

BUNDANOON GATHERING

The 24th Bundanoon Gathering was held at Bundanoon in the Southern Highlands on the 7th April 2001. The weather was perfect, a balmy 26 degrees and bright sunshine. My wife and I left Sydney at 5-30am, to enable us to get down there and erect the tent before 8-00am.

There was a special steam train excursion from Sydney to Bundanoon and it was an easy way to get to Bundanoon. There was reported to have been over 25,000 people at the Gathering and the stalls did a roaring trade, selling Scottish items to the crowd. If you wanted food, there was such a variety, you could not have sampled it all. There was a massed Pipe Band display in the centre arena and a March from the town centre to the Gathering. There was also Highland dance competitions, Highland dress competitions and kilted dash races.



Barrie Leslie and wife Patricia

On the following day, Sunday there was a Kirkin' of the Tartan Service at the Bundanoon Anglican Church, to celebrate the lifting of the proscription to wearing tartan in 1782.

I had plenty of general enquiry at the Clan Leslie tent and gave out several informational packages to people. I had two members come to the tent. Stuart & Narelle Leslie and their children, from

North Nowra and Victor & Lyn Lesslie, from Mt Vernon.



Stuart & Narelle Leslie with their children

If you did not come to the Gathering, you missed a wonderful day and I suggest that you pencil into your diary the date for next year, 6th April 2002.

Barrie Leslie Gordon NSW

TARTAN DAY. 1st JULY

Tartan Day is celebrated on the 1st July and is commemorating the repeal of the Act of Proscription of wearing "The Tartan". After the 1745 uprising, the English banned the wearing of the tartan and it was finally repealed on the 1st July 1782.

In **America**, Tartan day is celebrated on the 6th April, but that is **incorrect**. The Declaration of Arbroath to Pope John XXII, pleading for the independence of Scotland was signed at the Abbey of Arbroath on the 6th April 1320, but Tartan Day is to celebrate the repeal of the Act of proscription. I would urge every member to wear a piece of Tartan on the 1st July.

Barrie Leslie Gordon NSW.

[2] ORIGIN OF BARTOLF ?

The origin of Bartolf or Bartholomew, the progenitor of Clan Leslie, is somewhat of a mystery. The official position of Clan Leslie is that he was born about 1041 in Hungary and came to Scotland in 1067 in the retinue of Princess Agatha, daughter of Henry II [Emperor of Germany], and mother of Edgar Atherling, who was rightful heir to the English throne and the grandson of Edmund "Ironside", King of England. Included in the party were his sisters, Margaret and Christina. The party was returning to Hungary to escape the wrath of William the Conqueror, but was forced ashore by bad weather into the Firth of Forth. They were met by King Malcolm Canmore, whom they had met at the court of William the Conqueror.

Malcolm, was so taken by the beauty and accomplishments of Margaret that upon the death or disappearance of his wife Ingeborg, he married Margaret. Bartolf, as Margaret's faithful servant, was rewarded with the hand of the King's sister, Beatrix, and large grants of land in Fife and Aberdeenshire. Among them was the land on which Leslie Castle in Aberdeenshire was built.



Ruins of Leslie Castle built in 1661

There is much conjecture that Bartolf was, actually Flemish, not Hungarian. When you consider the facts that Bartolf was supposed to have been born in Hungary about **1041**, [Col Leslie] married in **1070** and died about **1121**, [Col Leslie] with his

son Malcolm, presumably born about **1072** and dying about **1176** [Col Leslie].

Col Charles Leslie, in his book states that Bartholomew came to Scotland in 1067 with Margaret and married Beatrix, sister of Malcolm and was granted the lands of Leslie in Aberdeenshire. Col Leslie took all his early Leslie family information from various charters and also from the "**Laurus Leslaeana**" which was written by a Jesuit priest, William Aloysius Leslie, of the Balquhain family in 1692, six hundred years after the events took place.

In "Inverurie and The Earldom of The Garioch", by the Rev John Davidson, Edinburgh 1878, it states on page 21 that the Royal policy to leaven the Celtic population with other elements was a success. The charter by David Earl of Huntingdon to "**Malcolm**, son of Bartolf", in the lands of **Lesslyn** is the charter that gives the original lands of Leslie in Aberdeenshire to Malcolm. The charter is addressed to all who may see it, "clerics and laics, French, English, Flemings and Scots".

No mention of Hungarians. [JBL]

A settlement of Flemings had evidently held possession in the Garioch, near the watershed of Gadie and Bogie, in Leslie parish. The lands which **two centuries later, still had the right of Fleming Law** acknowledged in their charters and had obviously been written into the charter to allow Flemish Law to prevail. Whether this settlement had anything to do with Bartolf is not known.

Consider also, that according to *Collections for a History of The Shires of Aberdeen and Banff 624-625*, that between **1209** and **1214**, "Malcolm, son of Bartolf" was witness to a charter made by David, Earl of Huntingdon, brother of King William, in which Earl David granted to the Abbey of Aberbrothac and the monks thereof, a plowgate in his land of Kinalchmund to pray for the souls of his father, mother, himself and his wife Matilda [Maud].

[3] This would not have been possible if Malcolm had died in **1176**. Then, as now, a generation comprises between 20 and 25 years and could be expanded to 35 years by a second marriage or a child born late in the marriage. It is hard to believe that two generations could be spread over 135 years, but it is possible. By all accounts there are no missing generations.

There seems to have been an error of mistaken identity due, to the fact that there were two David's, Earl of Huntingdon, *[the first became King David I]* who, both had wives named Maud or Matilda. It was the second David, Earl of Huntingdon brother to King William the Lion, who made a grant of the lands of Lesslyn, Auchnagat and Mile. This charter is not dated but **was** witnessed by Malcolm, Bishop of Aberdeen, between **1172 and 1199**.

This charter is for the original lands of Lesslyn, Auchnagat and Mile and would seem to be an original grant to Malcolm, son of Bartolf. If the lands were given to the family prior to the time of Malcolm, son of Bartolf, there would be **no need for a perambulation** of the lands and we can therefore surmise that it was Malcolm who first held the lands of Leslie and not Bartolf. Thus Bartolf may have been born about **1125**, *[taking into account the surmised birthdates of his sons]* and was the father to at least two surviving sons. Malcolm, who succeeded him, and Norman, who came north with his brother. Malcolm was a witness to his nephew's *[Norman de Lescelin, son of Norman the Constable]* charter, on the patronage of the Church of Lesslyn.

Between **1199 and 1207**, "Norman, son of Bertouf" is listed among witnesses, to charters made between Philip de Malville and Walter, son of Sibald. *Reg. [Aberbrothac, 64-66]*.

This shows that Norman would have been born about **1153**. Clearly Malcolm the eldest son could not have been born about **1072**, while his younger brother was born about **1153**.

It is also noticeable that among the charters made by King David and his son Henry, Bartolf is not included as a witness to any of them. This would be rather strange if Bartolf were the really important servant to the family, as is surmised in the original and unproved ancient tradition of the Leslie family. Notice also that the name of Bartolf was not used again but rather the Scottish names of Malcolm, Andrew and John, and that the name Norman was used to show their pride in their Norman/Flemish ancestry. Batholomew has been used by Leslie families, but not often. It is possible that Bartolf was of Norman origin of Flemish parents.

In the "Greening Peerage of Scotland" published in London in 1767, in the section on the family of Lesley, Earl of Rothes, it states that, "*But to deduce the unquestionable descent of this family, I must observe that Bartholomew de Leslyn was a proprietor of the lands and Barony of Leslyn in Aberdeenshire in the reign of **William the Lion**, who ascended the throne of Scotland in 1165, and died in 1214. He was succeeded by his son Malcolm, and Malcolm by his son Norman.*"

There are a number of other sources indicating a descent from a Flemish family in the time of William the Lion, which, is contrary to the accepted Clan Leslie position. There is enough conflicting information to warrant a professional search to try and establish the true origin of Bartolf.



Leslie Castle as restored by David Leslie

[4] My own family records state that Bartolf, was born in Hungary about 1041 and his father was Walter de Leshlin, who married a daughter of the German Emperor and had at least one son, Bartolf. No source is given for the story and it must be suspect. Other historical sources indicate as follows:

“The Forgotten Monarchy of Scotland” Element Books Ltd Dorset 1998, by HRH Prince Michael of Albany page 35 states that when Maud de Lens arrived from Flanders about 1114 to marry King David, “The Saint”, she was accompanied by many kinsmen of her Boulogne house. Among the Flemish nobility who accompanied her, was the ancestor of the family of Leslie.

“Rosslyn”, Guardian of the Secrets of the Holy Grail. Element Books, Dorset 1999, page 147 shows a photograph of a carving of Ladislau Leslyn and the future Queen Margaret on horseback, which is where the Leslie family motto of “Grip Fast” is supposed to have emanated. On page 199 it states that the first member of the St Clair family was William “the Seemly” St Clair who came to Scotland, by a very strange route, Normandy via Hungary, and was accompanied by Bartholomew Ladislau Leslyn. This carving was done in the 15th century.



Carving of Ladislau Leslyn and Princess Margaret, at Rosslyn Chapel, Fife.

The patronymic surname of Leslie, was not used by the Leslie family until Norman de Leslie, 5th possessor of the lands of Leslie

started to use it. This was the Norman Leslie who as Sir Norman de Lesselyn “Chevalier”, swore fealty to Edward I of England at Aberdeen on the 15th July 1296.

Lastly Col Leslie in his Book “Historical Records of The Family of Leslie”, in the preface, page vii, states: *It is hoped that these records will be found correct, as far as authentic information can at present be obtained. Many errors and omissions have been rectified and supplied. Still there remain historical points to be ascertained, which further research may elucidate.*

He trusts that some one more competent than himself may be induced to write a history of the family.

Quite simply, it is highly unlikely that Bartolf could have been born in 1041 in Hungary, married in 1070 and had a son, Malcolm who died in 1176. What other scenario is there? I would be pleased to hear from anyone who could clarify or correct any of the foregoing points.

Barrie Leslie Gordon NSW.

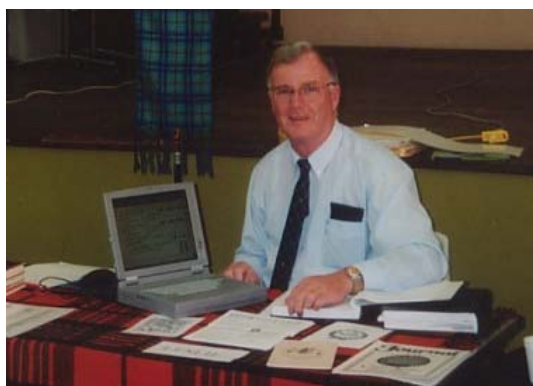
GENEALOGICAL FAIR

On the 31st March 2001, “Scottish House”, held their first Genealogical Fair in The Scottish Hall, Weigand Street Bankstown Sydney. It was a tremendous success and will be repeated next year.

Clan Leslie Society was invited to participate and I fronted up complete with Clan Leslie information, books and my laptop computer. I was busy throughout the day and gave out lots of information, but unfortunately, only had a couple of enquiries from people with a Leslie connection.

It was a wonderful opportunity to talk to other Clan Societies and find out how they operate. The Clan Societies were very interested in how I was building up a database on the main Leslie line and also a

[5] separate database on Australian and New Zealand Leslie's and was then able to take it to the various gatherings on my laptop computer.



Setup up and ready to go

Barrie Leslie Gordon NSW.

SCOTTISH DANCING

Russell Lesslie reports that classes in Scottish Country Dancing are held in the Church Hall at the Killara Uniting Church, Arnold Street Killara, Sydney.

The classes are held every Friday night at 7-00pm under teacher Dr Jim Robertson. Beginners are most welcome. Beginners start at 7-00pm and the more experienced start at 8-00pm. Dancing finishes at 10-00pm following a short supper at 9-00pm. For information please ring John or Margaret Middleton on 02-9499 2501.

Russell Lesslie Killara NSW

PATRICK LESLIE.

Further to my report in the last newsletter about the vandalism to the headstone on the grave of Patrick Leslie, who rediscovered and settled the Darling Downs, I am happy to be able to report that the damage has now been repaired and the headstone is back in place.

I believe that although the headstone has been repaired, it could have been done better. The centre of the cross was drilled and a stainless steel pin was used to repair the two breaks, in the cross. The cross was then reattached to the plinth by using

ordinary Portland cement and fine Sydney sand. This cement sets in a very light colour, not at all like the colour of the sandstone base.

I believe that off white cement should have been used, with Bush sand, which is more like degraded sandstone and would have resulted in a repair that was almost indistinguishable from the original sandstone. Nevertheless, at least it has been repaired, although the inscription is fretting away and in another fifty years will most probably be unreadable.



The repaired Headstone of Patrick Leslie

Barrie Leslie Gordon NSW

ARTICLES REQUIRED

I would ask that members please look at their family history and see what stories they have. Any stories which could be placed into the newsletter would be very welcome.

A small anecdote, a recipe, a trip to Scotland. Anything at all could be of interest to other members and could result in jogging someone's memory and linking up two families. Remember that members of your own family, from two or three generations could have lost track of your family and a short story could reunite your families.

[6] CAP BADGES

Scotland is the most free'st country in the world for the use of heraldry for personal decoration. If a clansman does not have the use of his own crest, he may use his Chiefs crest on his cap, or elsewhere, providing it is displayed within the so called "Garter" [*a belt and buckle*] on which the motto is displayed.



Cap Badge of Clan Leslie. "Belt & Buckle"

The Chief himself surmounts his crest or badge, with three little silver feathers arising out of the top, or a peer's cap badge is "surmounted" with his coronet. This use by the clansman in the form of a "belt and buckle" is not a usurpation of arms, but an expression of adherence to the Clan Chief. Even a younger brother of an Earl, unless he has his own arms would wear the "belt and buckle". There is no such thing as a "family or Clan" crest, it is the sole property of the Chief of the Clan. In 1982, The Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, requested that Clan Associations include the Gaelic legend, "*AN SIREAN CEANN SINNIDH*", around the belt and buckle. This means "*Crest of the Chief of the Clan*".

Barrie Leslie Gordon NSW

CAN YOU HELP?

Clan Leslie Society, Australia & New Zealand Branch, need a Secretary and a Treasurer. If you can help please contact Barrie Leslie, on 9418-2262.

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