
grip fast

THE NEWSLETTER OF CLAN LESLIE SOCIETY
OF AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND. (CLANZ)



DOWN UNDER

Vol. 4, No 3, July, Aug, Sept 2007.

REPORT ON CLANZ.

Well here we are into our ninth year and we are slowly losing members, who are not being replaced.

I need help from the members of CLANZ to try to get new members and I also need help in running CLANZ. Amongst all my other health problems, I have now been diagnosed with Type 2 Diabetes and have just been diagnosed with a suspected aneurism at the base of the skull, which will need some very serious treatment.

Surely there must be some members who can help me to run CLANZ. The main help I need is for a secretary and treasurer. This would take a great load off my shoulders.

I also need articles to put into "Roll of Honour". Surely members must have family members who have done public services for served in the armed forces, whom a story could be told.

HEMCOMING SCOTLAND 2009.

Sir James (Jamie) Semphill, 21st Lord Semphill and Chief of the Clan Semphill, who is also the Vice Convenor for the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs and a former member of the Scottish Parliament, has announced that the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs would host a "Homecoming Scotland 2009 on the 15th & 26th July 2009 in Edinburgh.

He said that "The Gathering" would be held at Holyrood Park Edinburgh. The Gathering will take the form of a classic Highland Games and will feature a special Clan ceremony, to be held in the magnificent Edinburgh Castle Esplanade, home of the Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

Information on this Gathering can be found at <http://www.thegathering2009.com>

Barrie Leslie.

Roll of Honour

spr William Rueben Lesslie.
4547 A.C. Signals. C.

Born 10 Feb 1880. died 1965.

William Rueben Lesslie was the father of John Gowing Lesslie who was featured in the April May June 2007 Grip Fast Down Under.

The information on his army unit is given although the army lists seem to give his name as William Rowlings Lesslie.



William Rueben Lesslie at his radio.



Medals of William Rueben Lesslie.

Many thanks to John Gowing Lesslie for the above information about his father.

INVERURIE SCOUT GROUP

Inverurie Scout Group, like a small number of other groups, can trace its routes back to 1906 when a boy's club was formed teaching scouting skills from Baden Powells book "Aids to Scouting" The following article first published in the Ontario newspaper the Markham Economist and Sun, shows how things took of in Inverurie.



Scoutmaster Frank Robb

The history of the boy Scouts officially begins in 1907 when Baden Powell formed the nucleus of the group as we know it today. Perhaps the story begins before that, however, for in Inverurie, Scotland, in 1906 a young apprentice blacksmith recognised a problem. He had a class of fifteen boys to whom he was teaching club swinging in the shoeing-shed of the blacksmiths shop in which he worked. The shed was small and ill fitted to accommodate the number who wished to join. As an unorganised group, they were not entitled to larger quarters, and indeed, such were hard to find. One evening while browsing in a book store, Frank Robb came across a small magazine called "The Scout" and his problem was solved Although the scouts in the book were messengers who took the place of wounded or captured soldiers, this young man envisioned a troop for peaceful activities. He formed a troop and was given permission to use the drill hall for meetings. Before long there were forty scouts in Inverurie.

Their uniforms consisted of short pants, slouch hats, staffs donated by the local millwright, neckerchiefs and shirts dyed khaki - which, unhappily became un-dyed if the boys were caught in a downpour! Frank Robb's uniform varied somewhat, in that he proudly wore the kilt, sporran and belt of the Argyle and Sutherland highlanders and carried a water bottle and Red Cross bag brought back from the South African War. He also had a policeman's whistle.

In the summer of 1907, the scouts held camp for ten days on a farm near Dyce, and, upon reaching their site, were greeted by the laird, his family and a number of local farmers. The laird made a speech of welcome and presented the boys with potatoes, a side of deer, several rabbits, and vegetables. The cost of camping in that year was 1/- a day - for tent rental - and their time was spent distinguishing bird and animal tracks. On Sunday night they put on a concert and on Sunday caused quite a stir marching to the nearby Kirk.

Frank Robb continued organising scouting activities in Inverurie, holding meetings in either the Drill Hall or 'Elsie's Schoolie' which ever was available. In 1909, he came to Canada leaving his Troop in the capable hands of Mr. William Grant, who gave eleven years to Scouting ".

The group was officially registered in 1910 along with 3 other groups: Peterhead, Huntly and Fraserburgh.

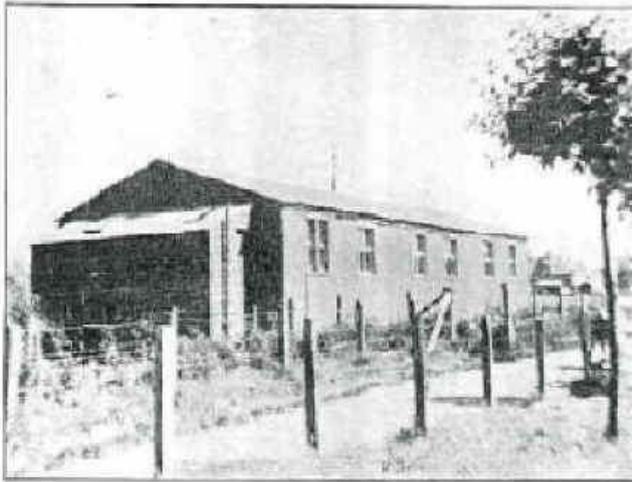
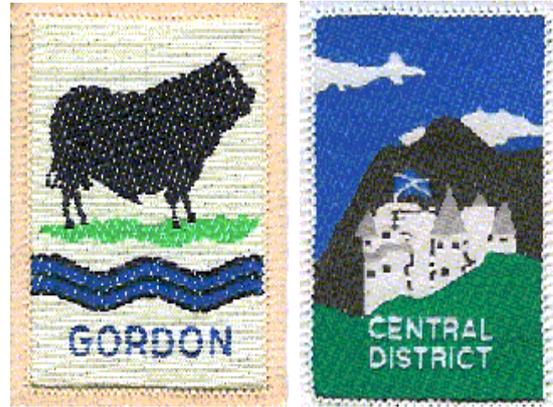


Inverurie Troop Camp, 1910

In the 1930's the troop set up an annex in the then thriving village of Burnhervie some 3 miles outside Inverurie

The original Scout Hut stood on the same site as today's more modern hut. It was an ex Army hut that had also seen life as a tool shed and hen house. The Scouts purchased the hut in 1925 and

relocated it to Inverurie in the spring of 1926. It was formally opened by Lord Forbes - then County Commissioner - on June 5th 1926. The site the Scouts chose was then on the outskirts of Inverurie, separated from the nearby school by a field (now right in the middle of Inverurie!). The present Scout hut was built for the sum of £3000 in the 1960's shortly after the Group split to form 1st and 2nd Inverurie, Luckily the hut was big enough to hold both groups with a temporary partition wall down the middle.



The original scout hall

In the 1990's the group went through a rough patch and merged again. When this merger took place the central partition was removed leaving a large hall, which is suitable for group events, section evenings and drying tents. Since then the hut has undergone several internal changes and requires regular maintenance.

During the merger the sections were given their names. the Beavers and Cubs took the names of local castles Lesley, Barra and Harlaw, while the Scouts and Venture Scouts took the names of birds of prey Merlin's and Condor's respectively.

The current group is a thriving one, with around 100 Cubs and Scouts and a small group of enthusiastic leaders. We hold a variety of events throughout the year along with section meetings once a week.

We still wear the area badge, which was commissioned in 1910 as seen below showing the Aberdeen Angus Bull and the twin rivers of the Dee and the Don. We also wear the newer district badge, which shows Leslie Castle and Bennachie, two local landmarks and wear the Modern Leslie (Green) tartan neckerchief.



2007 is a special year as it is the centenary of Scouting, the first 'experimental' Scout Camp was run by Lord Baden Powell on the 1st August 1907 and to celebrate this all Scout Groups around the world are wearing the badge shown below.



SOURCES:

Markham Economist and Sun

Duncan, J., Gill, G. & Ingram, G. (Editors); A History of Scouting in Aberdeenshire 1910 - 1975, Alford Information and Technology Centre.

Marc Falconer, Inverurie Scout Group.

INTERNATIONAL TARTAN DAY. 1ST JULY 2007.

The 1st July 2007 is the 225th Anniversary of the repeal of the British Act of Parliament, signed by King George III, 1760 – 1820, which made the wearing of the Tartan or Plaid, punishable by transportation for 7 years.

THE ACT OF ABOLITION,

That from and after the First Day of August 1747, no man or boy within that part of Great Britain, called Scotland, other than such as shall be employed as Officers and Soldiers of His Majesty's Forces, shall on any pretext whatsoever, wear or put on the clothes, commonly called highland clothes (that is to say) the plaid, Philabeg or little kilt, Trowes, Shoulder-belts, or any part whatever of what peculiarly belongs to the highland garb and that no tartan or party-coloured plaid or stuff shall be used for great coats or upper coats and if any such person shall presume, after the first said day of August, to wear or put on the aforesaid garments or any part of them, every person so offending, shall be liable to be transported to any of his Majesty's plantations beyond the seas, there to remain for the space of seven years.



*King George III in his Coronation Robes
painted by Allan Ramsay 1762*

THE REPEAL OF THE ACT OF ABOLITION,

The Act of Abolition was repealed by the British Government on the 1st July 1782 with King George III signing the Repeal of the Act of Abolition. The following proclamation was issued in both Gaelic and English.

LISTEN MEN, This is bringing before all the sons of the Gael, the King and Parliament of Britain have forever abolished the act against the Highland Dress; which came down to the Clans from the beginning of the world to the year 1746. This must bring great joy to every highland heart. You are no longer bound down to the unmanly dress of the Lowlander. This is declaring to every man, young and old, simple and gentle, that they may after this put on and wear the Trousers, the Little Kilt, the Coat and the Striped Hose, as also the Belted Plaid without fear of the Law of the Realm or the spite of the enemies.



King George III signature that signed The Act.

There are two dates, which currently celebrate Tartan Day. The first is the 6th April in North America, which relates to the Declaration of Arbroath when 100 men gathered at Arbroath Abbey to sign a letter to the Pope declaring the independence of Scotland from England. Sir Andrew de Leslie 6th Dominus Ejusdem was the Leslie who signed Declaration of Arbroath.

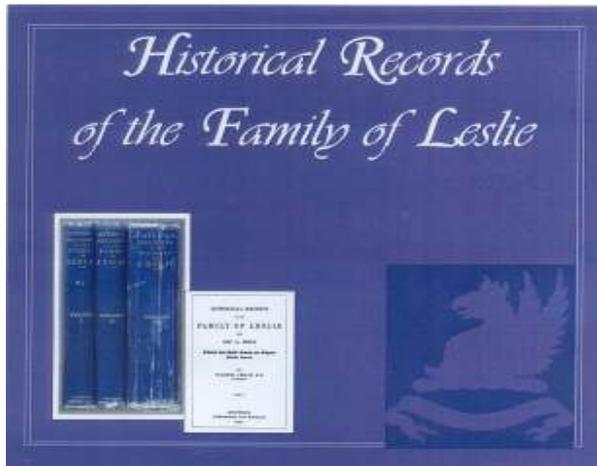
The 1st July is recognised in Australia, New Zealand and other countries as Tartan Day as mentioned above and it is also the day on which the restoration of the Scottish Parliament took place on the 1st July 1999.

Remember, wear a piece of Tartan on the 1st July

Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.

CDs of HISTORICAL RECORDS OF THE FAMILY OF LESLIE

I am pleased to report that as I noted several months ago, CDs were being made of the three volumes of the Historical Records of the Family of Leslie. I am sorry that they took so long to get up for sale, but they are available from www.archivedbooks.com.au If you go to the International section and look for reference SCA002. They are for sale at \$49-50 Australian plus postage.

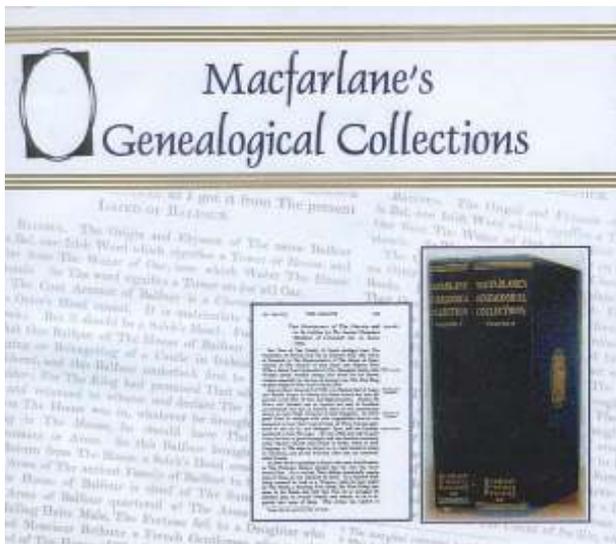


Cover of the CD.

Also for sale is another book which I arranged to get scanned and it is called:-

“Macfarlane’s Genealogical Collections”

These books have a large section on “the Leslies” and also a separate section on “the Leslies of Rothes”.



Genealogical Collections concerning Families in Scotland, made by Walter Macfarlane 1750 – 1751 edited by James Toshach Clark

Col Charles Leslie took a lot of his information for The Historical Records from these books as they pre-date his books. Again, go to the International Section and look for ref SCA001. They are for sale for \$49-50 Australian plus postage.

I can recommend both of these volumes. If you wish for further information or to see if a discount is possible, please contact me.

Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.

BARTOLF & THE MISSING GENERATIONS.

In July 2001 when I was in England and Scotland, I visited Ian, Earl of Rothes and we sat down with my computer and Ian agreed that there were probably two generations missing from the generally accepted line of descent from Bartholf. If there were not two generations missing from the descent of Bartolf, that would throw into doubt the Hungary descent and bring into contention the Flanders theory.

I wrote a story “Origin of Bartolf” in the July, August, September 2001 Grip Fast Down Under newsletter, which gives arguments, for and against. Go to the webpage below and click on the newsletter for July, Aug, Sept 2001.

www.electricscotland.com/familytree/newsletters/leslie/index.htm

This will explain why there are the two theories.

William (Bill) Leslie from Kaiwaka, North Auckland, New Zealand and I have been discussing this very problem, but Bill is writing a book about the origins of Bartolf and his relationship to Saint Margaret’s mother, Princess Agatha and hopefully he will have an article to go into the next newsletter.

After King Malcolm and his eldest son, by Margaret, Edward, were killed at Alnwick in 1093 and Margaret died three days later, her children could not stay in Scotland as Malcolm’s brother Donald Ban (Donaldbane) took the throne and as related in the Anglo Saxon Chronicles, Dufenal (Donald Ban) expelled all the English that were formally with King Malcolm.

Margaret’s children could not go to the court of William Rufus (second surviving son to William the Conqueror) as he was gathering an army to put Duncan (eldest son to King Malcolm by his first marriage) on the throne of Scotland.

Duncan and the English army drove Donald Ban from the throne but after a short period in Scotland, Duncan was defeated, by a Scots army who killed most of the English and Duncan only just escaped with his life.



*King William Rufus,
Born 1056 Normandy - Died 2 August 1100, England.*

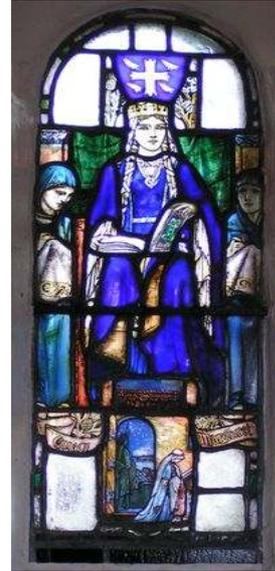
Afterwards Duncan was reconciled with the Scots, on condition that he never again brought English or French into the kingdom.

It is believed that Bartolf took the children to the Castle of Montruil Sur Mer, the home of Margaret's younger brother, Edgar Atherling who had been given the castle in 1074 by King Phillip of France and who lived there, whenever he was in France, until 1106.

Close to Montruil Sur Mer, is Bologne where Margaret's daughter Mary had married Count Eustace of Bologne and no doubt the refugees would also have stayed there. This is important as the child David, youngest son of Malcolm and Margaret, who was to become King David, The Saint, would have met people from the Count's Court and most probably his future wife Maud de Lens (Louvain) and when she came to Scotland to marry King David, about 1114, she was accompanied by her kinsmen, one of whom was named, as the ancestor of the Leslies.

Chronologically this would make this ancestor, the grandson of the Bartolf, who accompanied Margaret to Scotland, possibly he was also named Bartolf as the Charter to Malcolm, son of Bartolf, was granted by David, Earl of Huntingdon (the grandson, not the grandfather).

The Charter, which gave the Leslie lands of Lesslyn, Auchnagat and Mile, was dated between 1172 and 1199, as it was signed by Malcolm, Bishop of Aberdeen. If this was the case it would mean that the two generations which are missing from the accepted line of descent were actually born in Flanders or at least on the continent, proving both theories correct.



*Stained Glass Window of St Margaret at St Margaret's
Chapel in Edinburgh.*

The Anglo Saxon Chronicles are very short on details of Edgar Atherling after the death of King Malcolm but there is an excellent book on the travels of Edgar Atherling and his father Edward, called "The Lost King of England" by Gabriel Ronay detailing the East European adventures of Edward "The Exile".

I am sure that if Bill Leslie has an article to put into the next Grip Fast Down Under it will be very enlightening as to the origins of Margaret's mother, the Princess Agatha and the European travels of Bartolf and the Atherlings.

Barrie Leslie, Gordon. NSW.

A STUDY IN PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION FOR AUSTRALIAN POLITICS BY STEPHEN LESSLIE.

Dear Friends,

I have long been concerned about the increasing cynicism of the Australian electorate and its disengagement from the political process.

Interest and confidence can be inspired by an electoral system that delivers a genuine feeling of involvement. People need to believe that their vote matters.

Proportional representation (PR) is the most democratic electoral system. The form that I am proposing for the election of the Australian Parliament guarantees that all Australians – not just those in marginal seats – determine who becomes the government, and that all areas and regions are represented by both Government and Opposition members.

Other PR proposals have not been able to solve some of the problems inherent in the Australian constitution and geography. Problems such as the difference in size of representation of the states in the House of Representatives, the small representation of the Territories, the unrepresentative nature of Senators elected with a very small percentage of the vote, the city/country divide, the excessively high informal vote, and the fear that votes will be split or wasted if voters choose not to follow their parties' directions.

Briefly, my proposal divides NSW, Victoria and Queensland into 4, 3 and 2 electorates respectively, with WA, SA and Tasmania each being a single electorate. Each electorate has a city and country component and returns between 11 and 15 members (except Tasmania with a constitutional requirement of only 5 members). The quota for election ranges from between 6.25% and 8.34% for the mainland states to 16.67% for Tasmania. Optional preferential voting is firmly established and above-the-line voting is abolished. Informal voting should drop to approximately 1%. Party groupings are retained, with the introduction of the Robson rotation.

The representation of the Territories is changed – Territory senators are abolished and representation of the Territories in the House of Representatives is increased to allow the full expression of proportional representation, resulting in the same number of Parliamentarians as is currently the case.

I believe that my model will deliver a parliament that genuinely reflects political opinion within the Australian community and bolster the two party system. With a majority of voters electing

the candidate to whom they gave their first preference and approximately 85% represented by the party for whom they voted, re-engagement with the political system is ensured.

A full exposition of my model and analysis of the 2004 Federal election using the model can be found at www.lesslie.com.au

I hope you will find it of interest and I would be pleased to hear your comments.

Stephen Lesslie
stephen@lesslie.com.au

I believe that Stephen is well qualified to present this analysis for a Proportional Representation System for the Australian Federal Parliament.



Stephen Lesslie

Stephen is a second cousin to Russell Lesslie, one of the founding members of Clan Leslie Society of Australia and New Zealand. Stephen's father was Dr William Thomas (Tom) Lesslie of Lithgow NSW, who was in the "Roll of Honour" in the April May June 2006 Grip Fast Down Under newsletter.

Russell's Lesslie's father and Dr Tom Lesslie's father, William Wallace Lesslie, who was a NSW Parliamentary Hansard reporter, were brothers.

His resume is as follows;

Bachelor of Science, (University of Sydney).

Councillor on Drummoyne Council (Sydney)

1977 - 1980
1983 - 1987
1991 - 2000

Mayor of Drummoyne Council

1994 & 1995 (2 terms)

Senior Hospital Scientist (Biochemist)

Concord Hospital 1980 - 1999
Royal Prince Alfred Hospital 1999 - 2005.

Many thanks to Stephen Lesslie for giving me the above information to put into Grip Fast Down Under. If anyone would like to contact Stephen refer to his email address or his website.

Barrie Leslie, Gordon. NSW.

HISTORICAL RESEARCH ON NZ

For items on the history of New Zealand go to:-
www.electricscotland.com/history/nz/research.htm
This will bring up a lot of sites for you to look at

For information on booking holidays in New Zealand
www.relaxingjourneys.co.nz
This is for information only, not a recommendation.

Aberdeen Highland Games, Jefferson Park
Aberdeen. NSW Saturday 7th July 2007.
www.aberdeenhighlandgames.com

Come and join the fun in the Hunter Valley.

Kirkin o the Tartan
1st July 2007 at the Hunter Baillie Presbyterian
Church, Cnr Johnston & Collins Street
Annandale. 9-30am for 10-00am start.

Kirkin Service at Roseville Presbyterian Church.
St Lukes Church 28 Lord Street, Roseville,
Sydney, NSW on Sunday 29th July 2007.
at 9-30am. followed by morning tea.

Please have a look at the Clan Leslie DNA
Project site at, www.familytreedna.com
This is a very important project and deserves the
support of all Leslie's. It will preserve your
DNA for later generations who want to try and
investigate their heritage. Please give serious
consideration to joining the project. I am glad to
see that Evelyn Leslie is a co coordinator. Many
thanks Evelyn.

Barrie Leslie, Gordon, NSW.

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

Previous issues of Grip Fast Down Under:-
www.electricscotland.com/familytree/newsletters/leslie/index.htm

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Submitting articles to Grip Fast Down Under

Articles, photographs may be submitted by post or e-mail. Please include your name and address. If the articles are from another publication, either print or electronic, permission must be obtained from the copyright holder if the article is subject to copyright, and included with the article or photograph. If you are emailing a colour photograph, please send it as an IBM PC, **jpeg** format at 360dpi. If in greyscale, please send it at 300dpi, both at **25%**.

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