



FROM THE CHIEFTAIN

I am sorry to say that I have very little to report at this time. I normally attend such events as Tartan Day in Brisbane and Scotland in the Park in Logan, but Colleen has had a couple of visits to hospital which cut out our availability for these this year.

Our Chief, Alex with his wife Miranda, has visited Canada to attend the gathering of Leslies at the Fergus Highland Games in Ontario, and this seems to have been a great success.

I would still like to organise a gathering for our society, to visit places of interest associated with Patrick Leslie and his brothers on the southern Darling Downs, but it is proving difficult to get it off the ground. However, I will keep trying.

The latest newsletter from the Scottish Australian Heritage Council relates that Scotland has designated 2017 as the "Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology". The Scottish Government has stated that "2017 will celebrate our country's unique history and heritage with a programme of activity aimed at supporting and driving the nation's tourism and events sector."

A great way to keep up with Scottish events and activities is to take the Scottish Banner. This is a monthly newspaper which is published in North America, and in Australia. The Australian version is edited by Sean Cairney, who is a member of our Society. The Banner has recently celebrated 40 years of publication, and has had its own tartan registered with the Scottish Tartans Authority. I recommend this publication to all of you.

Until next time,
Slainté

Malcolm Leslie Chieftain

SITUATIONS VACANT

The following situations are vacant and need enthusiastic Society members to volunteer to take them on:

- Editor, Grip Fast Down Under
- Membership Secretary
- Representative Victoria

- Representative New South Wales

If anyone can see their way clear to make any of these positions their own, please contact the Commissioner/Chieftain

From Chief Alex

Exciting times are afoot. The world famous Royal Edinburgh Tattoo has recently agreed to add a 'Splash of Tartan' to their event on the Esplanade of Edinburgh Castle, in August. This means that every night of the Tattoo next year, a different Chief or Chiefs will be in the party that welcomes that night's performers onto the Esplanade. And share a dram.

It also means that Clans and Clan based tourism will receive a very welcome boost, as we will be able to use the Tattoo's well oiled marketing machine to communicate the importance of clans, and the importance of 'coming home'.

So, if you are planning a trip to Edinburgh in 2017, get in touch and we can make sure that you pick the 'best' night (the Leslie night), and you can also get big discounts on tickets to the event.

The plan is far reaching, and the Tattoo is very determined to widen the reach and appeal of the event as far as possible. Earlier this year, the whole event visited Melbourne, and there are plans to take the Tattoo 'on the road' – with a particular focus on Australia and South East Asia, including China.

You can see a sample of the visit to Melbourne here

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_vLeWPoVEok]

Of course, the Tattoo is not the only Games in town and Miranda and I are recently back from leading the Leslies, the Honoured Clan, during the Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games in Ontario, Canada.

It would be great to say that the highlight was the great and sparkling procession of clans, but sadly this event will be remembered for something rather damper.

There had been a drought before we arrived. It had lasted 100 days (which I do accept is nothing compared to an Australian drought). The temperature was 100 degrees and the humidity uncomfortable for those in kilts.

Just as the clans, bands and athletes had formed up to march onto the reviewing field, there was a splash of rain. Someone said 'let's see what it does before we make a decision'. What it did was wash the Games away in under an hour. It was comedy rain. I then had to go to the Hockey Hall and give a speech on 100 years of Scottish History, with both me and the audience absolutely soaking wet. It was certainly memorable. Let us hope that the rain keeps off the Esplanade next August, let us hope this trial is a success and we look forward to seeing you here if you are 'coming home'.

Alexander Leslie
Clan Chief (and Vice Convenor of the SCSC)



A Bonus from CLANZ

I recently received an email from member Jann Burrows which illustrates the good things that can come out of membership in our Society:
"Dear Malcolm,
Joining CLANZ in 2011 led me to a lot of interesting information on the Leslie Clan and to a surprise personal connection. I wonder if this might be of interest to other readers of the Newsletter.

THANK YOU, CLANZ !

When I joined the Society six years ago, I had traced my line back to John Leslie of County Monaghan and his wife (nee Jane Lancashire). In 1826 they were living in the townland of Carsan near Ballybay.

A week or so later, I casually mentioned these names to Barrie Leslie, then Commissioner of the Clan in Australia. His response was instant and spot-on! He quickly picked up on that surname Lancashire and realised that Elaine Wood, the treasurer of the Society at the time, shared the same ancestry. To add to this great stroke of luck, I found Elaine was living just twelve minutes away by car. This had been the case for some thirty years without either of us knowing of the other's whereabouts. We have since become close friends, establishing that our grandfathers were brothers and pooling all the research we have independently done over the years. Without CLANZ, none of this would have happened!

I am attaching a photo taken with Barrie Leslie in November 2015.
From left to right
Jann Burrows, Barrie Leslie and Elaine Wood

Kindest regards,
Jann Burrows"



The following Story appeared in The Moreton Bay Courier

31 January 1852

COLONIAL EXTRACTS
LITERARY TOURNAMENT BETWEEN
MR. PATRICK LESLIE AND DR. LANG.

Our Sydney papers by the Lavina furnish us with the information that Mr. Patrick Leslie, of Goomburra, Darling Downs, had resolved to break a quill with the political Divine above mentioned, and accordingly carried out that intention as follows, in a letter to the Sydney Morning Herald

Gentlemen,
Perceiving that you notice Dr.Lang's recent visit to Moreton Bay, and his abortive attempts to procure subscriptions to enable him to visit England as a delegate from the Northern-Districts, I beg most distinctly, on behalf of myself and a very great proportion of the northern squatters, to repudiate any right that the inhabitants of Brisbane possess to elect delegates for the district generally. That Dr. Lang may be their choice I do not wish to deny, but the northern squatters would scorn such a representative. Acknowledging the universally

admitted fact, that Dr. Lang is a man of talent, I contend that the squatters of these districts wish for something beyond that, and when they elect a delegate to represent them in England, they, will attempt to find one in every way worthy of their confidence.

Personally, Dr. Lang is unknown to me, but, in common with others, I am well aware of his character and career in this colony, as well as in England, and beg leave to tell the Rev. Republican that neither his practices nor principles will find favour with her Majesty's loyal subjects settled in these districts. I would also remark that a very large proportion of the northern squatters do not desire separation from the middle district, unless accompanied by exiles and a consequent Government expenditure.

In conclusion, I beg to say that I am and have been for many years a plain practical squatter, more accustomed to look after sheep and cattle than to conduct a newspaper controversy; if therefore any of the reverend agitator's friends choose to take up the cudgels on his part, they shall have the field to themselves, as I am satisfied by having publicly denied that Dr. Lang in any way represents the northern squatters, a body comprising nine-tenths of the property, education, and respectability of these districts.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

PATRICK LESLIE.

Goomburra, Darling Downs, Dec. 23.

To this assault Dr. Lang the next day replied as follows, through the same medium

Gentlemen, Perceiving that, in a letter, signed Patrick Leslie, published in your paper of this morning, the writer asserts, what I have already publicly contradicted in your columns, I beg to repeat that Mr. Leslie's assertion, as to my having made "abortive attempts, to procure subscriptions at Moreton Bay to enable me to visit England as a delegate from the Northern Districts," is wholly false and unfounded. I made no such attempts, either directly, or indirectly; but if the people of Brisbane and Ipswich, at least certain of their number thought proper, of their own accord, and without prompting of any kind from me, to contribute towards my expenses in going home, not as a delegate, but as the bearer of a petition which I was authorised at two public meetings in those localities to advocate and support, what is that to Mr. Patrick Leslie. Did any of these people attempt to interfere with him and others like him, when conspiring with their pecuniary means and otherwise, to degrade their adopted country into a mere receptacle for English felons, as to Mr. Leslie's disclaiming me as a representative of the Northern Districts generally, I have no wish

whatever to represent Mr. Patrick Leslie and his friends in anyway. They may do what they please to get both convicts and Chinamen for me but I shall simply do what can to prevent them, in a regular and constitutional way. The petitions I am to carry home for Separation, without convicts, but with a large free immigration, speak for themselves, and they have been numerous and respectably signed but what is there to prevent Mr. Patrick Leslie and his friends from getting up a counter petition, if they please, to be sent home and supported by their man Friday, Mr. Arthur Hodgson.

As to my past career in this colony, it has at least been as respectable, and incomparably more beneficial to the country than Mr. Patrick Leslie's. I will not deny that it was I who sent about 600 free emigrants of most unexceptionable character to Moreton Bay, who have not only established a high moral and religious character for the district, which it never had before, but who and there's the rub, mainly contributed to the defeat of the pro-convict clique of that settlement, by returning two members of the right stamp for the district on that important social question. I do acknowledge that Mr. Patrick Leslie, as a pro transportationist, has no reason to like me, and he will have still less reason if I should succeed, as I expect I shall, in directing fifty or a hundred thousand people from England of the same class and character as the emigrants I have mentioned to the magnificent district of Moreton Bay.

As to Mr. Patrick Leslie's career in this colony, what has he ever done for the country beyond assisting in putting up public prayers to the "god" Grey for more convicts? He does not like me, forsooth ! I should be sorry if he did, I should be sorry to be the object of his odious predilection. If I were only a felon, I should doubtless find the way to his heart at once; for he would then petition the "idol" to have me sent to Moreton Bay, where of course he would do his best to reform me.

Since my return from Moreton Bay, one of the emigrants whom I had sent out to the district, and whom I had seen at the Turon when I was there, called on me in Sydney and told me, that a Moreton Bay squatter, who was here at the time, had attempted to wheedle him into an engagement, which he (the squatter) held forth as a most beneficial one for him, to proceed in his employment to the Warwick diggings. All his expenses, including his fare to Brisbane, were to be paid by the squatter. With this understanding he had expended almost the whole of the little money he had brought with him from the Turon, in purchasing stores for his family at Moreton Bay, which he found he could do much cheaper here than there. But when the time for embarkation came, and he was required to sign articles of agreement, he found to his utter astonishment,

and directly at variance with the nature of the agreement, as previously explained to him, that he was merely to be hired as a servant of all work, at £25 a year ! The emigrant, who is a Scotchman, a most industrious man, and the owner of a good little property at Moreton Bay, was most indignant at this attempt of the squatter "to take him in." Of course he refused to sign any such articles, and came up to me, boiling with indignation, to borrow a pound to assist him in paying his passage to Brisbane, which I fortunately was able to give him, and which he faithfully returned by the return of the steamer. I was quite amused at the heartiness with which my honest countryman characterised his proposed employer as "the gran" s——l," making the word one of three syllables, usually pronounced by the industrious classes in the West of Scotland. Whether Mr. Patrick Leslie knows, this gentleman or not I neither know nor care; but it is no wonder that these squatters should, prefer convicts when they do not, know how to treat honest freemen, as good as themselves.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your most obedient servant
JOHN DUNMORE LANG.

Upon this attack and defence we have only a few words of remark to offer. Dr. Lang is quite right in saying that he did not assume to be the delegate of persons of Mr. Leslie's way of thinking; for the attainment of separation without exiles was the chief object of the petition entrusted to Dr. Lang, whilst Mr. Leslie expressly states that many "northern squatters" and himself, we presume, amongst the number, are opposed to that measure. We have no words to waste upon the infatuation that seems still to cling to the hope of obtaining convicts. If no consideration of consequence to the colony could restrain such a desire, one might have expected a natural reluctance to offer such a prize for larceny as would immediately reverse the old proverb, and make "thieving the best policy" in England. Sentiments and opinions like those put forth must be suffered to take their place, in the order of things, with the fallacies and monstrosities of the middle ages. At the same time Dr. Lang must not demand for the immigrants sent by him to Moreton Bay, a larger share of credit than they deserve for the resistance that was made to the introduction of prisoners. The forlorn hope of that resistance—when the cause seemed gloomy and friendless indeed—was led by persons who never had any connection with Dr. Lang, and who fought the battle alone for some time. Some few of Dr. Lang's immigrants were early in the field with their strong sympathy and zealous assistance; but many wavered, with their eyes on the loaves and fishes, and some undisguisedly enlisted themselves in the party and in the pay of the opposition. It was

not until the hard fighting of the few, and the support of the press in other parts of the colony, had established the popularity of the cause, that the great mass of the persons mentioned by Dr. Lang brought their numerical strength to bear in its favour. We trust that the question is finally decided, and we wish to hear no more of it; but whenever it is necessarily brought forward, let us "render unto Cæsar the things that are Cæsar's."

Historical Records of the Family of Leslie

Historical Records of the Family of Leslie' was first published in 1869. The author, Colonel Leslie of Balquhain, offers it as 'as a collection of the most authentic documents relating to the history of the family of Leslie' from 1067 to 1868-9.

A CD with a digital version of all three volumes is available for purchase by following the link:

<https://www.gould.com.au/historical-records-of-the-family-of-leslie/sca002/>

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