anne Kosnetter	Bronte NSW

To all and each of you, I welcome you to our Leslie Clan Society and hope that we are all able to learn and preserve some of our family and Clan history.

Barrie Leslie.

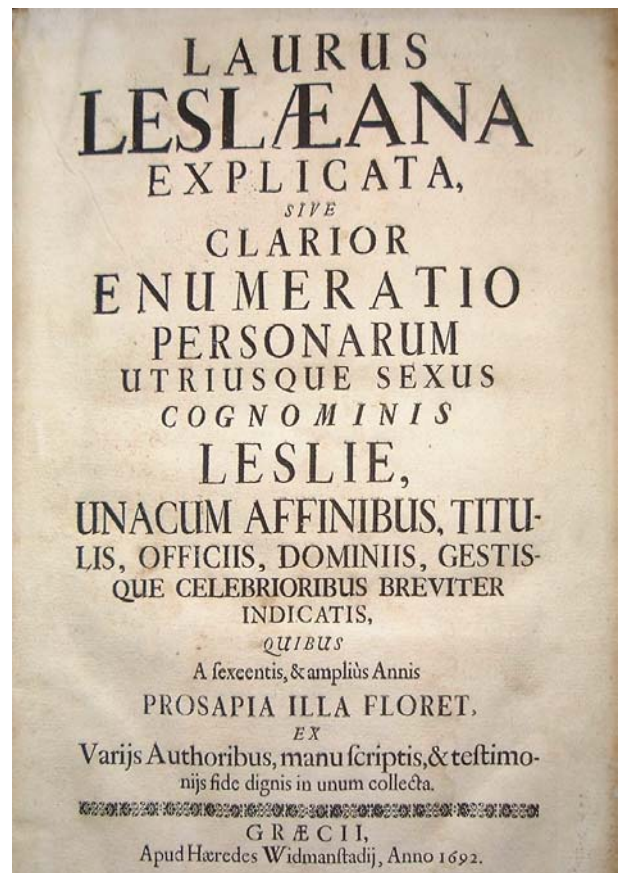
* 100,000 welcomes in Gaelic

LAURUS LESLÆANA EXPLICATA

Hopefully most of you will have heard of the Laurus Leslæana Explicata, which is the first written history of the Leslie family and Col Charles Leslie who published the "Historical Records of the family of Leslie" in 1869, borrowed heavily from it. It does contain many errors, but it is a significant part of our family history.

Our new member Flora Leslie Spencer of Cooranbong NSW has given me a typed English translation of the original Latin history that was written by the Rev William Leslie of the Balqhain family, in Gratz, Austria, in 1692.

This English translation is the only one that we know about, and Flora tells me that it was made in 1893 by her mother from a handwritten document that was given to Flora's grandmother by a Dr Pooler. I have been doing some research on Dr Pooler and apparently his mother Angelica Leslie was a grand daughter of Charles Powell Leslie MP, of the Glaslough family of Castle Leslie in Ireland.



The front page of the Laurus Leslæana Explicata.

The Earl of Rothes is very excited about the news of this translation, as he was looking at

getting his original Latin copy translated, but the cost was too great.

I have commissioned someone to retype the manuscript for me and I have sent the basic manuscript to the Earl, but it does need a lot of correcting as with the three transcriptions, some errors have crept in, especially with peoples names and place names. I have also contacted Dr Ian Plant of the Dept of Ancient History at Macquarie University, Sydney, for help in filling in some gaps in the English translation, owing to damage to the handwritten document that it was prepared from.

The Earl of Rothes has also been sending me digital photographs of the original Latin document, which I have been comparing with the English translation. It will be a long and painstaking job, but it will be worth all the trouble and we owe Flora Spencer a great debt of gratitude for making this English translation of the *Laurus Leslæana* available to us.

Barrie Leslie, Gordon, NSW.

MABEL LESSLIE, ARTIST AND POTTER.

J. MABEL LESSLIE

China Painter and Potter

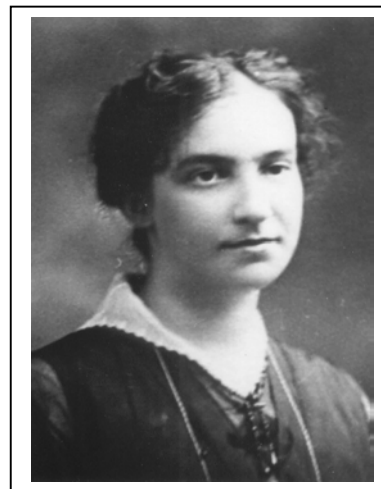
1881 – 1961

Jeannie Mabel Lesslie, 1881 – 1961, was a second generation Australian.

Her maternal grandmother was Hepzibah Gordon daughter of Charles Molston Gordon, who arrived as a young boy in Australia in 1804 from London with his family. Charles' father received a grant of 100 acres on the river flats at Richmond, N.S.W. and it was only natural that he was brought up with an agricultural background. With this background, he was selected by the Rev Samuel Marsden, who had purchased the Brig ACTIVE in 1814, to establish the first missionary settlement at Rangihoua, Bay of Islands, in New Zealand. This was in order to promote agriculture in that colony. He was accompanied by his first wife, Maria Lees, his sister Mary, and brother in law William Carlile. On his return to Sydney his first wife died and he then married a friend of the family, Mary Brown. Hepzibah was his second daughter. Charles Gordon set up a windmill at Paddington, a horse mill at the corner of Pitt and Bathurst Streets, Sydney and he also purchased

two blocks of land at Double Bay, in the first sale of land by the government there. On one of the blocks he built a home, later to be occupied by his daughter who married Captain William Lesslie. The other was rented to the well known botanical garden designers, the Guilfoyles, who conducted a nursery there.

Mabel's paternal grandfather was Captain William Lesslie who had arrived in Australia as master of the sloop / cutter VANSITTART, a ship of 80 tons, in time to celebrate his 24th birthday on the 30th January 1836. He was a Scotsman who had travelled out from London. He came from a long line of master mariners. His uncle Robert, a whaler, had been master of the Brig ACTIVE in 1812. Mabel's grandfather, Captain William carried goods and passengers between Hobart, Spencer Gulf and Nepean Bay now Kangaroo Island, South Australia's first settlement, prior to the founding of Adelaide in January 1837. He travelled to Port Phillip [now Melbourne] then only one year old and on two voyages he carried J. Gellibrand an associate of John Batman who founded Melbourne. Captain William Lesslie died at the early age of 43 leaving his wife to bring up three young children including William Charles, Mabel Lesslie's father, William Charles attended St Marks, Darling Point School, and entered employment as a mercantile clerk. He married Jeannie Gillespie of Woollahra and in the late



1800's the family moved to Burwood, which was then regarded as the country. It was at Lindsay Street, Burwood NSW that Mabel, the eldest daughter showed talent in design and studied pottery

Jeannie Mabel Lesslie 1881-1961

and china painting at Sydney Technical College in 1910 – 1911. Mabel accepted the traditional classical design, but more particularly recognised the beauty of Australian flora and fauna and used these in her work. Her interests ranged from the painting of ceramic tiles and imported china to the production and decoration

of her own pottery. She imported her own glazes and had an arrangement with R.Fowler & Sons [she bought shares in the Company] to fire her work. She was prepared to experiment and even used clay from the home property at Burwood NSW.



Examples of Mabel Leslie's work

Mabel's work was highly regarded and exhibited widely in NSW, often with the Arts and Craft Society of NSW and at Anthony Hordern's Fine Art Gallery of NSW. Her work won prizes and her style varied according to her love of the craft. Mabel sold very few pieces. Most of her pottery and china painting have been retained and handed down within her family. Public distribution was rare, however, examples of her work, are held by the Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney and the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra.

Mabel otherwise successfully supported herself through the judicious management of investments in shares and real estate. Her other self supporting interests, natural to a country house in those times, included, gardening, fruit preserving and egg and chicken production.

Mabel travelled widely, both in Australia and overseas. She was an early visitor to Ayers Rock and after travelling by sea to Britain, viewed the coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. She was a regular attendant at St James Presbyterian Church, Burwood, where she supported the community activities, particularly the annual flower show and the churches local and overseas missions, including Sholingur, in India.



More examples of Mabel Leslie's work

Jeannie Mabel Leslie, died at Burwood Sydney, on the 15th May 1961 and was buried at Rookwood Necropolis, in Sydney.

Thanks to Russell Leslie of Killara, Sydney, for the information and photographs on his Aunt's work.

MUIR & LESLIE DOUBLE SIDED TARTAN RUG

My only regret about weaving the Muir and Leslie double weave tartan rug is, neither my father nor mother was alive to see it.

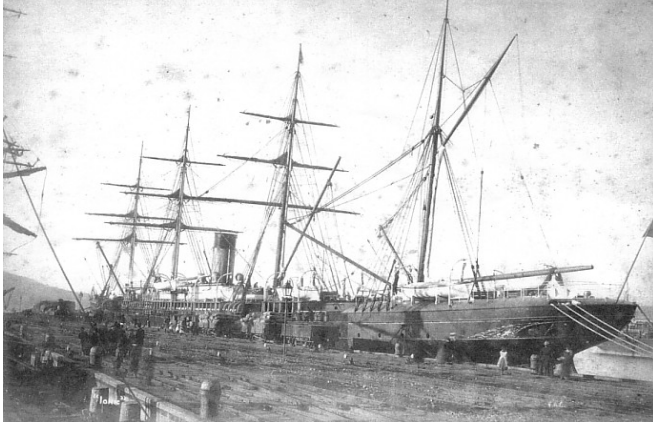
The idea of weaving a double-sided tartan rug came to me after reading Ann Sutton and Richard Carr's book "Tartan, Their Art and History". Reading a very interesting article, printed in 1933 about the "Weavers of Kilbrachan" where a male weaver [the only one in Scotland] who can weave two tartans at one time, certainly got my attention, so from there I decided this would be a great challenge for me to have a try at working out my own family tartans, and weaving them into one combined rug.

Muir

My Mother was Beryl [Ena] Muir. Her great grandparents, Alexander and Mary Muir [nee Stewart] and their children left Greenock on 9th June 1842, on board the "Duchess of Argyle" for New Zealand, arriving at Mechanics Bay, Auckland on 9th December 1842. Today there are still some family members living in the Auckland area. Alexander and Mary Muir's youngest child, George Muir and his family, later settled in Taranaki, where there are still some family members living.

Leslie

My father was Roy Claude Leslie [called Mick]. His father, James Leslie, at the age of 16 years, left County Kerry in Ireland with his parents, John and Sarah Leslie [nee Wharton] and brothers and sisters on board the SS Ionic from Plymouth on 31st December 1887 for New Zealand.



Shaw Saville & Albion Co, ship "Ionic" which, was taken over by The NZ Shipping Co, at Auckland, with Rangitoto in left background. [Photograph from family records of Barrie Leslie]

The Tartan Rug

I wove the rug using 100% wool, with each tartan threaded at 20 threads to the inch, equal to 40 threads to the inch. With the help of my husband, Bruce, we dyed the white wool to the required tartan colours.



The Tartan Rug with the Muir tartan on the left underneath, and the Leslie Tartan on the right

The **Muir** tartan colours are, blue, green, red, black and yellow.

The **Leslie** tartan colours are, blue, green, white, red and black.

I wove the rug on my 8-shaft doobby floor loom. The rug has been displayed in a number of places and at the present moment [February 2003] is on display at the 125th Anniversary of Stratford, Taranaki, New Zealand.

The tartan rug measures 86cm by 150cm.

Thanks to Beryl Harding of Palmerston North, New Zealand, for this fascinating article.

CLAN LESLIE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL. 2005 GATHERING.

The 2005 Clan Leslie Society International Gathering is to be held in Perth, Scotland on the 2nd weekend in August 2005.

If any Clanz members from Australia or New Zealand would like to attend, please contact Brian Lesslie on bless993@blueyonder.co.uk for further information on accommodation and any other information that you would like to find. I can recommend visiting the Perth area of Scotland, it is very beautiful and so very handy to get to other parts of Scotland.

If you want to, contact me, 02 9418-2262 or lesliejb@ozemail.com.au

Barrie Leslie, Gordon, NSW.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE WILLS BACK TO 1650

If you want to search for English wills online, go to <http://www.documentsonline.pro.gov.uk> and you can search the indexes at no cost. If you want to get a copy of the wills that you find, it will cost you £3-00 per document to download a digital image of the document.

SCOTTISH CHURCH PROPERTIES

If you want to buy a Scottish Church property, such as Leslie Kirk, Garioch, Aberdeen go to <http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/boards/law/lawproperties.htm>

Barrie Leslie, Gordon, NSW.

SELKIRK'S ONE GREAT BATTLE

Margaret Jackson Young recalls a Covenanting conflict.
Submitted by Brian Lesslie Perth Scotland.

A mist of memory broods and floats
The borders waters flow
The air is full of ballad notes
Borne out of long ago.

These words of Andrew Lang are certainly true. Through the centuries, the Borders, has had its fair share of poets, storytellers and ballad makers. It seems that scarcely an event of love, treachery or warfare has gone untold or unsung; and is Sir Walter Scott's Collection, *Minstrelsy Of The Scottish Border*, most, or at least many, of these pieces can be found.

One of the stories-in-verse is "The Battle Of Philiphaugh", which coincides accurately with known historical facts. "This indeed is its sole merit," says the *Minstrelsy*. Maybe so, but when you have read these simple, rather naive lines, you have got the story, as would country folk with no book-learning, listening round the fireside of an evening long ago.

Philiphaugh, a plain some two miles by half a mile and just west of Selkirk, was the scene of the defeat of James Graham, Marquis of Montrose. The encounter, according to the writer, T. Craig Brown, was "the one great battle which took place in Selkirk-shire".

The year was 1645: the cause: the religious struggle between the Covenanters and the forces of King Charles I.

Things could have been very different, for the noble Marquis had actually changed sides. As an ambitious young man of 25, he had been a keen Covenanter. "But," says Robert Baillie, then Professor of Divinity at Glasgow, "his first voyage to Aberdeen made him swallow the certain hopes of a Generalissimo over all our armies. When that honour was put on Leslie, he (Montrose) began to deal with the King".

That wasn't the only bit of double-dealing that went on. As the Marquis and his men marched into the Border area, he made contact with the Earls of Hume, Roxburgh and Traquair, for he had been already assured of their wholehearted support.

It was rumoured that Traquair was in secret communication with Leslie: a story made more likely by the fact that, on the morning of the battle, a contingent of Traquair's men, under the command of his son, Lord Linto, left the field and rode off quietly through the mist. As for Roxburgh and Hume, their deception was to surrender to Leslie's soldiers, so gaining favour with the Covenanters, while pretending to the King that they had been forced into captivity. It was no wonder that, after this, Roxburgh was sometimes referred to as "the cunning old fox".

Desperately disappointed at the lack of any reinforcements – some had been expected from England as well – the Marquis had ensconced himself in a house in Selkirk's West Port.

The Royalist officers were quartered in and about the town and their troops were encamped on the haugh and had set about digging trenches. Meanwhile...

Sir David frae the Border came,
Wi' heart and hand came he;
Wi' him three thousand bonnie Scots,
To bear him company.
Wi' him three thousand valiant men,
A noble sight to see!
A cloud o' mist them weel concealed,
As close as e'er might be.

When they came to the Shaw Burn
Said he, "Sae weel we frame,
I think it is convenient
That we should sing a psalm."

(Various versions, says Sir Walter, give it as "That we should take a dram") psalm sung or dram taken – or maybe both – the army of the Covenant moved unrelentingly towards its enemy, progress much aided by the sympathy and help of local people. One such local person, named only as "Will", although he may have been a Will Brydon, had once been a soldier himself. He was able to guide Leslie as to the exact whereabouts of the Royalist Army and to hand out some strategic advice at the same time:

Halve your men in equal parts,
Your purpose to fulfil:
Let ae half keep the waterside,
The rest, gae round the hill.

Which was more or less what was to happen. The troops that “kept the waterside” would engage the enemy, the retreat on the beating of “a flying drum”. The Royalists would leave their defensive positions – the trenches they’d dug earlier – only to be attacked from behind by those Covenanters who had “gaed round the hill”.

Your nether party fire must,
Then beat a flying drum,
And then they’ll think the days’ their ain,
And frae the trench they’ll come.

Then those that are behind them maun
Gie shot, baith grit and sma’,
And so, between your armies twa,
Ye may make them to fa’.

But why, that September evening before the battle, had Montrose no idea that the Covenanting army was almost upon him? Why did he abandon his usual practice of himself sending out spies and placing sentinels, leaving these duties to some of his cavalry officers? Several uncertain reports” of enemy movement did come in as the night wore on, but the Captain of the Guard confidently assured him “there was no enemy in these parts, nor in the country thereabouts.” In consequence, Montrose relaxed enough to spend many hours writing letters.

At daybreak, some the best horsemen, most acquainted with the country, were sent out again to scout. They brought back word that “they had been 10 miles about, had diligently examined all byways, and rashly wished damnation to themselves if they could find an enemy in arms within ten miles”, rashly indeed! The morning of 13th September brought surprise and confusion to the small town of Selkirk

Montrose himself had been at breakfast when the sound of Leslie’s trumpets reached his ears. He leaped on a horse and galloped furiously down the brae towards the haugh. Some of his officers rode behind, others followed in random groups. Curious townsfolk walked amongst them. Cavalry soldiers already at Philiphaugh, “quite unacquainted with discipline or command, were scattered up and down the fields, feeding their horses...” Many of the foot were “very unseasonably taken up about the baggage” and

some of the officers, it is said, never turned up at all.

This Covenanters’ report gives an interesting picture of how the battle began.

The two sides faced up to each other, around 10 that morning. After viewing one another, there came out three horses from each side; and after skirmishing very gallantly about a quarter of an hour, the enemy’s three were beaten in. After this, the enemy sent out a party of 200 musketeers who were forced to retreat by ours in great disorder; whereupon the van of our forces advanced, and for almost an hour (being between eleven and twelve o’clock) it was hotly disputed, but there could have been little doubt about the outcome. Will’s battle plan worked perfectly. Montrose was defeated. Those who could escape – mostly mounted men – did so. The Irish foot soldiers held their ground until, quarter being “offered”, they gave up their arms and surrendered.

Montrose gathered about him some 30 of the scattered troop of horse, and putting himself at their head, “cut his way through the midst of the enemy, who were now more intent in plundering the baggage than in pursuit.” The Marquis and his retinue escaped, and lived to fight another day, but the aftermath of the battle, particularly for the Irish, was terrible indeed.



Newark, scene of the slaughter of the wounded prisoners, by Gen David Leslie's Covenanters

A contemporary report states. Then did the churchmen quarrel, that quarter should be given to wretches such as they, and declared it to be an act of the most sinful impiety to spare them... and this it was, that quarter was only meant to Stuart the Adjutant himself, and not to his company; after which, having delivered the Adjutant to Middleton to be his prisoner, the army was let loose upon them, and cut them all in pieces. Young boys, cooks, “and a rabble of rascals and women with children in their arms”

– camp followers all – met a similar fate, being shot on a piece of ground still known as “Slain Men’s Lea” close by Newark Castle. Others met death by drowning. They were tossed from a bridge that spanned either Yarrow or Ettrick with any potential swimmers firmly held down by pikes and staves. Then there were the four men and six women, imprisoned in the tollbooth of Selkirk after the battle for three months, only to be shot or hanged, following what has been called “a hideous farce” of a trial.

Leslie, it is said, was against these killings, but was overridden by the sheer fanaticism of some of the Covenanting clergy: men who preached from Old Testament texts such as “Thine eye shall not pity and thou shalt not spare!” And how about the reputed remark of the then Moderator of the General Assembly, on hearing of the execution of several Irish officers – “Eh, but the wark goes bonnily on!”

To be continued in the next newsletter.

Thanks to Brian Lesslie of Perth. Scotland for this article on the Battle of Philiphaugh 1645.

BUNDANOON IS BRIGADOON 2003.

On the 12th April 2003 my wife, Patricia and I went to Bundanoon, in the NSW Southern Highlands for the 26th Annual Bundanoon Highland Gathering. It was a great days outing and we had several visitors to our Clan Tent. I am running out of space, so I will make a report in the next newsletter



Vic Lesslie, with his grand daughter Elise McKenzie from Hong Kong, with Barrie Leslie and his wife Patricia.

Excuse the quality of the photograph, but it is the only one we have.

Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.

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