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THE HARLAW MONUMENT, THE REMAINS OF THE TOWER OF THE CASTLE OF BALQUHAIN, THE CHAPEL OF THE GARIOCH AND THE HILL OF BENNACHIE FROM BALQUHAIN CASTLE, 2011 WILL BE THE 600th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF HARLAW DO YOU WANT TO ADD YOUR NAME TO CLAN LESLIE HISTORY?

The pictures on the front cover show some of the many historic places in Leslie history, around the hill of Bennachie, the Gaudie Burn and the location of several Leslie Castles. Many Leslies were born in this area, lived and died here. Alexander Leslie Klieforth in his book, Grip Fast, History of the Leslies, stated that most Leslies in the world today have ancestors from Balquhain Castle. On July 11, 1411, the hordes of Highlanders led by Donald, Lord of the Isles, after burning Inverness, marched towards Aberdeen with the intention of burning that city. The defending forces of the Earl of Mar and of the Provost of Aberdeen met the Highlanders at Harlaw and a fierce battle ensued. Imagine the feelings of your ancestors and mine that day. That battle took place in their back yard and it is likely that every able bodied man rode out to join their family and neighbours in defending their homeland. We do know that Sir Andrew Leslie, 3rd Baron of Balquhain who was the Master of Horse for the Earl of Mar, lost six of his sons in battle that day. There are reports that many other Leslies were slain at Harlaw. A monument was erected to the memory of the Leslie soldiers near the battlefield. This Leslie's Cross eventually disappeared. In 1911, the City of Aberdeen installed the present monument to the memory of Provost Davidson and the men of Aberdeen who died at Harlaw that day.

A working group made up of Clan Chief, the Honourable Alexander Leslie, David Leslie, former Baron of Leslie, William Leslie, Commissioner for North America and David Leslie White, Chieftain of the Clan Leslie Society International, are planning a series of actions to remember the fallen Leslies of Harlaw. The plan is now in a very preliminary state but the group needs to know the level of interest of Leslies worldwide.

PRELIMINARY PLAN

1. Publish a Leslie history of Harlaw.

The CLSI has decided to revive the historical Leslie publication the Griffin. David Leslie of Leslie has written an article "The Leslies and the Battle of Harlaw" which will be featured in the first edition of the new 2010 Griffin. The Griffin will be mailed to all paid up members of the CLSI and a few will be available for sale to non-members. 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. A new memorial stone is being planned which will depict the Leslie's Cross which disappeared from the battlefield and it will be inscribed with a memorial to the six sons of Sir Andrew Leslie and the other Leslies who fell defending their homes and the City of Aberdeen, that day.

3. The Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Councils are planning some events for the week beginning Sunday July 24, with the laying of a wreath by the Provost at the Harlaw Monument and continuing through that week. A play of the Battle of Harlaw, a re-creation of the Battle, and other historical displays are being planned.

4. You could be a part of Leslie history by participating in the Leslie ceremony to remember the Leslies of Harlaw or by contributing to the cost of the monument. The monument will be dedicated at a ceremony attended by Leslie dignitaries and the fallen Leslies will be properly remembered. It is expected that many Leslies will attend and participate in all the events that week. A Celidh could also be organized.

5. The Leslie Harlaw Remembrance Group needs to know who would like to be there. Depending on the interest, it would be possible to book hotel rooms in the Inverurie area, arrange transportation and joint attendance at events. It takes at least a year to plan such an event so if you are interested in being at this historical event or contributing to the monument remembering the Leslies of Harlaw, please send a message to William Leslie at william.lesle@sympatico.ca. All Leslies, Abernathys, Bartholomews, Carnies, Laings and Moores are welcome to participate. You do not have to be a member of the Society.

OUR TREASURED VOLUNTEERS

There are no words sufficient to thank our volunteers. Our Society depends entirely on volunteers, and their work is vital to our organization. Their commitment and generosity is the bedrock of our Society's survival and success.

Our shared Scottish heritage and interest in preserving it brings us together. Our volunteer positions range in the amount of work from demanding ones such as Treasurer, Secretary/Registrar and Publications Editor to just helping to spread the word about our Society and its purpose, and to encourage others to join. Our volunteers have fun putting on events such as hosting a CLSI tent at a Scottish festival to being the Chair of the International Gathering.

But there is an urgent need to bring more volunteers into the fold. New energy, new ideas and vitality will help to define our future. It is crucial that we maintain our momentum and growth. Don't be afraid to ask. Your contribution will help sustain a lasting legacy. To quote Sir Winston Churchill: "We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give."

As an example, to get started in hosting a CLSI tent at a Scottish festival, volunteer to help a Convenor or tent host with setting up the tent, and also learn how to greet visitors and provide information about our Society. Learn how he or she maintains contact with members in the region. Observe other clan tents and see how they do it. It's not rocket science! If tent hosting is more than you want to do, consider researching and writing an article for our *Grip Fast Journal*.

In particular, we need volunteers for the following positions:

Justiciar or Attorney. In this case, you must be a licensed attorney at law.

Convenor, Canada (All Provinces)

Convenor, Central Region (Kansas, Iowa, Missouri, Minnesota, Nebraska, Michigan, Arkansas, Indiana, Wisconsin, Ohio)

Convenor, Mountain Region (Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota)

Convenor, Pacific Southwest (California, Nevada)

David Leslie White, Chieftain clanleslie@earthlink.net

IN MEMORIAM

Margaret Nadine Abernathy Sering, 84, of Valdese, North Carolina died August 4, 2009. Mrs. Sering was born Aug. 14, 1924, in Burke County, daughter of the late Everette and Bessie Abernathy. Margaret attended Enon Baptist Church and was a member of the American Indian Culture association of NC and Clan Leslie Society International. She was a loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Mrs. Sering is survived by her son, Tim Sering of Valdese; daughters, Bonnie Higgins and her husband, Brent, of Fishers, Ind., Sandra Diedrich and her husband, Andy, of McHenry, Ill., and Cathy Duling and her husband, Terry, of Columbus, Ga.; and eight grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren who knew her as GG and of whom she was very proud. In addition to her husband, Robert Sering, she was preceded in death by her grandson, Jeffery Higgins. Graveside services were held at in Enon Cemetery with the Rev. Gary Garner officiating.

Published in The News Herald on August 5, 2009

COMING TENTS AT HIGHLAND GAMES AND SCOTTISH FESTIVALS

SATURDAY, MAY 29, 2010. ALMA HIGHLAND FESTIVAL & GAMES AT ALMA, MICHIGAN

Rosemary and I will be hosting a CLSI tent at the Alma Highland Festival & Games at Alma, Michigan on Saturday, May 29, 2010.



Rosemary and David first went to the Alma Games in 1995, inquired at the Information Tent if there was a Clan Leslie Society, they then contacted Bob Leslie in Pennsylvania and joined that year. They also signed up David's three brothers as a Christmas gift. The next year, 1996 they arranged for the travel

kit and hosted their first tent. 2010 will be their fifteenth year at Alma. They have not missed a year. Above is a picture of the 2009 Closing Ceremonies and Massed Bands. At left is a picture from Alma 2009. (Left to right) Rodney Leslie, Owosso MI; Ryan Chavez, Grand Rapids, MI; David Leslie, Canton, MI. It was fun to meet all the Leslies at the Loch Norman Highland Games and talk to many Leslies in person that I have communicated with over the years. Come visit us at Alma. **David C. Leslie, Canton, Michigan**

To learn more about the Alma, Michigan Highland Games, go to the web site:

http://www.almahighlandfestival.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=70&Itemid=82

MAY 29 & 30. UNITED SCOTTISH SOCIETY'S SCOTSFEST IN ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

The CLSI will be represented for the second time at the United Scottish Society's SCOTSFEST in Orange County, CA on May 29 and 30. For more information <http://www.scotsfest.com/>

The clan booth will be placed next to Clan Stewart, and will be hosted by Mary Queen of Scots (see picture on the right at this link):

<http://www.scotsfest.com/clans.htm>

Susan Abernethy



JUNE 4 TO 6th 2010. TEXAS SCOTTISH FESTIVAL & HIGHLAND GAMES, UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

Southwest Region, Clan Leslie Society International

Dear CLSI Members;

The time for the 24th annual Texas Scottish Festival & Highland Games is fast approaching. Once again it will be held at Maverick Stadium, University of Texas at Arlington on June 4-6th. This event has it all; Scottish athletics, bagpipes, Celtic harp, and highland dance competitions, educational seminars, over 55 clan tents, hundreds of vendors and the best Celtic entertainment in North America. The entertainment this year includes renowned Scottish balladeer **Alex Beaton**, noted composer and entertainer **Brian McNeill**, folk singer **Ed Miller**, and musical groups including **Clandestine** and the **Rogues**, plus the Celtic rock group **The Killdares**. This festival has grown over the years, and last year there were over 55,000 visitors. The hours this year are Friday 5 PM to midnight, Saturday 9 AM to 10 PM, and Sunday 9 AM to 6 PM.

The Festival will again be hosting the U.S.A. vs. Canada professional athletic team championships. Also scheduled will be championship Scottish Highland Dance, solo bagpiping and drumming contests, amateur athletics, genealogy and history seminars, Scotch whisky tasting and seminar, and the largest pub tent (9,000 square feet!) in North America. For more information, directions, maps, host hotels, and to purchase tickets in advance, you can visit the Texas Scottish Festival website at www.texasscottishfestival.com. The host hotel is the Quality Inn-Arlington Highlands, 121 I-20 East at Matlock Road, Arlington, Texas 76018. Telephone 800-424-6423. Rate: \$75.99 plus tax.

The **Clan Leslie Society International** tent will be open on Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday. Your tent hosts this year will be the Southwest Region Convenor, Frank W. Leslie and his wife Lynne. Please drop in and visit for a bit and celebrate our shared heritage. If you can volunteer for an hour or so, your assistance will be appreciated! We can always use help greeting visitors and telling them about our "family."

NOTE: The opening ceremony and Calling of the Clans will be at sunset on Friday this year, following the Howdy BBQ. **We would like to have as many members as possible there for this event. Afterwards, a photo will be taken for the next issue of the CLSI Journal.**

Yours aye,

David Leslie White, Chieftain, Clan Leslie Society International

Telephone: 817-346-3333, E-mail: clanleslie@earthlink.net

JUNE 26th & 27th. SAN DIEGO SCOTTISH HIGHLAND GAMES, VISTA, CALIFORNIA

CLSI will be represented for the 36th time at the San Diego Scottish Highland Games on June 26 and 27 in Vista, CA.

<http://www.sdhhighlandgames.org/>

Here are some pictures from previous San Diego Games off the website. My boys (dark shirts) are posed with the Chieftain's grandkids, but the only pictures you find of me, I guess, is either at the Kirkin (where my madrigal group performs) or the whisky tasting. I have been the Clans Coordinator for the San Diego Games for all but the first few years of its existence.



Susan Abernethy

JULY 8-11 GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN HIGHLAND GAMES, LINVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

Paul and Janice Aulbach will host a CLSI tent at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games at MacRae Meadows, Linville, North Carolina. The Grandfather Mountain Highland Games are one of the premier games in North America. It is a beautiful setting, and the sponsors have been putting this event on for 54 years. Linville is northwest of Hickory and Grandfather Mountain is 5,965 high! Visit www.gmhg.org for more information.

JULY 17. ORILLIA SCOTTISH FESTIVAL, ORILLIA ONTARIO



William and Sue Leslie will be hosting a Clan Leslie Tent at the Orillia Scottish Festival. Those of you who attended the 2002 Clan Leslie Gathering (Group photo left) will remember the beautiful site on the banks of Lake Couchiching, two blocks from the Leslies' home.

JULY 31 & AUGUST 1. PACIFIC NORTHWEST HIGHLAND GAMES & CLAN GATHERING, ENUMCLAW, WASHINGTON

Steve Olling, Convenor for the Pacific Northwest Region, will host a CLSI tent at the 64th annual Pacific Northwest Highland Games & Clan Gathering. This event will be held July 31 & August 1 at the Expo Center, Enumclaw, Washington. This event has full games to include North American Scottish athletics Championship, NW Regional Harp finals plus much more. For full information on this event, visit their website at www.sshga.org

AUGUST 20. FERGUS SCOTTISH FESTIVAL AND HIGHLAND GAMES, FERGUS, ONTARIO

William and Sue Leslie will host a Clan Leslie Tent at Fergus. We have never attended this Festival and Games before and there has never been a Leslie Tent there although many Leslies are known to be living in the Fergus-Guelph area, including some members of my family. The Fergus Festival at <http://www.fergusscottishfestival.com/> is renowned for being one of the largest Scottish celebrations in North America, attracting over 30,000 people annually. Wish us luck in attracting many new CLSI members.

William Leslie william.leslie@sympatico.ca

RECENT TENTS AT HIGHLAND GAMES AND SCOTTISH FESTIVALS

MARCH 12-14, 2010 MIDLAND SCOTTISH-IRISH FAIRE, MIDLAND TEXAS



At the Midland Scottish-Irish Faire attendance was down from last year. Theresa Dyer joined CLSI on Saturday. The pictures show, from left to right, Frank, Lynne, and the Right Honorable, the Viscount Dunrossil, Andrew Morrison, of the Clan Morrison Society of North America. He was the honored guest at the Faire and was hosted by Joe & Carolyn Alexander of Clan Donald. Joe is also a member of CLSI and thus introduced us to the Viscount. The Viscount lives in San Antonio with his American wife, three daughters and one son. Andrew has been appointed Honorary British Consul, San Antonio and promotes trade between San Antonio and the UK and assists any distressed British nationals in the San Antonio

Area. The Midland Scottish-Irish Faire is held inside the Horse Shoe Arena, Midland, TX the second weekend of March each year. This was the Eighth Faire. Yours Aye, **Frank Leslie**

MAY 15, 2010, LESLIEVILLE, TORONTO, ONTARIO

William Leslie drove all the way to Toronto to host a Clan Leslie Tent at the Leslieville Tree Festival on May 15. Despite the chilly weather, everyone enjoyed themselves and the event went really well. There were many vendors selling their crafts and entertainment for the many kids. This is not a Scottish Festival but these very keen young people are encouraging people and the government in Toronto to plant more trees. Since George Leslie started here with



his very successful Toronto Nurseries in 1845, a tree festival is very appropriate. I was alone in my brand new tent and had the opportunity to tell interested and interesting visitors about Leslie history and the Clan Leslie Society. I also enjoyed telling some people who live in Leslieville about the history of George Leslie and the historical locations in Leslieville.



Last year a plaque was dedicated to the memory of George Leslie and installed in the Leslie Grove Park.
William Leslie, Orillia, Ontario.

ADDING TO THE HISTORY OF THE FAMILY OF LESLIE LOOKING THROUGH THE MANY THINGS TO BE FOUND ON THE INTERNET.

When searching for information found on the internet we come across many things with which we may have a connection. We may not know our ancestors but when we find a new one we are all very pleased to have some association with them for whatever reason we find that suits our life style. We all wish we were very well known or even rich, even comfortable will do. Unhappily most of us will never have the privilege of joining the very happy band in this position; if we are lucky we might find that none of our ancestors were deported to Australia for stealing a loaf of bread to feed his family. We may also hope we have no robbers or murderers or occupants of the poorhouse to think about.



Going back in time is a bit like a blind raffle in the club, we don't know what we are getting until it is too late. We can only hope it's a trip somewhere nice and not an early present to pass on to somebody you don't really like very much.

You will have seen the story about Joan Leslie the movie star in the last Grip Fast. This time I have found an artist who has 11 paintings on show in the Tate Gallery in London. To have any of your work displayed in the Tate is a great feat of skill. It is very difficult to be selected and this shows that you are one of the few artists who has been recognised as one of the greats. I wish I had half of his talent so I could also be on display beside Picasso and Van Gough.

Uncle Toby and the Widow Wadman
By Charles Robert Leslie R. A. 1906
Copyright Tate Gallery.

Other artists displayed in the Tate are, Charles Leslie, George Leslie, George Dunlop Leslie, Sarah Leslie and Georgia Leslie. We can only try and inspire others to follow in the footsteps of our forefathers.
Brian Lesslie, Perth

NEW SCOTTISH PIPE BAND IN TEXAS

Texas has a new Scottish Pipe Band! The 51st Highland Division (Memorial) Pipe Band (headquartered out of Houston) has joined the ranks as one of Texas newest pipe bands. Our website is <http://www.51stpipers.com>. 51 HD Pipe Band is an all-volunteer, non-competitive, military (regimental) pipe band that wears British WWII Khaki drill (KD) and Battledress (BD) uniform. Membership is open to anyone 17 and older who wants to play

in a "regimented, military pipe band." Our band, though currently forming will be taking part in Highland Games, parades and various military association and living history events.

We would like to announce that Pipe Sergeant Neil Clark (former Scots Guards and world famous, Strathclyde Police Pipe Band) has joined our band from Scotland! Neil's grandfather served in 7th Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders during the Second World War. We are honored to have Neil as our primary instructor. Please get the word out about our group and please stop by and visit our website! Michael W. "Mick" Stewart, Drum Major, 51st Highland Division (Memorial) Pipe Band

David Leslie White, Chieftain, clanleslie@earthlink.net

OOR WEE SCOTS

Twa brow lads! Hamish, the pup, is three months old. In these photos, he looks "intimidated." I assure all of you that Hamish is rarely intimidated by anything or anyone! Duncan, the older dog, is a mentor to young Hamish.

David Leslie White



KINGS OWN SCOTTISH BORDERS IN EDINBURGH, MARCH INTO HISTORY, JUNE 2006



The KOSB marched into history in Edinburgh and surrounding towns in 2006. The KOSB was amalgamated into the 1st Battalion of the Royal Regiment of Scotland, the Royal Scots Borderers Battalion. These pictures were obtained from Rory Cooper, a professional photographer whose father Lieutenant General John Cooper DSO MBE CB was the last Colonel of the KOSB. Look at all the Leslie tartan. For more of Rory Cooper's pictures of the KOSB's last parade, go to ftp://76.251.39.16/KOSB_pics-from-flickr.zip

Tim Leslie, Historian CLSI

NEXT PUBLICATIONS TO CLSI MEMBERS

JUNE 2010 – The *Grip Fast Online Newsletter*.

JUNE 2010 - The *Griffin*. First edition since 1998.

JULY 2010 – First edition of the *Grip Fast, the Journal of the Clan Leslie Society International*.

Please continue to send us your stories. We are recording **your history** and we cannot do it without your input. Please send us stories and pictures of your Scottish ancestors or your North American family; we really need them. Note the number of different clan members who have contributed to this issue.

William Leslie, Editor william.leslie@sympatico.ca

WE HAVE SOME FANS OF OUR PUBLICATIONS

William, I thought it (The last Grip Fast) very well done. I really enjoyed the article about the Countess. I learned ever so much more than the Titanic articles.

Thank you! Yours Aye, Becky (Dobias)

Thanks Becky. Regards, William.

Hey Mr. Editor! Great Grip Fast this month. I really liked:

- the top 12 reasons to go to the gathering especially the fact that you don't have to take off your clothes at the airport
- the Titanic story and great pictures
- the story of Brian Lesslie's life
- and the story about the movie star, Joan Leslie (we actually own a copy of that movie since it stars Erik's favourite actor – Humphrey Bogart, and Joan Leslie is right up front in the main credits). Thanks for all your hard work and to everyone who sent in Leslie info!

Rosemary Leslie (Ottawa, Ontario)

Hello Roses;

Thank you very much for your message regarding the March Grip Fast Online. This is the most detailed review I have ever had in 6 years of doing the Grip Fast and the Grip Fast Online. It is great to know what you liked in the March Grip Fast Online, it helps when it comes to putting the next one together. Thanks again. Love Dad.

Hi Dad - looks great, enjoyed the piece on Joan Leslie and the countess of Rothes also...I do plan on joining (finally!) soon...thanks! Love **Will (William Leslie, Edmonton, Alberta)**.

Thanks Will, I hope you got the Membership Form.

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:

Rebecca Dobias, CLSI Scholarship Chairman, dobiasrsc@aol.com,

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