
grip fast



DOWN UNDER

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

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BUNDANOON IS BRIGADOON



BUNDANOON 2011.

I am sorry to report that I was unable to get down to the 2011 Bundanoon Scottish Gathering as my back was giving me too much trouble and I could not drive there and back safely. I have since seen an orthopaedic surgeon whose advice was that it was safer to leave my back as it is than to operate, as the success rate was not the best. At least the New Zealand Veterans Affairs was paying the bill. I will have to cut back on my involvement in attending Gatherings and **I would ask that some member or members step forward and attend some of these functions.** I have now been covering all these duties for twelve years and now is the time for some assistance as my condition will only get worse as time goes by.

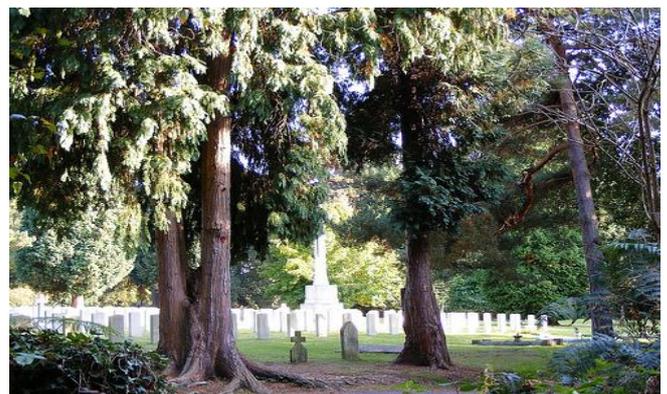
OUTSTANDING MEMBERS RENEWALS FOR 2011. There are a number of members who have not renewed their membership for 2011, which were due on the 1st January 2011, If you have not yet paid, please send them to me, as we need as many members as we can to continue to find and record as much information as we can on Clan Leslie in Australia and New Zealand.

We still need contributions from members for our newsletter, so please think what you can contribute and send them to me.

Barrie Leslie, Gordon. NSW.



Rifleman Kenneth Gordon LESLIE.
2nd Batt, NZ Rifle Brigade No 24/1106
Rifleman Kenneth Gordon Leslie was the son of Mrs Kate Leslie of Botanical Road Palmerston North New Zealand who died of his wounds on the 27th June 1916 and is buried in the Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire England. The cemetery is situated at the rear of the Royal Victoria Military Hospital and is the property of the Ministry of Defence.



Netley Military Cemetery Hampshire England

The cemetery contains the graves of 636 WWI burials and 35 from WWII. There are also 69 German graves from WWI.

Kenneth Gordon Leslie was born in 1895 and was single. He embarked on either the Maunganui or Tahiti for Suez Egypt on the 9th Oct 1915 and was living with R W Sommerville Waitipipi, which is at Whangaroa Harbour Northland (North Auckland) at the time he enlisted.

Barrie Leslie, Gordon, NSW.

HARLAW, LESLIE'S CROSS

Below are two photographs of Leslie's Cross, which is to be erected at the Chapel of the Garioch in memory the Leslie's who died at the Battle of Harlaw on the 24th July 1411. David Leslie from Leslie initiated the process of renaming the Chapel to the Clan Leslie Chapel of North East Scotland. At the meeting of the Kirk Session of Blairdaff and Chapel of Garioch Church on the 4th May 2010, the name change was approved.



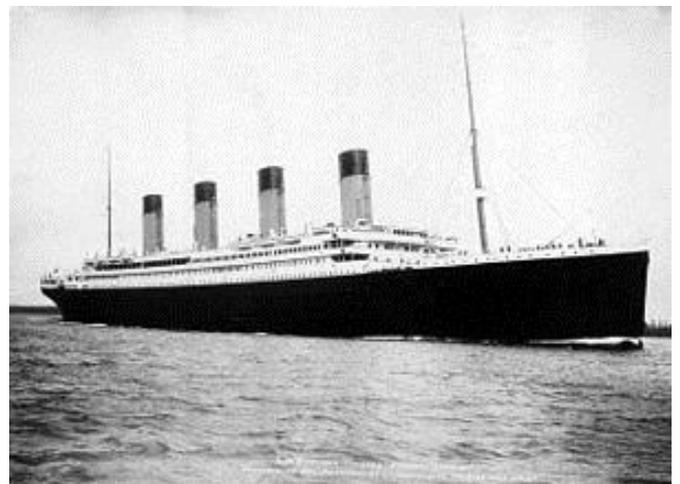
Thanks to David and Leslie Leslie, from Leslie for the photographs of Leslie's Cross.

THOMAS DYER EDWARDES. SNR.

You ask who is Thomas Dyer Edwardes, Senior. He was the grandfather of Countess Noel Lucy Martha, Countess of Rothes, wife of Norman Evelyn Leslie, 19th Earl of Rothes and survivor of the sinking of the "Titanic". Refer to Grip Fast Down Under April May June 2007 for the story about Thomas Dyer Edwardes, Senior and Junior.



Noel Lucy Martha Edwardes born 25 Dec 1879 Kensington London and married Norman Evelyn Leslie 19th Earl of Rothes, 19 April 1900.



The "Titanic" leaving Southampton 10 April 1912



The Countess of Rothes 26 April 1917.

THOMAS DYER EDWARDES Snr SYDNEY

Along the western side of Lower Fort Street are several Old Colonial Georgian houses that have remained virtually unchanged since Joseph Fowler painted them in the 1840s. Many surrounding buildings have long since disappeared – those below to the west for the wharves of Walsh Bay early last century, and those to the east for the construction of Sydney Harbour Bridge. But these few survived, although who built them, and under what circumstances is not so clear. The NSW Heritage Office records that 37 Lower Fort Street “was probably built before 1830, on part of the estate of Robert Campbell, a well-known Sydney merchant of the day”. However, the current owners have unearthed evidence that number 37 was not built until 1833, and so it was built by Thomas Dyer Edwards and his partner Matthew Dysart Hunter in the year they settled in the Colony. Before it was built, and before Edwards and Hunter arrived in the Colony, the land in question was owned by Timothy Goodwin Pitman, formerly a Canton-based representative and protégé of the prominent Boston merchant-trader William F. Sturgis. Pitman arrived in Sydney in 1824 as

supercargo (the person in charge of a ship’s cargo) with £7000 to invest in the China trade. At Dawes Point he constructed a wharf and three-storey warehouse between the waterfront and a roadway that was located close to where Pottinger Street now runs. His land above this roadway, which included the site for number 37, remained vacant. Pitman’s trade with China prospered, and his other business interests flourished. By royal decree he was made an Australian citizen (the first person in the Colony to be naturalised), after which he married Eliza Fraser and was appointed a director of the Bank of New South Wales. He was at the height of his success in 1829 when 22-year-old Thomas Dyer Edwards arrived from China with goods to sell. It appears Edwards sold his shipment through Pitman, and likely worked with Pitman throughout the two years he remained in the Colony.

Edwards sailed back to China, but in January 1833 he arrived here again to take over Pitman’s wharf and stores, and build the house that still stands at number 37. In 1819 at the age of twelve Thomas Dyer Edwards had left his home in New Shoreham, Sussex. “I took to the sea,” he wrote, “but the sea did not take to me.” By 1822 he was working on a Jamaican plantation, which suited him less, so he took an appointment in the Custom House of London (1823–26), then a seat in the London offices of Messrs. Hopkins & Glover, American Agents and Brokers. These positions were a firm foundation for a commercial life in London, but he yearned for the eastern world and a wider field of action, so travelled to China in 1827, where he held various official and mercantile situations until his health gave way after a short period.



Watercolour by Joseph Fowler of the Rocks area of Sydney in 1840

In 1829, Edwards left Canton on the *Cumberland*, bound for Sydney with a shipment of China produce. When the *Cumberland* docked in Sydney at Pitman's Wharf its goods were advertised for sale through Pitman's George Street store. Edwards remained in Sydney for the next two years, learning "the ins-and-outs of imports and exports, more particularly as regard China". It is likely Edwards worked at Pitman's wharf and stores for much of this period, but Pitman himself soon had other concerns. Pitman's young wife Eliza had died of consumption in 1830, and his own health was failing. In May 1831 he retired to the Sandwich Islands where he had other business interests, but he too was to die of consumption in March 1832. In an obituary Pitman was described as "an enterprising, clever, and honourable merchant – and in social intercourse, as a kind and sincere friend, he justly merited that universal respect and affectionate esteem which he possessed with all his numerous friends and acquaintance." Meanwhile, in December 1831 Edwards returned to China where his "valued friend" William Jardine encouraged him to return to Sydney: "Take a partner, charter a ship, and return from whence you came. I will open a credit for you with my firm; act with prudence and integrity, and all will end well." Edwards entered into partnership with Matthew Dysart Hunter in February 1832, and together they sailed with their chartered ship, the *Agnes*, with a general cargo for Manila and Sydney, eventually arriving in Sydney on 2 January 1833, after which they took over Pitman's wharf and stores and sold their general cargo gradually at a good profit.

Immediately above Pitman's Wharf, between it and Fort Street were "Four ample and delightful plots of Building Ground, situate in Fort Street, commanding a fine healthful prospect of the two Harbours, surrounded by the most respectable neighbours. The allotments are capacious for the building of genteel residences, and command an available frontage each upon the line of street, of 24 feet each; extensive depth, and a carriage road to the rear of 20 feet in width." In June 1833 these four vacant blocks were part of Pitman's estate and for sale. An 1834 survey recorded this land as Lot 8, Section 90, on which were built the houses at numbers 37 and 35, the stone walls to the rear of number 37 and a store to the rear. The survey also recorded Edwards and Hunter's claim over the land, which was formalised in a Crown Grant the following year. The pair of town houses designed by John Verge was built on the south eastern corner of Lot 8 after the survey and so is not shown on it. The house at number 35 was built by the time of the 1834 survey but after number 37, making the likely date for the erection of number 37 to be late 1833.



The front of 37 Lower Fort St, The Rocks



The back of 37 Lower Fort St, The Rocks.

When first erected, number 37 was a merchant house, used as both residence and counting house for Edwards and Hunter. We know Edwards married Martha Sharp in 1835, and together they had three daughters while in the Colony (in 1836, 1838 and 1840). Records suggest Edwards and his

family resided at number 37 at least until 1838, but during Edwards' last years in the Colony he lived with his family at Elfred Cottage, New South Head Road, Waverley. Edwards and Hunter continued in business for seven years and were successful throughout that period. A key element in their early success was their relationship with the trading house of Jardine, Matheson & Co. The maiden voyage of Jardine, Matheson & Co.'s first ship, the *Lady Hayes*, was from China to Sydney and was consigned to Edwards and Hunter in 1833 with a cargo of tea. When the *Lady Hayes* arrived in Sydney, Edwards and Hunter not only sold the tea, but also the ship itself for a good profit. In the 1830s Jardine, Matheson & Co. describe Edwards and Hunter as "good friends", and Edwards writes similarly of William Jardine. This appears the basis of their relationship, and only later Jardine, Matheson & Co. have some direct ownership in the firm begun by Edwards and Hunter. Edwards and Hunter were the first to have direct ship cargoes from France and Batavia, and the China tea trade was chiefly under their command. Their chief mercantile connections were Jardine, Matheson and Co., China; Lyall, Matheson and Co., Calcutta; and the London houses of Maoribanks & Ferrars, Baring Brothers, Coutts and Co., and Gregson, Melville & Co. Edwards retired in June 1840 at the age of thirty-three with an annual income of £4000, and left for London with his family in 1841. Hunter left the Colony with his family in January 1843 almost exactly ten years after his arrival, and retired to his ancestral home at Anton's Hill, Scotland.

Edwards retained his connection with 37 Lower Fort Street, and with the Australian agency of Jardine Matheson and Co., as other partners joined the firm. The ownership of number 37 records these new partners as new joint owners: John Thacker, Mashfield Mason and William Fane De Salis in 1842; and A.C. Daniell in 1854. By this time there is evidence that Jardine, Matheson & Co. had some direct ownership of the firm. Number 37 is sold to Edward Campbell in 1855. The final conveyance from the many partners that began with Edwards and Hunter is that of Edwards himself on 30 November 1855. Number 37 thereafter is owned by members of the Campbell family until it is resumed by the Sydney Harbour Trust in 1903 following the outbreak of Bubonic Plague. From 1855 until its resumption, the Campbell family lease number 37 as a single residence, and there is no mercantile activity associated with the property. In 1910 it is owned by the government, operates as a boarding house and acquires the name *Dawesleigh*. About the same the new wharves along Hickson Road are built and excavations for Pottinger Steet are undertaken, causing the loss of most of the rear yard and outbuildings. Number 37 continues to be used as a boarding house until the 1970s when it is adapted to become the headquarters for the Royal College of Radiologists, one of several medical associations located in this area at that time. The Radiologists leave in the mid-1990s. The present owners of the house are conserving and adapting it once more for residential use, and rewriting its history, with Thomas Dyer Edwards in a central role.

Many thanks to John Dunn and Margaret Bishop of Piper Press, who now own 37 Lower Fort Street The Rocks and are restoring it as a home and for supplying all the information on 37 Lower Fort Street and Thomas Dyer Edwardes Senior, see their website:- www.piperpress.com.au



Thomas Dyer Edwardes , Senior

A Leslie Diplomat Abroad - Representing the Country and the Clan by Adam Leslie

From 2006-2009 I served as a diplomat in the Australian Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand. Cocktail parties, tuxedos and exotic food – often enough. Political upheaval and intrigue –

regularly. Scots, whisky and kilts – on occasion. an adventure and a privilege – throughout.



Angus and Erin

I started my posting by spending most of 2006 in the northern city of Chiang Mai, attending the local university to learn the Thai language and absorb as much of the cultural nuances as I could manage. It was a wonderful experience – me, my wife, Cait, and children Erin and Angus – spent our days exploring temples and markets, speaking to the locals and learning the culture. There were a few western interludes – playing rugby for the Chiang Mai Suas, going to the UN Pub run by a red headed larrikin Aussie named Sandy and discovering a pie shop in the Chiang Mai suburbs run by a lovely Englishwoman who made even lovelier meat pies.



The Red Shirts

The end of 2006 saw the end of study and the start of the, what turned out to be a posting in an extremely tumultuous period in Thai political history. My introduction to the turmoil was kicked off while sitting in the pool just prior to my first day at work when the children's school called to

tell me there had been a coup de tat. The school official calmly and politely informed me that the children's attendance at school was not required because there were tanks blocking the road near the school.

Over the next three years, my Embassy colleagues and I tracked the deterioration of the Thai political system. Memorable moments include watching bombs explode amidst fireworks from our balcony on New Year's Eve, helping trapped Australian tourists with the consular section when protesters closed the international airport and being in the middle of the Red Shirt riots while waiting for the Prime Minister to arrive at the ASEAN Summit in Pattaya.



Adam Leslie and the Riot Squad

It was not always riots and bombs, however. There were plenty of opportunities for socialising. The highlight of the diplomatic social calendar was the Australia Day Ball. Just prior to this event, I had contacted my relative, Simon Leslie, the Headmaster of the prestigious New International School of Thailand (NIST) and son of our sadly deceased Patron, Bishop Ken Leslie. The Ball was typically a themed event and in 2008 the theme was "Fallen Angels". Simon and I each captured the fallen angel theme with different interpretations.



Joy & Simon, Cait and Adam

It was terrific to catch up with Simon, who was acquainted with my side of the family. Simon recounted many fine tales of his father, and even recollected a story about my great-Grandfather, the rather unfortunately named Leslie Cecil Leslie, who served in World War 1 as a railway engineer, remaining in France after the war as part of the rebuilding effort. According to stories recounted to Simon from Ken, Les – Ken's cousin - was quite a wag and was known to appear mysteriously on the couch in the morning, having snuck unannounced through the upstairs window in the middle of the night, possibly AWOL from France! Another feature of the diplomatic social year was the annual St Andrew's Ball. The Bangkok St Andrew's Society (www.bangkokscot.com) organised this event and arranged highland dancing classes at the British Club in the weeks leading up to the event. I am fortunate enough to own a Leslie Hunting Tartan kilt and associated paraphernalia, which I wore to these events.



St Andrews Ball, Cait & Adam.

On the occasion of the St Andrew's Ball in 2009 my wife, Cait, and I decided to catch a taxi to the event, perhaps foolishly in hindsight. Running a fraction late and stuck in an immovable Bangkok traffic jam, we decided to leg it for the last kilometre or so. The venue was located such that we were required to walk through a very “local” Thai market, full of people who had evidently never seen a man in kilt. The very observant locals made helpful - and loud and clearly hilarious - observations that I was similarly attired to the

“lady boys” in the neighbourhood. (Sometimes being a linguist is a curse as much as a boon!). I recall that I was quite glad at the time that my Sgian Dhubh was, in fact, plastic...

The national sport of Thailand is Thai Boxing, also known as Muay Thai. I became enamoured of this sport to the point where I had a professional fight – all the name of cultural engagement and understanding, I assured my wife. I fought under the moniker of “the Griffin” - derived from our Leslie Crest, naturally, and believe I made a good showing for the Embassy and the Clan.



Adam, supporting the Leslie's

The highlight of my posting, however, was the time I spent away from it on holiday in Scotland with my family. I will recount this visit in another article (if Barrie lets me), revealing now only that I have never experienced the sense of belonging that I felt on leaving Glasgow airport, driving into Paisley and seeing the office of the esteemed A. Leslie and Son...

Many thanks to Adam Leslie for this report on his interesting activities, while abroad.

NEW BRIDGE IN HIGH STREET ROTHES TOWN.

Stanley Bruce from Banffshire has sent me a photograph of the Leslie Crest that is on both sides of the new bridge in High Street in Rothes Town. It is nice to have the local Council recognize the historical importance of the Leslie's of Rothes to the town and incorporate the Leslie Crest.



Many thanks to Stanley Bruce of Banffshire for the above photograph.

ANZAC COMMEMORATION SERVICE. SYDNEY. 1st MAY 2011

On the 1st May 2011 I was asked to be the Master of Ceremonies at an ANZAC Commemoration Service at the ANZAC Bridge, in Drummoyne, Sydney that was being held by the New Zealand RSL Sub-Branch in memory of the landing at Gallipoli in Turkey, 25th April 1915.



Ron Heira, Pres NZ RSL S/B. left & Barrie Leslie, right.

I wore my paternal G Grandfathers Maori War Medal (1869) and my paternal Grandfathers, Boer War Medal (1900) and his WWI and WWII Medals in memory, as well as my puny two medals. I was also required to sing the Australian and New Zealand National Anthems.

Barrie Leslie, Gordon, NSW.

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