

PATRICK LESLIE, OF THE DARLING DOWNS. PT 2.

After Patrick's marriage to Catherine Macarthur on the 9th September 1840, they settled at Dunhevid, near Penrith in Sydney. Patrick was a founding member of the Penrith Racing Club and owned one of the finest stallions in Australia. "Sir George", as he was called, cost Patrick Nine hundred pounds, and had bookings of Six hundred pounds in service fees for his first year.



*Patrick Leslie,
1852 by Conrad Martens*

Patrick's financial situation was not going well, and in November, he received a letter from his Uncle, Walter Stevenson Davidson, finally refusing to honour the debts that Patrick had incurred on his sheep station at Collaroi.

Patrick could no longer afford to stay at Dunhevid, and he decided to move to Canning Downs. George Leslie had taken the cattle up to the Downs, where Walter

Leslie was setting up their first head station, "Toolburra", and had returned to take the horses to the Downs.

Patrick and Catherine by this time had a son, William Norman, born at Vineyard on the 11th June 1841. Patrick and Kate, with baby "Billie", took a ship to Moreton Bay, where they arrived at Canning Downs in October 1842.

Patrick was managing the horses, Walter the sheep and George the cattle, however Patrick's financial problems were multiplying and he could own nothing in his name, and his brothers were having to help him financially. Finally, at the end of 1843, Patrick, Kate and Billie sailed for Scotland to try and get his Uncle Walter Stevenson Davidson, to negotiate on the unpaid bills from Collaroi. Davidson flatly refused any settlement.

Patrick was offered a position in Ceylon, at his elder brother's tea plantation, but decided to return to Australia. Patrick's father, the Laird of Warhill advanced him One thousand pounds to purchase a property at the Old Government Farm at Breakfast Creek, in Brisbane, which Patrick was to name "Newstead Cottage".



Newstead Cottage 1846

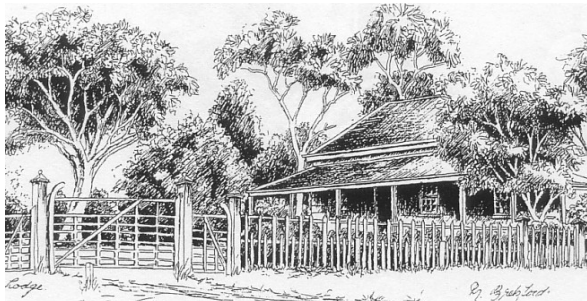
Newstead Cottage was bordered by the Brisbane River and Breakfast Creek, and was bought in his father's name, as Patrick could not own any property. In all the land totalled thirty-four acres, and the adjoining land had been bought by Captain John Wickham whose wife was Anna, the sister

[2] of Catherine. John Wickham was later to become Police Magistrate in Brisbane.

Patrick was travelling between Canning Downs and Brisbane, to supervise the building of Newstead Cottage, and Kate, who was pregnant with her second child, was staying with her sister Anna in Brisbane.

Patrick had decided that he would farm Newstead Cottage, and supply fresh vegetables and fruit to Brisbane. The soil was very fertile, and with no shortage of water, Patrick was able to supply top quality produce.

Walter Stevenson Davidson, still continued to haunt Patrick, but finally, in 1847, Davidson's agent, Stuart Donaldson gave Patrick a release of his debts, providing Patrick gave Donaldson two thousand pounds as soon as he was able to do so. Patrick wrote to his father in June 1847, that he had decided to sell Newstead Cottage to John Wickham, and return to the Darling Downs.



The Gate Keepers Cottage Canning Downs.

Newstead Cottage was acquired by the Queensland Government in 1939, and passed the Newstead House Trust Act, which saw the old homestead become a museum. Among the displays is the first television set to be used in Australia, the first passenger ticket to be issued by Qantas, and a signed copy of Patrick Leslie's bible, dated 1826. The grounds of Newstead House are very popular for wedding party photographs, and were used to photograph weddings on many occasions by my brother, Brian Leslie,

who was a professional photographer in Brisbane.

As Patrick's financial position had improved to such a degree, he sold Newstead Cottage to his brother-in-law John Wickham, and on the 1st February 1847 George and Walter bought Goomburra Station in their names, as Patrick could still not own property in his name.

Meanwhile, on the 2nd December 1847, George had gone down to Sydney to marry Emmeline Macarthur, Catherine's sister. While George was away on his honeymoon, Patrick was running Canning Downs. Walter Leslie was in poor health and had returned to Scotland, although he still retained a financial interest in Canning Downs.



Canning Downs homestead 1842

Patrick had been commissioned by the NSW Government in 1847 to choose a site for a new town, and chose a site on the Condamine River, not far from Canning Downs. Patrick bought the first lot sold at auction, and called the town Warwick, from a novel by Lord Lytton.

In 1848, Kate's father Hannibal Hawkins Macarthur, who was the President of The Bank of Australia, was declared bankrupt, and he and his wife went to live at Canning Downs, and later Goomburra.

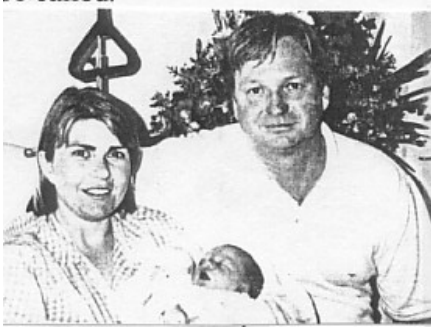
On the 7th January 1854, George sold Canning Downs to Gilbert Davidson, whose father of all people was Walter Stevenson Davidson, Patrick's nemesis

To be continued in the next issue of Grip Fast Down Under.

Barrie Leslie.

[3] THE NEWEST ADDITION

Congratulations to our new treasurer Robert Gowing Lesslie, and his wife Tracey, on the birth of their first child: William John Gowing, or Will as he is to be called.



He was born on the 8th February 2000, and of course is the pride of his Grandparents John and Judy, who can always hand him back to Tracey when anything needs attending to. Rob and Tracey have the usual joys of new parents, change of routine and loss of sleep.

CLAN LESLIE SOCIETY WEB PAGE

Well we have just had the first application for membership of Clan Leslie Society, through our web page, and hopefully it will be the first of many. Our web page address is;

www.clanlesliesociety.org

and I would recommend that all members go online and have a look and see what your webpage committee has achieved. Also a reminder, if you have an e-mail address, please make sure that you have advised us of your address.

Barrie Leslie.

NEW MEMBERS

We would ask all Clan Leslie Society members to actively look for new members

to join the Society, We need new members for two reasons.

1. To help expand our Society.
 2. To get family information from new members, to hopefully link up with existing members information.
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SEARCHING ON-LINE WITH THE I.G.I.

If you are searching for ancestors and have reached an impasse, why not try the Church of Latter Day Saints, Family Search Internet Genealogy Service. This service is free and can easily be accessed by going to:

www.familysearch.org

and logging onto their search facility.

Click on "search for ancestors", and enter your search information. You can also click on "browse categories", and see what other information is available.

Barrie Leslie.

INTERNATIONAL TARTAN DAY

The 1st July is International Tartan day, which celebrates the repeal of the Proscription Act, which from the 1st August 1747 to the 1st July 1782 made the wearing of any tartan, punishable by seven years deportation. The English Parliament said that the Tartan was a weapon.

Wear a bit of Tartan to celebrate the repeal of the Proscription Act.

Barrie Leslie

DISTRIBUTION OF YOUR NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL

Your committee of Clan Leslie Society Australia & New Zealand Branch, is looking at ways and means of printing Grip Fast Down Under and mailing it to our members who have e-mail. If we can do

[4] this, it will save us a great deal of money, as of the \$25-00 annual subscription, your branch retains only \$6-45 and remits the balance to the parent Society.

If any members have any ideas on how we can achieve this, please get it touch with me, as this is a very important matter.

Barrie Leslie

ARTICLES REQUIRED

We are always looking for items that could be of interest to other members, and welcome any submissions.

Barrie Leslie

GENEALOGY CDs

Are members aware that there are is a CD available for The Retours of Service of Heirs in Scotland 1544-1699, which is a compilation of the three volumes of the original books. These are Latin summaries, which list the names of the deceased person and the heir and their relationship to the deceased.

There is also a CD available for The Service of Heirs in Scotland. 1700-1859 in English which list the deceased person their heirs and also give a record of the lands.

Are any members aware of CDs being available for The Sasine Registers, which existed from 1599 to 1868. Also is any member aware of a CD for Wills, which are held by The Scottish Record Office and date from 1514 and are indexed. These have been put on microfilm by the Church of Latter Day Saints.

Barrie Leslie

CLAN LESLIE TENT

If you are willing to open a "tent" at a Highland games, please contact Barrie Leslie for further information.

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