

Volume 2, Issue 4, June 2009



THE 23RD ANNUAL TEXAS SCOTTISH FESTIVAL & HIGHLAND GAMES JUNE 5,6,7.
Left to right are: David Leslie White, Thomas Leslie Huxtable and his wife Sherry, Lynne Leslie, Joseph Day Lesley, and Frank Wallace Leslie.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Some of the people shown above are responsible for many of the Clan Leslie Tents at Scottish Games and Festivals held during the year.

THE HONOURABLE ALEXANDER LESLIE, ACTING CLAN CHIEF

The Leslie House fire – a silver lining?

A couple of days ago I spoke to the man in charge of restoring Leslie House. I expected the conversation to be depressing and indeed in part it was. However there is cause for optimism too.

The bad news is that the project to renovate Leslie House – to create a new Leslie House in the spirit of the old one – has been put back by months if not years. When the fire happened the first of the apartments was close to being ready for the decorators. The other bad news is that the fate of the building is now in the hands of the insurers, no surprise there perhaps, although the burden of proving that a) the developers had nothing to do with the fire and b) took every precaution against fire in the first place is taking longer and is more taxing than anyone thought. This is probably because of the size of the claim and the current economic conditions. The other issue is that the bank that was lined up for the final round of funding is now in administration and there will be problems there too.

I cannot even imagine the frustration that such a fire must instil in a property developer, after months of struggling with planners and previous owners. I know that it took almost a year to get the previous owners to pay to deal with the dry rot. Almost as soon as the problem was sorted, it went up in flames. No-one yet knows the cause of the fire. The original speculation that it was due to lead being welded on the roof is now known not to have been the cause.

There is good news however. Strangely the severity and heat of the fire meant that the entire interior burned, but very quickly. The outer walls are all intact and in good condition. This means that the developers have much more freedom in their designs of the interior, can use more modern materials and thus leap more nimbly through the hoops put up by the fire department, health and safety executives and all the other gentle folk that must be satisfied with these things.

The other good news is that the planners and Historic Scotland are being incredibly co-operative. They, like me, obviously realise that the developers want to recreate Leslie House in spirit, not simply develop an old house for profit. The community, once opposed to the whole project, now seems to have got behind it and taken it to their hearts.

The bottom line is that whilst the project has been put back by as much as a year or two the reality is that the end result will probably be a house of apartments that really is a new Leslie House, beginning a new chapter in its history and not simply the end of the line.

Alex Leslie, 2nd June 2009

CLAN LESLIE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL – SCHOLARSHIPS

CLSI is offering scholarships to our members. We have two different types of scholarships. One is an academic scholarship valued at \$250. The deadline for the next scholarship is November 30 with the award of one scholarship being made on January 15. The second type of scholarship is for Scottish or Celtic Programs. The amount of this scholarship is \$200 and can be applied for any time. It will cover things such as bagpiping camp, dance, the arts, etc. The person applying for all scholarships must be a member or inceptor member of CLSI. For more information contact a member of the scholarship committee: Paul Aulbach pablosquarter@aol.com, Becky Dobias dobiasrsc@aol.com, or Linda Flowers lflowjingo@sbcglobal.net.

CELEBRATION OF THE 125th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF LESLIEVILLE

Saturday June 20th, 2009

The 150th Anniversary of the Founding of Leslieville in Toronto by George Leslie

William and Sue Leslie will be hosting a Clan Leslie Tent in Leslie Grove Park and will be prepared to answer questions about Leslie Heritage and George Leslie's family, and the Clan Leslie Society International. Harold and Val Leslie who have travelled all the way from Didsbury, Alberta will also be there.

William Leslie william.leslie@sympatico.ca

THE EARLY INFLUENCE OF HISTORY AND THEOLOGY.

(or: how I probably got to be CLSI's Chaplain)

I was inspired by poetry on the Leslie site to write some of my own.

In church, one fine Sabbath,
before we recessed
to the tune of a Sunday School song,
All the children were gathered to witness the sight
of a baptism service in throng.

After church was dismissed,
and the coffee was drunk
and we walked up the hill to our home,
I asked of my mother
why they'd tried to smother
that baby in watery foam.

My mother explained it was washing his soul,
to ensure that it lived on and on.
And then when I asked
"What's a soul?"
she explained
"It's the part that still lives when we're gone".

My great-grandma had died
and I went with the family to mourn,
and her service to hear. And my Grandma deLacy
had taken me up to the coffin
to pray by the bier.

When some relatives questioned her motives that day
and showed their astonished surprise
that a child of just five
was exposed to cold death,
my grandmother opened their eyes!

"Her kitten is dead, and her dear dog is dead,
And death lays about us each hour.
Much better for her to know
and not fear,
than be kept in some Ivory Tower!"

My great-great Aunt Margie
explained the whole thing
while people came by to condole.
"Great-Granny is living in Heaven, you see.
so that God can take care of her soul."

"She was too ill to live
on this planet of ours

and the doctors could not help her more.
Now God's taken her back, and she's living in health,
in our true home on Heaven's bright shore."

"God has a beautiful place for us all
when we leave this old world when we die.
There are gardens and sunshine,
and gates full of pearls;
We'll have fun in the clouds by and by."

Baptism made sense to me after all that,
and the next week I got into trouble
for dunking my cousin
right down in the toilet
while she thrashed and gurgled and bubbled.

With my cousin fished out
And my back to the wall
and the grown-ups calmed down for a minute
I told of the Heaven Aunt Margie described
And said Christa should also live in it.

I wanted to play
with my cousins all day
and never stop having such fun.
So I thought we should all
be baptized to ensure it,
and had just tried to see it got done.

At this point my mother decided that I
(at five-and-a-half, quite precocious)
should learn some theology
suited to stop
more acts of the kind called "atrocious".

She took out some pictures
and showed me the day
I was Christened myself at age 2.
Then my mother recounted my running in church
and my ranting until I was blue.

She explained about Jesus and Mary and Saints,
she explained about Heaven and Love.
And she said that we'd get there
in God's own good time -
There was no need to push or to shove.

Then she opened her jewellery box and took out
some fabric of pretty, dark green.
it was small, it was fair,

and she held it most gently;
upon it some lines could be seen.

"This is our Tartan - my last little bit.
Leslies wear it with honour and pride.
And when you were baptized,
this wee little patch
was pinned to your dress on the side.

Someday when you're older you'll learn of our Clan;
for now, know it's family strong.
We don't know Dad's Clan,
but we surely know mine
And it's history is proud and is long.

On the day you were promised to God
you wore tartan,
for you are a Clan Leslie child.
Right and proper your wearing it
was on that day,
Although your behaviour was wild.

The wee patch was lost over time I must tell,
And more Tartan I got on my own
It is bonny and red
and it matches my hair
and I wear it with all that I own.

I wear it with joy and I wear it with love
and I wear it with infinite pride.
And I wear it remembering
that my first Grace
came with Tartan pinned up at my side.

Samantha Gray, Chaplain, CLSI

GENERAL THOMAS S WOODWARDS REMINISCENSES PT.111.

Wheeling Winn Parish LA., June 21st 1858

by Col A. J. Pickett. A personal account of the Creek nation in Georgia & Alabama.

I see in your history, for the first time I ever heard of such a thing, that Alexander McGillivray was an educated man. That's new to me as it would have been to himself, could he have been shown it in his day. The letters purporting to have been written by him which appear in the History of Alabama, are well written, and show conclusively that they emanated from no ordinary man. But could the author of those letters and McGillivray to whom they are ascribed, look back, they could say that the world is yet as credulous as in their time. If there is any one living that can or could identify the hand writing of a Scotchman by the name of Alex F. Leslie, he could easily tell who wrote those letters. This man Leslie did McGillivray's writing and was worthy of (so far as intellect is concerned) the notice of his distinguished relative of our own country, General Alexander Hamilton.

Leslie was by birth a Scotchman. He came to the Island of Barbados when a young man; from thence to St. Augustine, Fla. He was engaged in business with Forbes, Panthon and others; spent much of his time among the Creek Indians; and was the father of the half-breed Alexander Leslie that the Fort of Talladega was called after. That was Fort Leslie and not Fort Lashly, as they have given it to you. This much, I knew the half-breed as well as any other in the Nation. The history of his father I have had from Hamby and Irish Doyle, (not Nimrod Doyle,) both well educated men, and in the service of Panthon, Forbes and Leslie for years; besides, I heard Gov. McIntosh, of Florida, many years ago, speaking of the many shrewd men that had at an early day come to Florida, say that this man Leslie was the most talented man of the whole. I knew Gov. Clark, of Ga., Gen. Adams, Col. Sam. Alexander and (not James Alexander) all Indian fighters and frontiersmen -- knew McGillivray well and all spoke of him and admitted him to be a man of great natural sense, but never learned from any of them that he was an educated man.

Submitted by Brian Lesslie from a random search of the Internet.

CLAN LESLIE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL IS NOW ON FACEBOOK

CLSI now has its own page on the popular networking site Facebook. Our page lists upcoming events and has listings of members hosting Clan Leslie tents at Scottish Festivals around the world. You don't have to be a member of Facebook to view the page, simply cut and paste this link into your browser: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=155937880572>

This link will allow you to view our Facebook page, but you won't be able to add comments and some of the links will be invisible to you. If you'd like a more interactive experience with your kinsmen, joining Facebook is easy. Simply go to <http://www.facebook.com> and sign up. It's free, and best of all by joining you can view the entirety of the CLSI page, keep up with current Leslie events, ask questions of your fellow society members and chat live with other Leslies who are also members of Facebook. It's really a great way to keep in touch with other CLSI members.

If you would like to have a Leslie event posted on our page, please email your information to Laura Messing at designinvasion@gmail.com.

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

BE PART OF THE LARGEST CLAN GATHERING OF ALL TIME!

On 25 & 26th July, Edinburgh will host the **largest Clan Gathering in history**. Right in the city centre, Holyrood Park will witness magnificent Highland Games. Later, clan members will turn the historic Royal Mile into a sea of tartan with a massed parade before arriving on the Castle Esplanade for the spectacular Clan Pageant.

Click below for more information.

► Celebrate clan history at The Gathering 2009

There will be a Leslie Tent in Holyrood Park and there is a contingent of Leslies, Lesslies and Abernathy's 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, stone carving.

William Leslie, william.leslie@sympatico.ca

SUBJECT: FOUNDER'S QUOTE DAILY

Read Clan Leslie Society for Country, in the quote from Thomas Jefferson.



"It is the duty of every good citizen to use all the opportunities which occur to him, for preserving documents relating to the history of our country."

--Thomas Jefferson, letter to Hugh P. Taylor, October 4, 1823

You have received this email because you are subscribed to Founder's Quote Daily, a service of *The Patriot Post*, the conservative journal of record. To subscribe, link to <http://patriotpost.us/subscribe.php>. To manage your subscription or to unsubscribe, link to <http://patriotpost.us/manage.php> and log in with your email address.



David Leslie White clanleslie@earthlink.net

JOSEPH CANNON LESLIE, ETOWAH, TENNESSEE

Joseph Cannon Leslie, 88, of Etowah, died on June 18, 2008, at Woods Memorial Hospital in Etowah. A native and lifelong resident of Etowah, he was a son of the late Ray and Gussie Wilson Leslie. He was a member of Eastern Star #96; a member of the American Legion; a member of the VFW; a member of the Masonic Lodge; and a member of Carlock United Methodist Church. He was a veteran of the US Army, serving during World War II, Headquarters Battery, 28th Field Artillery Battalion, 8th Infantry, and participated in the Battle of the Bulge. He was a retired school teacher, and had served 20 years on the McMinn County School Board. He is preceded in death by five sisters, Martha Simmons, Sara Weir, Pearl Crockett, Margaret Jones and Sue Brawner. Survivors include his wife, Evelyn Davis Leslie of Etowah; one daughter and son-in-law, Joan and Rex Wilson of Etowah; two grandchildren and spouses, Leslie and Albert Mitchum and David and Sharon Wilson, all of Delano; two great-granddaughters, Sara and Emily Wilson, both of Delano; two sisters, Grace Goodman of Etowah, and Johnnie Barnett of Delano; and several nieces, nephews and other relatives. Funeral service was held Friday, June 20th in the South Chapel of Bordwine Funeral Home with the Rev. Charles Lipps and the Rev. Ben Roberson officiating. The committal service was held at Green Hill Cemetery at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 21st.

SCOTTISH LIFE

Scottish Life is a magazine about Scotland's treasures, traditions, history, lore and legends. Plus, coverage before and after special events and public celebrations. It offers color photographic "tours" of inns, castles, great houses, churches and museums. I have found it of great interest and a reliable provider of excellent information.

The summer 2009 issue of *Scottish Life* has another delightful article by Candace Leslie. Candace and her husband Robert H. Leslie of Bryan Texas visit historic Paisley Scotland this time. Candace writes of the history of Paisley, the abbey being founded in 1163 and the article includes some excellent photos of the abbey and stained glass windows. Of course, Paisley is best known for weaving, thread making and the intricate and multicolored paisley design. The town is also the home of James Coats and the Clark brothers, James and Patrick. These men developed cotton thread and the invention of the wooden spool, or bobbin. These are probably best known by spools of thread marked J.P. Coats or Coats and Clarks.

This magazine is published four times a year and the cost is \$22.50 US for 1 year. You can order online at www.ScottishLifeMagazine.com or call 800-607-4410.

David Leslie White clanleslie@earthlink.net

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

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. Biack. 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

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

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

CLAN LESLIE SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS UPDATE

The Grip Fast Online is sent to members for whom we have email addresses. It 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 - AUGUST

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

Acting Chief of Clan Leslie	Alexander Leslie	alex.leslie@btinternet.com		
	Boreland House, Lockerbie, Dumfriesshire, DG11 2LN Scotland			
Commissioner to the USA	Robert E. Leslie	814-773-4842 reldkl@windstream.net		
	612 No. Maple Ave., Ridgway, PA, 15853-9756, USA			
CLAN LESLIE SOCIETY ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICERS				
2008 – 2009 CLAN LESLIE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL				
TITLE	NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE	EMAIL
Chieftain	Bob (Robert C.) Bailey	6113 El Toro Court, San Jose, CA, 95123, USA	408-224-1190	rcbailey3056@sbcglobal.net
Vice Chieftain	David Leslie White	7313 Old Mill Run, Fort Worth, TX, 76133, USA	817-346-3333	clanleslie@earthlink.net
Secretary-Registrar	Rebecca Dobias	10 Lakeview Drive, Carlyle, IL, 62231, USA	618-594-8273	dobiasrsc@aol.com
Treasurer	Linda Flowers	302 SW 3rd, Tuttle, OK, 73089, USA	405-381-3577	lflowjingo@sbcglobal.net
Council	Donald K. Abernathy	525 East St, Albemarle, NC, 28001, USA	704-982-8253	dabernathy@vnet.net
Council	Joan Leslie Eike	1227 Route 17C, Barton, NY, 13734, USA	607-565-4437	jleike@hotmail.com
Council	Samantha Leslie Gray ANPC	61 Robinson Avenue, Glen Cove, NY, 11542-2944, USA	516-676-5719	riognach@aol.com
Council	Reuben Leslie	12203 Antoinette Place, Austin, TX, 78727-5334, USA	512-837-6181	rlsd@io.com
Council	Laura Messing	1107 Tamm Ave., St. Louis, MO, 63139, USA	314- 781-5481	designinvasion@gmail.com
Council	Loren R. Leslie	4746 Cascade Beach Road Lutsen, MN 55612, USA	218-663-7622	lrakleslie@aol.com
2008 – 2009 CLAN LESLIE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL APPOINTED OFFICERS				
CASSOC Delegate	Fred Leslie	3 Durie St., Toronto, ON, Canada, M6S 3E5	416-763-2586	fred.leslie@utoronto.ca
Chaplain	Rev. Samantha Gray, ANPC	61 Robinson Ave, Glen Cove, NY, 11542, USA	516-676-5719	riognach@aol.com
Fiddler	Anne Leslie	6024 Telegraph Rd., Alexandria, VA, 22310, USA	703-960-0095	lesliefw@aol.com
Genealogist	Joan Leslie Eike	See above		
Herald	Susan C. Abernethy	5643 Limerick Av, San Diego, CA, 92117-1526, USA	858-576-8293	sabernet@trexenterprises.com
Historian	Timothy W. Leslie	3800 Horizon Pl., Fort Worth, TX, 76133	817-764-0244	timothywleslie@gmail.com
Justiciar	Vacant			
Piper	Vacant			
Publications Grip Fast Journal Griffin	William Leslie, Editor	82 Tecumseth St., Orillia, ON, Canada, L3V 1Y2	705-326-6791	william.leslie@sympatico.ca
	David L. White, Laura Messing, Elsie Montgomery, Publications Committee			
Quartermaster	Peter M Leslie	3930 Knowles Road, Wenatchee, WA, 98801, USA	206-890-3053	scotslad@nwi.net
Webmaster	Brian Lesslie Jr.	109 Nimmo Ave., Perth, PW1 2PV, Scotland	01738 560687	less7506@blueyonder.co.uk
REGIONAL CONVENORS				
Canada	Vacant			
Central Region	Laura Messing	1107 Tamm Ave., St. Louis, MO, 63139, USA	314- 781-5481	designinvasion@gmail.com
Europe/Asia	Brian Lesslie, Sr.	4 Albany Terr., Perth, PHI 2BD Scotland	07138 563050	Bless993@blueyonder.co.uk
Mountain US	Vacant			
North East US	John Aulerich	16 Mount Hygeia Rd, Foster, RI, 02825-1435, USA	401-351-4017	jaulerich@yahoo.com
Pacific NW US	Steve Olling	3909 242 nd Ave SE Issaquah, WA 98029, USA	425-557-7672	ollings@comcast.net
Pacific SW US	Vacant			
BRANCH PRESIDENTS				
South East US	Timothy R. Sering	2000 Enon Road Valdese, NC 28690, USA	828-874-2550	trsering@embarqmail.com
South West US	David Leslie White	7313 Old Mill Run, Fort Worth, TX, 76133, USA	817-346-3333	clanleslie@earthlink.net