



DECLARATION OF ARBROATH

Perhaps it is timely with the devolution of the Scottish Parliament, to look at the Declaration of Arbroath.

This famous declaration of human rights was a letter to Pope John XXII, signed in April 1320 at the Monastery of Arbroath, asserting the independence of Scotland from England. A great number of the nobility of Scotland, including Sir Andrew Leslie VI Dominus Ejusdem, signed and attached their seals to the letter.

The Declaration of Arbroath is actually the written constitution of Scotland, and as such, reserves the right of the Scottish people to choose their own monarch. The Scottish Monarch must swear allegiance to the Scottish people and states:

Yet, if he should give up what he has begun, and agree to make us or our kingdom subject to the King of England or the English, we should exert ourselves at once to drive him out as our enemy and a subverter of his own rights and ours, and make some other man, who was well able to defend us, our King. For as long as but a hundred of us remain alive, never will we on any conditions be brought under English rule. It is in Truth, not glory, nor riches, nor honours, that we are fighting, but for freedom-for that alone, which no honest man gives up but with life itself.

[This refers to King Robert The Bruce]

Quite clearly, it is in the hands of the Scottish people to choose their own Monarch. On the other hand it is required by English custom for the English people to pay allegiance to their Monarch, who is at the mercy of the English Parliament. In other words, a Parliamentary Monarchy, which means that England does not have a

written constitution, just various acts, charters and the Bill of Rights, while Scotland does have a written constitution.

I have to say that a member of my family, John 9th Earl of Rothes [I am descended from George 1st Earl of Rothes] signed the Treaty of Union with England in 1706, although we must bear in mind that immense pressure and bribery was conducted by the English Parliament to get the Treaty of Union passed.



DECLARATION OF ARBROATH 1320

If you refer back to the Declaration of Arbroath, only the Scottish people themselves had the right to approve union with England, and there was no referendum carried out to ascertain the wishes of the Scottish people, so you have to wonder, whether the Treaty of Union with England was legal at all.

Barrie Leslie
Gordon NSW

THE GRIFFIN REPRINTS

In the first 20 years of Clan Leslie Society, many articles of historical interest have been published in the Griffin, the Society's historical periodical, many never published previously. In order that these historic articles are preserved for posterity and as a unique source of reference for Society members, they are being reprinted under the auspices of the Clan Leslie Charitable Trust, Edinburgh. They are collated, edited and updated as required, and will be published in four parts.

Numbers 1, 2 and 3 are now available and No 4 is due in Dec 1999.

I have No's 1, 2 and 3 and can recommend them to our members. If any members would care to see them, please ring me on 02-9418-2262 and make a time to inspect them, or ring me for further information on how to order them.

GRIP FAST: The Leslies in History.

By Alexander Leslie Klieforth

This book is required reading for anyone interested in the history of the Leslie family. I have a copy of this book, and if any members would care to inspect it, please ring me on 02-9418-2262 to arrange a time to inspect it, or ring me for details on how to order it.

Barrie Leslie.
Gordon NSW. 2072.

DONATIONS

Many thanks to the members below for there welcome donations.

Elaine Wood West Pymble \$25-00
Audrey Fry Sth Australia \$50-00

THE FORGOTTEN MONARCHY

With the re-establishment of the Scottish Parliament based in Edinburgh there has naturally been an upsurge in Scottish sentiment. As a result, there has been a lot of interest in a book titled "The Forgotten Monarchy of Scotland", which was published by HRH Prince Michael [Stewart] of Albany in the UK in 1998. In it he outlines much of Scottish history and draws into question the Scottish monarchy.

However, of more importance to the Leslie's is the fact that he states in his book that when Maud de Lens arrived in Scotland from Boulogne about 1114, to marry King David I of Scotland [the Saint], she brought with her a number of kinsmen who are specifically named and others who were the initiators of a number of Scottish families, among these is named the family of Leslie. This leads to the suggestion that the origins of our family could be Flemish of Norman, a view that is held in other areas, and also supported by the fact that several of our early ancestors were named Norman. This is contrary to Clan Leslie's acceptance of the Hungarian origin of our family, and as the truth should prevail, we have written to Prince Michael through his publishers, and asked if he could enlarge on this aspect or give authority and references supporting this contrary view. If readers have any comments in this regard, we would be pleased to hear from you.

Barrie Leslie, Gordon NSW.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Please note that renewal of your Clan Leslie Society membership is due on the 1st January 2000 and the renewal fee is Aust \$25-00. Renewal notices will be sent out in December, but if any members wish to pay before then, it will be appreciated, as it will save the postage and cost of sending out the renewal notice.

SCOTTISH NAMING CUSTOMS

The Scots had a very highly developed system for naming their children. This involved using the paternal and maternal grandparent's Christian names.

The eldest son after the paternal grandfather.

The second son after the maternal grandfather.

The third son after the father.

The eldest daughter after the paternal grandmother.

The second daughter after the maternal grandmother.

The third daughter after the mother.

Any further children would be named after earlier ancestors using the same patterns, but generally the naming patterns were less structured. This structure helps where the names of parents and grandparents are not known, and can help to piece together which family belongs to whom.

Barrie Leslie, Gordon NSW

SCOTTISH OATCAKES

To make these delicious oatcakes follow these instructions.

1 cup plain flour. [or wholemeal]

1 cup rolled oats.

2/3rd cup margarine [or butter]

1/3rd cup white sugar.

1/3rd teaspoon salt.

1/3rd teaspoon baking soda.

2 tablespoons cold water.

Cream the margarine and sugar then add the rest of the dry ingredients, add water, roll out to required thickness, cut into squares or fingers and place on a ungreased tray and bake at 200c for approx 15 minutes or until golden brown, and enjoy hot or cold.

THE JOURNAL

Australian and New Zealand members will receive in conjunction with this issue of Grip Fast Down Under, a copy of the special 20-year Anniversary edition of the CLS Journal

The CLS Journal is distributed to all members, except those in Aust & NZ. You may well ask why, and the reason is that when moulding the activities and resources of the Australian & New Zealand Branch, we decided that in lieu of a publication that generally covers the North American social news and activities, it was more appropriate to produce our own Aust & NZ branch newsheet. We felt that we could keep our local members more closely involved with their own newsheet. Aust & NZ members receive Grip Fast Down Under in lieu of the Journal, and we have asked CLS administration to make some funding adjustment, by increasing our subscription retention monies.

We firmly believe, that what little international content is produced in the Journal, could be published earlier in the regular international Grip Fast. That would therefore enable every CLS branch to have its own newsheet, helping to more intimately serve and unite the local branch members.

The Journal in some reduced form of newsheet could be circulated to serve those remaining outlying members in a composite branch, providing for their special needs and giving those members a special feeling of belonging.

Russell Lesslie.
Killara. NSW.

DISCLAIMER

Please note; the opinions expressed by the contributors, are not necessarily the opinions of Clan Leslie Society

MOTION RE BARTOLF

The results of the survey into whether we should request Clan Leslie Society to commission an independent researcher to try to establish the origin of Bartolf, the progenitor of Clan Leslie were as follows.

Thirty-eight questionnaires were sent out to members in Australia and New Zealand, twenty were returned, one was against the motion and nineteen were in support of the motion. We will therefore submit to the Council of Clan Leslie Society a request that consideration be given to appointing an independent researcher to try to establish if Bartolf was a Hungarian, who came to Scotland in 1067, married Beatrix, a sister of King Malcolm III, and whether he was granted the lands of Leslie [Lesselyn] in Aberdeenshire.

If he was not a Hungarian, was he was a Fleming from Boulogne [see article in The Forgotten Monarchy] who came to Scotland with Maud de Lens when she married King David I about 1114, and whether it was his son Malcolm who was granted the lands of Leslie.

Barrie Leslie.Gordon NSW

ANNUAL DRUMMOYNE GAMES

As we mentioned in the last Grip Fast Down Under, it is our intention to set up a "tent" at the Scottish Gathering to be held at Drummoyne, [a Sydney suburb] on Sunday, 21st November 1999.

Elaine Leslie-Wood, our honorary branch treasurer is making the arrangements and would be very pleased to have the assistance of volunteers to set up and help man the tent. If you are available, or could help her in any way, would you kindly contact her by phone on 02-9498-5068, E-mail: elwood1@ozemail.com.au

Alternatively, we would be very pleased if you could come along and give us some moral support on the day.

Russell Lesslie Killara NSW

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