

# GRIP fast



# DOWN UNDER

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

Vol. 5 No 12, Oct Nov Dec 2010

## VALE.

### Mary Haworth Grigor (nee Leslie)

**Born Roseville NSW 30<sup>th</sup> Sept 1936**  
**Died Sydney NSW 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2010.**

I am very sorry to report the death of Mary Grigor after a long illness. She is survived by her son Anthony and two daughters Sally and Judith.



*Mary Haworth Grigor (Leslie)*

Mary was born at Roseville in Sydney 30 September 1936 to Martin Tregenna Haworth Leslie and Nettie Margaret Harper, who were married in the Holy Trinity Cathedral Church in Suva, Fiji 21<sup>st</sup> December 1928.

Mary was the Great Grand-daughter of Mary Elizabeth Leslie 18<sup>th</sup> Countess of Rothes, born 9<sup>th</sup> July 1811 in England and she died at 12 Wetherby Place South Kensington, London. 19 September 1893. She married Martin Edward Haworth on the 11 August 1835 at Leslie House Fife and he took the name of Leslie, when his wife succeeded as the 18<sup>th</sup> Countess of Rothes 10<sup>th</sup> February 1886.



*Left 18<sup>th</sup> Countess of Rothes*  
*Right 13<sup>th</sup> Countess of Devon*

*Mary Elizabeth, 18<sup>th</sup> Countess of Rothes (left) with her sister the 13th Countess of Devon.*

After Ian, 21<sup>st</sup> Earl of Rothes asked me to find the descendants of the Hon Edward Courtenay Haworth-Leslie who had come to Australia, I grew very close to Mary and she will be sadly missed.

Mary was a 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin twice removed to our current Clan Chief Alex Leslie.

*Barrie Leslie, Gordon, NSW.*

## HARLAW APPEAL FOR DONATIONS TO THE LESLIE'S CROSS.

### THE CHAPEL OF THE GARIOCH.

The Clan Leslie has chosen the Chapel of the Garioch as the place to install the Leslie's Cross, which will honour the Leslies who died at the Battle of Harlaw in 1411. The red granite Cross will be put in a prominent place, the grassy area in

the front of the Chapel and dedicated at a special ceremony on July 24, 2011.

The Chapel has had a long association with the Leslie families. The Chapel of the Garioch was originally a private Chapel in the Parish of Logie-Durno, which had its church at Old Logie. This Church was in existence in 1511 and until 1583 was a Parish Church. When Christian Bruce, sister of King Robert, married one of his strongest supporters, the King gave her, as a dowry, the Lordship of the Garioch. Around 1350 Christian foundered and endowed the Chapel of our Lady of the Garioch on the heights of Drumdurno, so that masses might be said for the souls of the founder, her brother and her husband. So began the Chapel of the Garioch.



*Chapel of the Garioch*

On January 22, 1420, as a result of another feud with the Forbes, Sir Andrew Leslie, who had retreated to his fort at the top of Bennachie came down and did battle with his opponents, including the Sheriff of Angus. Sir Andrew Leslie was killed at Braco, about two miles from Bennachie. His wife Isabel Mortimer had tried to stop the fighting, but was unsuccessful. Isabel Mortimer bequeathed an annual amount for a priest to pray for his soul, for all time. The Ogilvies of Granden and Forfar also granted an annuity for a Chaplain to perform divine services for the soul of Sir Andrew Leslie, Knight, in the Chapel of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In 1473, King James III granted a charter, which provided an annual stipend for the support of a Chaplain at the Chapel of St Mary of Garioch, to pray for the souls of Alexander Leslie, the second son of Sir Andrew and his wife Isabel.



*“Bennachie” from the “Lairds Gate”  
Chapel of the Garioch.*

By 1500, through endowments gifted by the Mar and Leslie families, five other priests were attached to this small but Royal Chapel. Mary Queen of Scots, during her stay at Balquhain Castle in September 1562, heard mass in the Chapel. A fitting close to its 200 years of aristocratic history. In 1583 it became the Church of the Parish of Logie-Durno. In 1599 the Presbytery decreed that the small Parish of Fetternear, long vacant, should be united with Logie-Durno and a new church built for the joint Parish at the site of the Chapel of the Garioch. The walls of the old Chapel disappeared but it gave its name to the new church, called simply “The Chapel” and through the Church to the new Parish. For a long time it was known as Logie-Durno, commonly called the Chapel of the Garioch, until common usage won the day.

In 1620, after the Reformation, the Chapel was converted into a Parish Church and given the name of The Chapel of the Garioch. The present church, the same length as the old but almost twice as wide was opened for worship in 1813. The form was the usual rectangle with narrow sides east and west; four pointed windows in the south wall with the pulpit between the two centre lights and around three sides a gallery entered from an external stair. In its latter days the walls were elaborately stencilled in various colours while the ceiling, painted blue, was spangled with gold stars.

In 1922 it was extensively renovated by the congregation. The back gallery was removed and a Chancel with a window of five lights was built out from the north wall. In 1931, the Women's Guild donated stained glass for the window and while the church was redecorated in spring 1959, a Memorial Mosaic Plaque was inserted in the Chancel wall. This Chapel is an extremely interesting example of what can be done with the usual heritors building of 1750-1850 and today it is one of the most beautiful of Scotland's country Churches.

*Reference; the booklet, Church of Scotland. The Church and Parish of the Chapel of the Garioch.*

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**DO YOU WANT TO BE A PART OF  
LESLIE HISTORY.**

On Sunday July 24, 2011 there will be an unprecedented Ceremony at the Chapel of the Garioch. Leslie's from all over the world will gather to remember and honour ancestors who gave their life protecting their families, their homes and way of life and prevented the destruction of the City of Aberdeen. Afterwards, Leslie's and their friends will gather at an historic Leslie House for dinner, to renew their friendships, meet new cousins and toast the ancestors who fought for this beautiful homeland. The following week, those attending will tour many of the famous Leslie Castles, Bennachie and other historical places. The recreation of the Battle of Harlaw, the play "Red Harlaw" and special displays at museums are also planned for that week. Some donors have asked what we would do if we collected more funds than we need for the Leslie's Cross. The Planning Committee has offered the following list with the items placed in order of priority.

1. Print the Order of Service Booklet with all the names of the donors, names of dignitaries attending the service and some Harlaw history. Copies of this booklet would be mailed to everyone who donates to the fund.
2. Add a carving on the Leslie's Cross, of the Arms of Sir Andrew Leslie.
3. Create a time capsule, to be installed in the Memorial Stone.
4. The Clans who were at Harlaw are seeking approval to replace the Clan Cairns, which were placed on the Harlaw battlefield. A Leslie

Cairn could be placed on the Battlefield in participation with the group of Clans.

**HARLAW REMEMBRANCE PLAN.**

1. **A Leslie history of Harlaw.** Copies of "The Griffin" have been mailed to all CLSI. The lead story (*sent to all Clan Leslie Society members*) by David Leslie from Leslie by Inch, "The Leslie's and the Battle of Harlaw". David's story of Harlaw pulls together the whole story of the cause of the war with Donald of the Isles and the Leslie involvement prior to and during the Battle of Harlaw.
2. **The new Leslie's Cross.** Monument companies have been asked to quote on a red granite cross to be installed in the Churchyard of the Chapel of the Garioch. The plan is to depict the Leslie's Cross which was placed on the Battlefield in 1411 and has long since disappeared. It will be inscribed with a memorial to the six sons of Sir Andrew Leslie and the other Leslie's who fell defending their homes and the City of Aberdeen.
3. **The Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Councils.** Several events will take place, beginning Sunday July 24<sup>th</sup> 2011, with the laying of a wreath by the Provost at the Harlaw Memorial and continuing through that week. Plans are for a play of the Battle of Harlaw, a re-creation of the Battle and the Battlefield camp and other historical displays at Art Galleries and Museums.
4. **Order of Service Booklet, which will include the names of participants and donors.** You could be a part of Leslie History by participating in the Leslie ceremony to remember the Leslie's of Harlaw or by contributing to the cost of the monument. If funds permit, a booklet listing the names and hometowns of all the contributors will be produced and mailed to each donor. A copy will be preserved in the permanent Clan Leslie Library Collection.
5. **A Clan Leslie Gathering.** There will be a Leslie Gathering involving Clan Leslie members from all over the world. The Clan Leslie Gathering in 1995 was such an event and attracted Clan Leslie members from many countries. The 1995 hosts, David and Leslie Leslie, introduced many of us to the great history of the Clan and to many historical Leslie sites in Aberdeenshire. This time we have the possibility of attracting even more Scottish Leslie's because of the major historical significance of the Battle of Harlaw. The

Leslies of Warthill have generously agreed to arrange our Gathering Dinner at their Warthill House.

- 6. **Stay at a Leslie Castle.** The working group needs to know who plans to be there. Sebastian and Candida Leslie, from Warthill House have been very generous in making rooms available at Warthill House and Lickleyhead Castle, two Leslie homes. A Clan Leslie Dinner, for Sunday July 24 2011, has been planned at Warthill House. If coming from afar, plan to arrive by Saturday July 23 2011.
- 7. **Tour Historical Leslie Sites.** We would like to arrange transportation and joint attendance at events and visit historical Leslie locations. All Leslies, Abernethy's, Bartolomew's, Carney's, Laing's and Moore's are welcome to participate. You do not have to be a member of the Clan Leslie Society. It takes time to plan such an event, so if you are interested in being at this historical event, in remembrance of the Leslies of Harlaw, please advise your local Clan Leslie member as soon as possible.

*Many thanks to William Leslie, Commissioner for North America for allowing this information to be reproduced in "Grip Fast Down Under" I am happy to say that William, David Leslie from Leslie and I have been collaborating in presenting this information to all members who receive "Grip Fast Down Under"*

*Barrie Leslie, Gordon. NSW.*

**I would ask that all members of CLANZ who receive this newsletter think of making a donation to this appeal. I will be in New Zealand from the 20th October to the 3<sup>rd</sup> November and will total up all donations by the 15<sup>th</sup> November and remit them to David Leslie.**

**Please let it be shown how generous Australians and New Zealanders can be to such an historic event in Clan Leslie history.**

**AUSTRALIAN Donations can be made by sending a cheque to; "Clan Leslie Society of Australia and New Zealand"**

**Mr J B Leslie  
43 Rosedale Road.  
Gordon.  
NSW 2072.  
[lesliejb@ozemail.com.au](mailto:lesliejb@ozemail.com.au)**

**NEW ZEALAND Donations can be made by sending a cheque made payable to; R M Leslie  
Ms R M Leslie.**

**1 / 76 Wallace Road.  
Mangere Bridge.  
Manukau City.  
New Zealand.  
[clickimin@ihug.co.nz](mailto:clickimin@ihug.co.nz)**

All donations will be issued with a receipt and acknowledged in "Grip Fast Down Under".

If you wish to attend this event in Scotland, please advise me so that I can pass the information on.

Barrie Leslie, Gordon. NSW.

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**AUSTRALIAN DONATIONS**

Elaine Wood. West Pymble. New South Wales  
Stephen Lesslie. Drummoyne. New South Wales.  
Jennifer Richardson. North Dandenong Victoria.  
Barrie Leslie. Gordon. New South Wales.

**NEW ZEALAND DONATIONS.**

Ruth Leslie. Manukau City. NZ.  
Dr Leslie Florence. Paraparaumu. NZ.

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**LESLIE'S FROM THE FAIR ISLE.**

THE REASON ON WHY THE FIRST SHETLAND LESLIE ARRIVED IN NZ. A STORY ON HIS PARENTS AND THE LIFE THEY LIVED IN THE SHETLAND ISLES.

The first Leslies arrived in the Shetlands, circa 1550 and many adventures are documented of their early life. They were members of the "Warthill" family and so can trace their lineage back to Bartholomew. They gained land in the Shetlands from a father-in-law named William Gordon, Bishop of Aberdeen. William was a colourful gentleman who fathered several illegitimate children, who are all named in Scots history. A Leslie got one of his young daughters pregnant and then accidentally murdered a man and so we ended up in the Shetlands. After 200 years on Shetland we had become crofters and fishermen. Life was hard, as landlords owned the land, the crofts and houses, the boats and even the

fishing lines and so rent was always in arrears and as fish could only be sold to the landlord, who paid after he sold the fish to the growing mass's, then part of the industrial revolution sweeping through the U.K. If you didn't sell to the landlord you were evicted, if you didn't buy from the landlords shop, you were evicted and as fishermen had to go as far as 40 miles offshore to catch fish in a six oared boat, much of a Shetlanders life was spent on a boat. At this time most of the landlords were wealthy Scots living in Scotland. In times of plenty, fishermen were allowed to keep the fish-heads to feed their families. In 1700 the English noted that Shetland men were some of the best sailors in the world and schools were started so that Shetlanders could learn English, Norn, a form of Norwegian being the language before then. To give some idea of how tough the life was, downy feathers from young sea birds were sold to the landlord at 3 shillings a stone. Now a stone in those days was 14 lbs (6 kg) so one can imagine how many baby sea birds were killed to get a stone of soft downy feathers. Some families supplied 6 stone. The situation in the crofts was, if you didn't fish you were evicted, if you didn't pay your rent due to ill health, sickness or accident, you were evicted and once you got old and couldn't work you were evicted. Life was hard, as were the people and one man who signed on a whaling ship as an able bodied seaman, died while working on a whale, he was 78 and was buried at sea near Greenland.



*Fair Isle.*

For many years my family lived on Fair Isle, just a speck on the ocean with only 17 homes and 8 acres of land per croft, which was the standard croft size in Shetland. However, in 1829 we were evicted for non payment of rent, but we never had land, so it was a debt to the landlord of £2-08-00. We were of Fair Isle origin, but due to lack of land and the younger son problem (only the eldest son

could take over the father's croft) we had gone to the mainland of the Shetland's only to have a daughter get pregnant, circa 1800, in itself common and not normally a problem, but she was pregnant to a family member and so it was back to the Fair Isle to escape the wrath of the Minister, as the Isle did not have a resident Minister of religion. She was my g.g.g.grandmother, who despite the indignities of life, which may have been forced on her, suffered a life which many other females suffered and was a solo mum all her life. Her son grew up and in time married a girl who it seems had been born in similar circumstances and so we find, like marrying like.



*Hesswalls to Sheep Rock, Fair Isle.*

By 1829 two children had been born, one at Refuge and in 1888 when I was there, the owner of the land told me that it was the most wind exposed God forsaken habitation in the area. While living at Refuge my g.g.grandmother had a further nine children, including two sets of twins, but she died early in life, being worn out and spent in about her 40<sup>th</sup> year. Of her 11 live births, only five of her children reached adulthood. My g.g.grandfather married a second time and further children were born, but a split had been caused in the family and the family becomes hard to follow. My g.grandfather, now aged about 21 decided to follow a life at sea. He had an anchor tattoo on his arm, which signified that he had crossed the Atlantic. In 1849 he is on the high seas and heading for New Zealand and a younger brother is married to the girl next door, who is pregnant and a son is born. The only problem is that Birth and

Church records state that my g.grandfather is the father. He was in New Zealand in 1852, as his ship loaded potatoes and took them to Melbourne, Australia, as there was a great shortage, due to the goldfields in Bendigo and Ballarat. He went gold prospecting and spent four years in Australia, taking part in the Eureka Stockade incident. He found gold and unlike some of his descendants, he was able to keep it and so returned to Scotland and married a lady of some bearing, she was 29 while he was 28. After a year my grandfather was born and when he was 8 months old they left for New Zealand in 1859. Soon after they left Shetland, fishing became uncertain and the clearances began, which meant that the Scottish landlords found that they could make more out of sheep on the land instead of people and the crofts started to be demolished.



*Bill's wife, Jenny at Refuge in 1988*

Refuge was one of the first and was followed by whole villages and so the exodus to the New World began. America was in the throes of its Civil War and so Leslies headed for New Zealand, Canada, Australia and South Africa and ultimately the USA. It is said that during the Shetland clearances, houses were demolished while smoke still arose from the chimneys. The break-up of families was tragic and many left with an intense dislike of the Scots and anything Scottish, while little was told of the life of the old family when a new life was started. As Shetlanders had to leave for new lands from Scotland, many are listed as being from Scotland although three hundred years of history was in Shetland. This is why many Leslies have trouble finding their roots. I have blood relations in Australia, South Africa, Canada and many US States and they do not even know that I exist. Shetlanders were forced to move as they had lost the chance to gain an income and had to ask for help. My g.grandfather paid for his family's passage to New Zealand. This little story gives some insight as to why people left the land

of their birth, often under duress and I will detail my g.grandfather's journey to New Zealand in the next issue of G.F.D.U., for they were the first from Shetland to settle in New Zealand and while they left with little love of Scotland, this would grow with younger generations.

*William (Bill) Leslie, Kaiwaka, New Zealand.*

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## **KIRKIN' O THE TARTAN.**

20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2010.

**ST PAULS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SPRING HILL BRISBANE.**

The Kirkin' O' The Tartan was held at St Pauls Presbyterian Church in Spring Hill Brisbane on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2010, by the Scottish Clans Congress of Queensland and Clan Leslie Society of Australia and New Zealand was represented by George Presley Leslie, our Representor in Queensland.

### **The Church.**

St Pauls Presbyterian Church was founded in 1863, by early immigrants as the Creek Street Presbyterian Church and originally stood near the corner of Creek and Adelaide Streets in the city. This site was later sold and the proceeds applied to build the present Church and Hall, which were completed in 1889. They were designed by the respected architect F.G.D. Stanley, who was responsible for many landmark buildings in Brisbane, including the Queensland National Bank in Queen Street, the Queensland Club and the General Post office.

On-going restoration work by the church community, including replacement of eroded stonework, the copper cladding of the spire and installing protection for the stained glass windows is contributing to the preservation of this heritage listed building for its congregation and the people of wider Brisbane.

The Minister Presiding is Rev Andrew Gardiner. B.D. (Glasgow).

### **The Kirkin'**

The 1745 rebellion, aimed at restoring the Stuarts to the British Throne, ended in disaster for the Jacobite forces a year later at Culloden. This defeat was to be a defining moment in Scottish history and greatly impacted on the day to day

lives of the Highland people. Amongst the many actions by the government, designed to discourage further insurrection, was the Disarming Act of 1746 which forbade men and boys to wear arms and the tartan. This act was repealed in 1782 and the Kirkin “ O’ The Tartan commemorates this event.



*Our Banner with George’s family.*

### **THE SCOTTISH CLANS CONGRESS OF QUEENSLAND.**

The Congress is made up of appointed representatives from Scottish Clan groups and Societies and serves as a means to give clans a collective voice within the wider community. Currently its principal activity has been the organization of the annual Kirkin” O’ The Tartan which has been held successively at a number of Brisbane Churches. This is the fifth occasion that St Paul’s has been the venue. I am proud to represent Clan Leslie at the Congress.



*George Leslie, CLANZ Representor in Queensland.*

Well here it is Sunday June 2010, a rather cold bleak morning with an early start required, as we live about 25km south of the venue and with children to get ready and to take them through their duties at the church on our arrival. My two eldest grandchildren were involved. Granddaughter Chloe (11yrs) carried the State Flag for Queensland and my grandson Jesse (11yrs) carried the Leslie Banner on its inaugural outing, another grandson Sam (7yrs) wore the Leslie tartan kilt. They did a great job and have been invited by the Congress President to take part in the colour party next year, which they are looking forward to. The service always seems to take on special meaning, particularly with the Rev Gardiner being a native of Glasgow. I strongly believe that it is important to get the youth of today involved and part of the proceedings, they are tomorrows Clan members, so lets nurture and develop their interest. ( *I agree with you entirely George, we must get the young involved. Barrie.*)

*George Leslie, Cornubia. Brisbane. Queensland*

### **KIRKING OF THE TARTAN.**

#### **ST LUKES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ROSEVILLE. SYDNEY.**

CLANZ recently received an invitation from St Lukes Presbyterian Church, Roseville, Sydney to join them in their Centenary Service and annual Kirking of the Tartan.

As I was in hospital, CLANZ member Ron Leslie was kind enough to attend in my place, with our Leslie Clan Banner. There were quite a number of other Clans in attendance.

Prior to the service, Knox Grammar School Pipe Band played in the church grounds and the Australian Gaelic singers sang “Athchuinge” an entreaty, a small prayer.

Greetings were then offered by Max Fraser-Byass who is the Commissioner for Clan Fraser Australia.

The Bible Reading from the New Testament was – Romans 8: 31b-39 and was read by Simon Fraser, Law Agent for the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

The Australian Gaelic Singers then presented “Sailm 121” (Psalm 121)

Tartans were laid on the table in the sanctuary and the Kirking Prayer was said by the Rector, the Rev Graham Spence.



*Ron Leslie with the Rt Rev Robert Benn  
Moderator General of the Presbyterian Church of  
Australia.*

Thanksgiving, Intercession and the Lords Prayer were given by the Rev Douglas Fraser Murray, Minister of St Lukes 1978 – 1993.

The service was completed by the reading of the Old Testament Psalm 121: 1-8 by Gregory Burton SC, Procurator of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

*Many thanks to Ron Leslie for attending this service for me.*

*Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.*

### KIRKING OF THE TARTAN.

What is known as “Kirking of the Tartan” was introduced into the United States of America by the Rev Peter Marshal in April 1941 at the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington. Doctor Marshall was a Scottish immigrant who arrived in the US in 1927 at the age of 24. He was Pastor of NYAPC until his death in 1949 and served as Chaplain of the US Senate from 1947 – 1949.

He was made famous in the film “A Man Called Peter” (1955).

In the Church he gave a powerful address aimed at American/Scots, encouraging them to “join up” and give support to Britain in WWII, before America entered the war in 1941.

*Ron Leslie. Pennant Hills. NSW.*

**PLEASE REMEMBER, we need donations to enable us to get the Harlaw Leslie’s Cross installed. This is for Leslie’s of the future, as it will see all of us out.**

**Commissioner** James Barrie Leslie 61-2-9418-2262  
**Clan Leslie** 43 Rosedale Road. Gordon.  
**Aust & NZ** NSW. 2072. Aust [lesliejb@ozemail.com.au](mailto:lesliejb@ozemail.com.au)

**Convenor CLANZ** J. Barrie Leslie as above

**Secretary** Malcolm W Leslie 61-7-4635-8358  
**Membership** 1 Mannuem Crt. Toowoomba. Qld.4350.Aust  
[mle98103@bigpond.net.au](mailto:mle98103@bigpond.net.au)

**Treasurer [acting]** Elaine M Wood 61-2-9498-5068  
 41 Kooloona Cres West Pymble  
 NSW 2073. Aust [elawood@ozemail.com.au](mailto:elawood@ozemail.com.au)

**Newsletter** newsletter editor or committee required

**Webmaster & I T Manager** Andrew C Leslie 61-2-9412-1218  
 13/24b Forsyth St. Nth Willoughby  
 NSW 2068. Australia  
[andrew.leslie54@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.leslie54@gmail.com)

**New Zealand Representative** Ruth M Leslie 64-9-634-9022  
 1/76 Wallace Rd Mangere Bridge.  
 Manukau City New Zealand  
[Clickimin@ihug.co.nz](mailto:Clickimin@ihug.co.nz)

**Queensland Representative** George Presly Leslie 61-7-3806 5791  
 107 Trudy Crescent, Cornubia  
 Qld 4130.Aust [gplleslie@optusnet.com.au](mailto:gplleslie@optusnet.com.au)

**South Australia Representative** Audry M Fry 61-8-8331-9688  
 37 Ormond Grove, Toorak Gardens,  
 South Australia 5065. Australia.

**Victoria Representative** Sheryl J Sharp 61-8-8331-9688  
 17 Verney Rd Shepparton. Vic 3630  
[sheryles1974@mcmmedia.com.au](mailto:sheryles1974@mcmmedia.com.au)

**West Australia Representative** Terry Keith Leslie 61-4-2885-5085  
 265 Steere St Collie  
 W.A. 6225. Aust. [tezzles\\_40@hotmail.com](mailto:tezzles_40@hotmail.com)

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

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**Chief of Clan Leslie** Hon Alexander John Leslie  
 Boreland House. Lockerbie.  
 Dumfriesshire. DG11 2LN Scotland

### Clan Leslie Society International

**Chieftain** David Leslie White. 7313 Old Mill Run. Fort Worth  
 TX. 76133. USA email: [clanleslie@earthlink.net](mailto:clanleslie@earthlink.net)

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