

Volume 2, Issue 2, March 2009

Please note that all the email messages in this issue are clickable. If you want to reply to the writer, you can do so right away without having to copy the address into your email program.

William Leslie william.leslie@sympatico.ca

BOB BAILEY, CHIEFTAIN, CLAN LESLIE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL



Volunteers are the life-blood of any non-profit organization such as our Society. Churches, Citizens on Patrol (COPS), Meals on Wheels, fraternal organizations, Boy and Girl Scout troops, etc. all depend on volunteers. And it is the same with our Society. No volunteers, no more Society. We have vacancies for volunteers in some of our appointed offices. These include Justiciar (attorney), piper, and very importantly Convenors for Canada, Mountain, Pacific Northwest and Pacific Southwest Regions. We also have a vacancy on the Council. The Chieftain can appoint a member to the Council who volunteers and they can run for election on the next cycle.

If you would like to have a position to help guide our Society, we need you!

If you are willing to consider being a volunteer for any of these positions, please contact me.

Bob Bailey, Chieftain rcbailey3056@sbcglobal.net

CAPTAIN MOLLY KOOL CARNEY



Molly Cool Carney, 93, who as Molly Kool was the first woman in North America to become a licensed ship's captain, died February 25 in Bangor, Maine. At 23, she made history by earning the title of captain. Myrtle Kool, always called Molly, was born on Feb. 23, 1916, in Alma, New Brunswick, a small fishing village on the Bay of Fundy. She disliked the name Myrtle and legally changed it to Molly in the 1940s. In 2006, she was officially acknowledged by the Canadian government as the first woman to hold captain's papers.

She qualified as a captain in 1939, and spent the next five years in command of the Jean K, her father's 70-foot, engine and sail-driven scow. Hauling cargo up and down the Bay of Fundy and as far afield as Boston, Ms. Kool faced rain and fog, fire and ice, and the violent tides for which the bay is known. She also earned the disbelief, disdain and, eventually, respect of her rough-hewn male colleagues. Her work made her a curiosity. Ms. Kool appeared on the radio on "Ripley's Believe It or Not!" and was profiled often in the Canadian press.

Ms. Kool was sometimes called New Brunswick's first feminist, but in 1939, when she got her captain's papers, she scarcely thought about making history. She simply wanted to be on the water. The sea was in Ms. Kool's blood. Her father, Paul Kool, was a Dutch sailor who settled in New Brunswick, where he captained the Jean K, named for his eldest daughter. The second of five

children, Molly spent much of her childhood aboard the scow. Ms. Kool applied to the Merchant Marine School in St. John, New Brunswick. She was turned down but persevered, earning a mate's certificate there in 1937. Two years later, at the Merchant Marine Institute in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, she earned a coastal master's certificate, entitling her to work as a captain in coastal waters.

In 1944, a gas explosion and fire destroyed much of the Jean K. Ms. Kool planned to return to the water once it was rebuilt, but that year she married Ray Blaisdell, moved with him to Maine and found she enjoyed living on land. Mr. Blaisdell died in the early 1960's. In the mid-'60s, Ms. Kool married John Carney and was known in private life as Molly Kool Carney. As you know Carney is a Sept of Clan Leslie.

Mr. Kelly, the president of the Fundy Beautification and Historical Society, is leading an effort to preserve Ms. Kool's childhood home, a tiny 19th-century cottage badly in need of repair, and move it to Fundy National Park, near Alma. *New York Times*, March 3, page A25

David Leslie White, Vice-Chieftain, CLSI clanleslie@earthlink.net

QUEEN MARGARET & BARTHOLOMEW CARVING IN ROSSLYN CHAPEL



Some of the Leslies (and Abernathys) going to Edinburgh in July plan to visit Rosslyn Chapel to see the carving. I am puzzled by the low level of Leslie interest in this carving. It depicts the story of Bartholomew and Margaret crossing the stream on his horse and uttering the cry of "Grip Fast." The first Leslie history, Laurus Leslaena in 1695, ignored all the Leslie history in the Rosslyn area from about 1069 to the 1400's. Col. Charles Leslie in his three volume Leslie history of 1869 ignored this part of Leslie history, and later Leslie historians also ignored it. There is adequate information to show that Bartholomew and William St. Clair were both Hungarian knights in Margaret's party landing on the north side of the Fourth in 1068. St. Clair settled land around Rosslyn and built Rosslyn Castle. This castle was the meeting place for planning the Scottish contingent of knights who went to the Crusades from 1095 to 1291. The Sinclair's and the Leslies are listed as members of the 10 distinguished Scottish families, so I can guess that Bartholomew and his descendent Leslies were at those meetings at Rosslyn. A Leslie and a Sinclair signed the Declaration of Arbroath in 1320.

In 1446, William Sinclair built Rosslyn Chapel which was obviously crafted by Templars. It is reported that Sinclair approved every single carving in the Chapel. The Templar Knight with a woman on the back of his horse holding a "holy rod" had to be approved by Sinclair. Sinclair obviously knew the Bartholomew and Margaret story and approved it for the Chapel. So the early Leslies were very involved with the Templars who fled to Scotland after Friday October 13, 1307 when the King of France massacred 5000 of them and they were banned from the Church. My theory is that the early Leslie historians abandoned this part of Leslie history because they were good Catholics and in fact forbidden from having anything to do with Templars. They certainly did not want to chronicle their ancestors' close ties to the early Scottish Templars. Why later Leslie historians would ignore this fascinating part of Leslie history, I cannot guess. I am hoping that someday a scholarly researcher will come along, study and write about this era of our history. My guess is that the Sinclair documents from 1068 to 1446 (when Rosslyn Chapel was built) hold a great, ignored, portion of Leslie history. There are more details in *Grip Fast* of September 2005.

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LOST EMAIL MESSAGES

When we sent out the February Grip Fast Online we had 3 more email addresses bounce. With all the pleas for new email addresses, I have received only 2. If we do not get your new email address when you move or change it, you will not get our digital publications. These are the addresses that bounced:

Frank B. Jernigan, Sumpter, SC, fjernigan@ftc-i.net

Leslie Jean Plude, Ozford, MA, leslie4cats@wmconnect.com

Charles Lewis Leslie, Little Rock, AR, clleslie@aristotle.net

If you know ant of these members, could you please ask them to send me a message with their new email addresses.

Linda Flowers, Treasurer, lflowjingo@sbcglobal.net

SUCCESSFUL MIDLAND SCOTTISH-IRISH FAIRE MARCH 13-16 MIDLAND, TEXAS



The 7th Annual Midland Scottish-Irish Faire was held March 13-16 in Midland, Texas. It was another well attended event. Since it is a Faire, there were no athletic events, but there was much excellent entertainment, food, and Celtic activities occurring throughout the weekend. And since it is an indoor venue, the rain and cold weather on Friday did not affect the Faire. Probably the biggest draw was the Knights of the Guild with their warhorses and jousting competition. A large number of Midland school children were given a special showing on Friday. Many came back Saturday and Sunday with family members. More information about Knights of the Guild may be found at <http://www.knightlife.net/>. The CLSI tent was hosted by Frank and Lynne Leslie. The picture shows the CLSI the tent set up at Midland with Michelle Collins, who is a Moore, standing between Frank & Lynne.
Frank W Leslie

COMING EVENTS

SAN ANTONIO HIGHLAND GAMES, APRIL 4-5.

Frank and Lynne Leslie will host a CLSI tent at the 11th annual San Antonio Highland Games, April 4-5. This event is held at the Helotes Festival Grounds, 12210 Leslie Road, Helotes, Texas. The Festival Grounds are northwest of San Antonio. Website <http://sahga.net/index.htm>
From Loop 1604, take highway 16 (Bandera Highway) to the northwest toward Helotes and turn left on Leslie Road.

Leslie Road was named for Andrew Jackson Leslie who was born about 1815, the son of John W. Leslie and his wife Jane McElwee, in Humphreys County, Tennessee. He came to the Republic of Texas in 1836, and on March 1st. joined Miller's Brigade (Captain Clifton's Company) Volunteer Infantry and was honorably discharged the following June in San Antonio. (The Alamo fell on March 6, 1836.) He served in several campaigns as a citizen soldier and was captured on September 11, 1842 with Captain Chauncey Johnson's San Antonio Company by Mexican General Adrian Woll who had invaded Texas. The prisoners were marched to Mexico and incarcerated in Perote Prison near Veracruz. Andrew Jackson Leslie was one of thirty released in March 1844. Texas awarded him a tract of land near Helotes, just west of San Antonio where he lived until his death on February 6, 1885. He was buried under an oak tree overlooking Helotes Creek. He never married and left no children. In his will, he left everything to his nephew, Sam G. Leslie. The Fair Grounds in Helotes are on Leslie Road.

David Leslie White, Vice-Chieftain, CLSI clanleslie@earthlink.net

TEXAS SCOTTISH FESTIVAL & HIGHLAND GAMES JUNE 6-7, 2009.

Frank and Lynne Leslie will also host a CLSI tent at the 23rd annual Texas Scottish Festival & Highland Games scheduled for June 6-7, 2009. Once again this event will be held at the Maverick Stadium, University of Texas at Arlington Campus, Arlington, Texas. This is the largest Scottish event in Texas with an average of over 50,000 visitors and 60 clan tents each year. The entertainment is probably the best in the North America. You can visit their website at www.texasscottishfestival.com/index . Mark your calendar and plan to come on out and join us for some fun and to celebrate our shared Scottish heritage!

David Leslie White, Vice-Chieftain, CLSI clanleslie@earthlink.net

MISSOURI TARTAN DAY, APRIL 3-5, 2009

Visit the Clan Leslie tent at the Missouri Tartan Day Festivities

April 3-5, 2009, Frontier Park, St. Charles, Missouri.



Laura Messing and Janet Leslie Pyatt will host the Clan Leslie tent at this year's **Missouri Tartan Day Festivities**. The MTDf is the ONLY Scottish festival in the St. Louis area and showcases Scottish culture through music, dance, food, storytelling and variety of interactive activities. Sample traditional Scottish fare from one of the many vendors, or enjoy the sounds of pipers as they stroll the grounds of beautiful Frontier Park. Be sure to stop by the Clan Leslie tent for refreshments and to meet other Leslies in the area. Admission to this event is FREE. For more schedules, directions and general information, visit the MTDf web site at: www.motartanday.com.

APRIL 17-19 2009

THE RURAL HILL SCOTTISH FESTIVAL AND LOCH NORMAN HIGHLAND GAMES CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA,

Hello Fellow CLSI Members and Friends, come join us at The Scottish Festival and Highland Games which will include Children's activities, Genealogy search, Celtic Music during the day and a Saturday night Celtic Jam and Concert, National Sanctioned competition in Highland Dancing, Athletics and in Piping and Drumming, with over 90+ Scottish Clans being represented. Come visit our Historical Encampment, and try out our Climbing Wall, Battle Axe throwing, and don't forget the retail and food vendors and more.

Admission is \$20 for adults and \$7.00 for Children ages 5-17. On Friday night April 17, 2009 we will have the calling of the Clans which is a sight to behold; this ceremony is a special event where we can show our pride with loud cheers and laughter. Saturday April 18, 2009 you will see the big burly guys throwing the caber and competing in professional and amateur competitions as well as many pipe and drum bands showing you there stuff. This also includes the Saturday night Celtic Jam and Concert. The Saturday night Jam and Concert ticket individually is \$10 per person.

The admission on Sunday, April 19, 2009, is \$10 for adults and \$7.00 for Children ages 5-17. Come join us at the CLSI tent and share your stories and heritage with other members. Clan hospitality tent will be available to members. Hope to see you there since this will be the home of the 2010 CLSI Gathering.

There will be a Clan Leslie Tent Sponsored by Paul Aulbach and Don Abernathy

Paul Aulbach pablosquarter@aol.com

2009 HOMECOMING SCOTLAND LESLIE GATHERING, HOLYROOD PARK, EDINBURGH JULY 25 & 26, 2009

There will be a Leslie Tent in Holyrood Park and there is a contingent of Leslies and Abernathys who have their Homecoming Passports and will be marching in the Parade on the Royal Mile. Brian Lesslie has made arrangements at the Innkeeper's Lodge in Perth and is arranging transportation to and from Edinburgh. Some of the group are planning a trip to Rosslyn Chapel to see the Bartholomew, Queen Margaret, carving.

William Leslie, william.leslie@sympatico.ca

2010 CLAN LESLIE GATHERING

Clan Leslie will be the Honored Clan in the Rural Hill Festival and Loch Norman Highland Games and be honored in the parades and reception dinner.

Paul Aulbach pablosquarter@aol.com

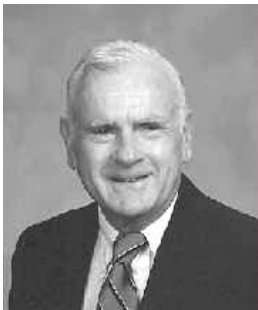
COMING IN THE APRIL GRIP FAST

1. The Little Known Story of A Female Leslie In American History - Matilda Joslyn Gage (1826-1898) by Kathleen Lynch
2. My Great Grandfather's House In Ireland Where My Grandfather Was Born, Is Now My House by Ed Leslie

IN MEMORIAM

MY UNCLE TED LESLIE

Edwin B. Leslie Dallas, Texas



Leslie, Edwin B. Born April 22, 1920 in Berkley, California. Died on January 22, 2009. Ted was born in Berkley, California and grew up in Scarsdale, New York. He attended Greenacres School, Scarsdale high school, the Lawrenceville School and Dartmouth College and Columbia University. He enlisted while at Dartmouth College in the US navy at the age of 19. During World War II Ted served from 1940 to 1945. Ted was with the Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor when the Japanese attacked. He served as a Naval Officer on the USS Flussour, USS Idaho, and the USS Missouri. He was honorably discharged in October 24th, 1945. He was on the Missouri when the historic signing of the peace with

Japan. Ted's career expanded over 40 years as an insurance executive. He was vice president of Reed Shaw Stenhouse of Florida from 1979 to retirement. He was a member of St. James Episcopal church in Ormond Beach and recently associated with St. Michael and All Angels in Dallas. He was very active in the Episcopal community serving on the Vestry for many years and taught Sunday school and confirmation classes. Mr. Leslie is survived by a daughter and son-in-law Kathy and Gary Wall of Dallas and a son and daughter-in-law Tom and Donna Renfro from Sandpoint, ID. Grandchildren are Leslie Wall of Dallas, David Price of Sandpoint, Idaho and Siobhan Kinnaird of Sandpoint, Idaho. He is preceded in death by his wife of 46 years, Micki Leslie. A memorial service will be held on Sat., January 24th at 10:00 a.m. in The Bishop Moore chapel at St. Michaels & all Angels. Memorials may be made to St. Michaels and All Angels Episcopal Church, 8011 Douglas at Colgate, Dallas, TX 75225.

Uncle Ted was the last Leslie of my parents' generation. He will be deeply missed.

His family tree can be viewed at <http://www.leslie.org/genealogy>

Donald F. Leslie donald@Leslie.org

JAMES R. LESLIE, LOWER BURRELL, PENNSYLVANIA

Commissioner, Robert E. Leslie, played the bagpipes at Jim's funeral. Jim was a long time and active member of the Clan Leslie Society.

James Robert "Sonny/#1 Digger" Leslie, 72, of Lower Burrell, died Friday, March 6, 2009, at Allegheny General Hospital, Pittsburgh. Born June 26, 1936, in Arnold, he was a son of the late Robert Reed and Genevieve J. Beveridge Leslie and was a resident of Lower Burrell for many years. He was a 1954 graduate of New Kensington High School (Ken Hi). James began his working career with his father in their family business, R.R. Leslie Trucking, which later became James R. Leslie Excavating and Trucking, Lower Burrell. He most recently worked as a subcontractor for more than 30 years for the Municipal Water Authority of New Kensington as a backhoe operator. He was a longtime member of the Church of God in Lower Burrell, the Municipal Authority of Lower Burrell, where he served as secretary, the Park Commission of Lower Burrell, the Clan Leslie Society International, the Clan Hay Society American Branch/Scotland, St. Andrew's Society of Pittsburgh and the Roundhill Cemetery Association, New Kensington. James was considered a Lower Burrell historian and enjoyed talking with local people about their family histories. One of his greatest joys was spending time with his two beautiful granddaughters. Survivors include his wife of 37 years, Karen Johnson Leslie; son, James MacWilliam (Leanne) Leslie, of Lower Burrell; granddaughters, Alanna and Leah Leslie; sister-in-law, Doris C. Johnson, of Apollo; and his beloved Scottish Terrier, "Linsey". In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his son, Reese MacKay Leslie. The funeral service was held on Tuesday in Church of God, 273 Chester Drive, Lower Burrell. His pastor, the Rev. Douglas R. Crump, officiated. Burial followed in Greenwood Memorial Park, Lower Burrell. To send an online condolence, visit www.rossgwalker.com. Those desiring may contribute the Gerald McGinnis Cardiovascular Institute at Allegheny General Hospital, 320 East North Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15212.

BOOKS NEEDED FOR THE CLAN LESLIE COLLECTION

You can donate your books by sending them directly to the Clan Leslie Library Collection. Contact William Leslie, Library Liaison, at william.leslie@sympatico.ca for the form and address.

With the start of the Clan Leslie collection at the University of Guelph, there is a need to provide some books by or about Leslies, Abernathys, Cairneys, Laings and Moores. Below are some of the books desired:

The Leslies of Tarbert, County Kerry, and their Forebearers by Pierce Leslie Pielou, published 1935 by Brindleys LTD, 224 pages.

Lesley Leslie and Lesley Leslie Supplement and Vevins Notes, 1755 - by Ruth Leslie Cleveland, Published 1979 by the Inter-Collegiate Pres, 210 pages

The People of Leslie, Premnay and Oyne 1696, by W. Black. Published in 2001 by the Aberdeen & North-East Scotland Family History Society

Elephants Have Right of Way by Betty Leslie-Melville, published 1973 by Doubleday, 222 pages.

There's A Rhino in the Rose Bed Mother by Betty Leslie-Melville, published 1973 by Doubleday, 253 pages.

The Queen of Publishers Row: Mrs. Frank Leslie by Madeleine B. Stern, published 1965 by J. Messner, 192 pages

David Leslie White, Vice-Chieftain, CLSI clanleslie@earthlink.net

FOR SALE

I have two Silver Passports (all event tickets) for the 2009 Homecoming Gathering in Edinburgh on July 25 to 26. These cost us \$288 US and I am willing to sell them for \$250 US or best offer.

Contact Dot Leslie at: 814-773-4842 or reldkl@alltel.net

CLAN LESLIE WEB SITE <http://www.clanlesliesociety.org/>

Anybody who has anything to sell can now get it posted on the website.

DONATIONS OF CLSI PUBLICATIONS, PRICILLA RODRIGUEZ

Thanks to Priscilla Rodriguez of Belleville, Illinois for the box of CLS/CLSI publications which included past copies of the Journal, Membership Rosters and the Grip Fast. These will be added to the documents in the Clan Leslie Library.

David Leslie White, Vice-Chieftain, CLSI clanleslie@earthlink.net

FAMILY HISTORY EXCHANGE (A NEW FEATURE)

(See Details of Marlene's Family Tree, February Grip Fast Online)

Hello William

I am attaching three generations of my Leslie family, starting with my great great grandfather Alexander Leslie, who was the first immigrant to Canada in 1832. I like your suggestion of "Family History Exchange" or "Searching for Family Connections". I think either one would be suitable. I would appreciate receiving feedback from anyone who has any family connections.

Regards, Marlene Strudwick at mates2@shaw.ca

CUDOS

Wonderful job on the CLSI Grip Fast. I am already getting calls about people wanting Scholarship applications. Thank you.

Paul Aulbach pablosquarter@aol.com

CLAN LESLIE SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS UPDATE

This is the fourth issue of the Grip Fast Online, sent to members for whom we have an email address. This is an expanded service of publications to keep the members informed and allow more opportunities for members to share their stories and contribute to the work of the Clan Leslie Society International. Please use this online newsletter to give us your views and to share your Leslie (Abernathy, Carney, Moore, Lang, etc) stories. The plan is to keep this letter informal.

Grip Fast. Issues are planned for **January, April, July and October.**

Grip Fast Online. Issues will usually be **February, March, May, June, August, September, November and December,**

The Journal. The Journal will be published annually at the end of the summer when the reports of Games and Gatherings have been completed.

Note: It is *extremely important* that those hosting tents at games and family gatherings send pictures and short reports of these events to the Editor, William Leslie at william.leslie@sympatico.ca

The Griffin. The Griffin will be published annually.

NEXT GRIP FAST ONLINE - MAY

Please send us your stories. Some stories may be published initially in the Grip Fast Online and published again, in more complete form in the Grip Fast or one of the other publications.

Please note the number of different CLSI members who have contributed to this issue.

William Leslie, Editor william.leslie@sympatico.ca

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Justiciar	Vacant			
Piper	Vacant			
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