

grip fast online

The Online Newsletter of Clan Leslie Society International



Volume 4, Issue 1, February 2011

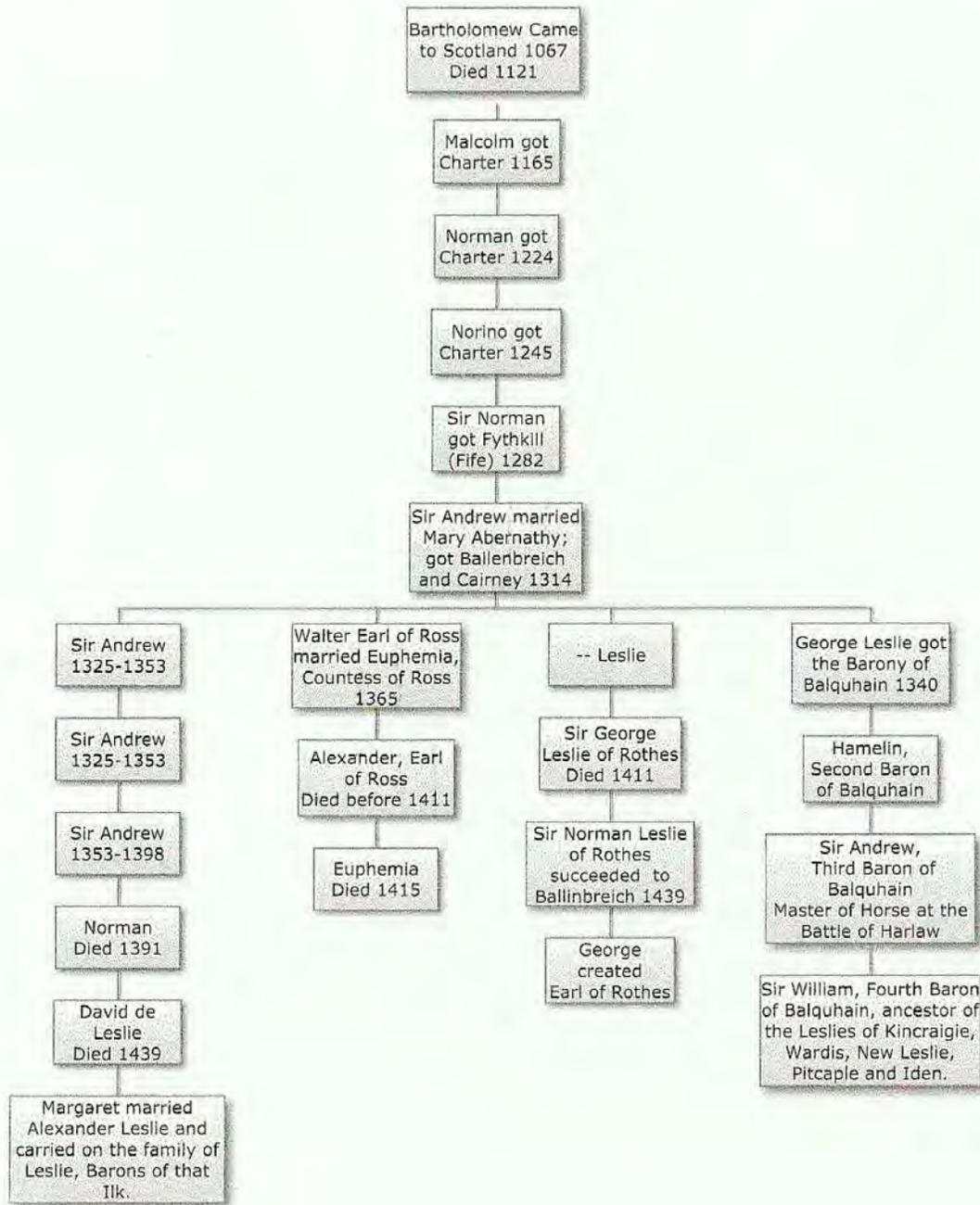


CHAPEL OF THE GARIOCH, REMAINS OF THE TOWER OF THE CASTLE OF BALQUHAIN, HARLAW MONUMENT, LESLIE CASTLE, THE HILL OF BENNACHIE FROM BALQUHAIN CASTLE, LESLIE STAINED GLASS WINDOW IN ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, FETTERNEAR CASTLE

THE LESLIES ARE MAKING HISTORY

The Clan Leslie with the help of the Clan Leslie Society International, the Clan Leslie Society of Australia and New Zealand and some key Leslies and friends have accomplished something that no other Clan has been able to do. The Clan Leslie will be installing a striking monument to replace the Leslie's Cross of 1411 and there will be a Dedication Ceremony and a Clan Leslie Dinner to celebrate the 600th anniversary of the Battle of Harlaw. Those attending the Clan Leslie Dinner and taking the Leslie Tours will have a chance of a lifetime to be immersed in Leslie history.

This family tree, published by Colonel Charles Leslie, 26th Baron of Leslie, in Volume 1 of his History of the Family of Leslie in 1869, is not as detailed as those we are used to on Ancestor.com, but it clearly shows the relationship of Sir Andrew Leslie, 3rd Baron of Balquhain who lived from 1399 to 1412, to Bartholomew.



Bartholomew's Descendants as pictured by Col. Charles Leslie, 26th Baron of Balquhain, in his History of the Family of Leslie, 1869, Volume 1. (With some minor modification by William Leslie.)

The family tree chart shows how the Balquhain Leslies descended from Bartholomew, and will help you to keep your Sir Andrew Leslies straight. The Charters to which Colonel Leslie refers for Malcolm, Norman and Norino are those confirming the ownership of the Leslie lands and the position as Constable of Inverurie. Sir Norman was the first to carry the surname of Leslie and he was granted Fythkill which is now Leslie in Fyfe. Norman's son, Sir Andrew, brought the Abernathy and Carney families into the Leslie family. Sir Andrew was one of the great Scottish Barons who signed the "Declaration of Arbroath" in 1320, in which the Scot Barons declared to the Pope their right to be free of English rule and asked that King Robert Bruce be released from excommunication.

The fifth son of Sir Andrew and Mary Abernathy was George Leslie who was given the estate of Balquhain in the Garioch by his father. He became the first Baron of Balquhain and was succeeded by his son Hamelin. Sir George was buried in 1351 in the churchyard of Logyburno. Sir Hamelin and his wife Ann Maxwell had a son Andrew who became the third Baron of Balquhain in 1378. Sir Andrew and his sons were at the centre of the feuds with the Forbeses and he occupied the old fortress at the peak of Bennachie when the Earl of Mar pursued him. He kept the fort as a place of security.

Colonel Leslie states that in July 1411 Sir Andrew Leslie was the Master of the Horse for the Earl of Mar and one of his chief commanders at the Battle of Harlaw. In this desperate action, Sir Andrew lost six sons, in commemoration of whom a cross was erected on the field of battle and called Leslie's Cross. In another feud with the Forbeses, Sir Andrew again withdrew to his fortress on Bennachie and with his friends and vassals came down from his stronghold and gave battle to his opponents on January 22nd 1429 at Braco, about two miles from Bennachie. Sir Andrew was slain. Sir William Leslie succeeded his father as the fourth Baron of Balquhain.

Several Clans as well as the Provost and the Baillies of Aberdeen were involved with the Leslies in the historic Battle of Harlaw on July 24, 1411. The battle took place on the north side of the River Urie, between Bennachie and Inverurie. It was a bloody conflict between Donald, Lord of the Isles, and Alexander Stewart, Earl of Mar supported by the local families and the Provost and Baillies of Aberdeen. The Tour of the Leslie historical sites will include the sites shown on the first page, the Chapel of the Garioch, the ruins of Balquhain Castle, the Harlaw Monument and the Battlefield, the hill of Bennachie, St John's Church and Fetternear Castle as well as the Leslie Castles of Leslie, Warthill and Lickleyhead. Those participating in the tour will get a chance to immerse themselves in Leslie history by visiting these sites and talking to Leslies who have lived their lives with these Leslie monuments. The full list of historical sites to be visited is shown on the detailed sheet. The tour will include transportation to all the sights and events listed. As those of you who have signed up for the Leslie Tours know, this is a unique opportunity to live and learn Leslie history and to participate in making Leslie history by attending the dedication of the ruby red Leslie's Cross, commemorating the Leslies who fought in that battle which changed the course of Scottish history.

William Leslie william.leslie@sympatico.ca

LESLIE TOURS - TRANSPORTATION AND COSTS, SUNDAY TO THURSDAY

The following arrangements are being made for the Leslie Tours. The costs are based on the number of people who have indicated that they are going on the Tours, including Sunday to Thursday. The cost per person has been worked out at approximately £70 but this is dependent on the numbers being maintained. If the numbers of people were to increase, the cost per person would be appropriately decreased.

The Sunday Clan Leslie Dinner is £30 per person. This is the cost from the Caterer and is also a break even event. No part of the funds raised for the Monument and the Dedication Ceremony will be used for these events.

Therefore for £100 or less, visitors will get the Clan Leslie Dinner and bus transportation to all the Leslie sites. Everyone will be responsible for buying his or her own lunch at all the interesting lunch stops.

Sunday 24th July, 2011 Afternoon :- All guests to be dropped off at Battle of Harlaw site at 1.45pm or shortly before.

Pick up guests from Warthill House, continue to Lickleyhead Castle, Premnay/Auchleven, pick up guests continue to B&B and pick up guests, proceed to Harlaw Memorial.

At 3.00pm pick up guests from Harlaw Memorial and proceed to Chapel of Garioch Church. Service at Chapel commences at 3.45pm all guests to be there before this time – 3.35pm latest.

All guests to be picked up from Chapel of Garioch Village Hall between 5.30pm -6.00pm and returned to B&B, Lickleyhead Castle and Warthill House in that order.

Sunday 24th July, 2011 Evening :- All guests to be dropped off at Warthill House at 7.45pm or shortly before. Pick up guests from B&B, proceed to Lickleyhead Castle and proceed to Warthill House. At 11.00 – 11.30pm pick up guests from Warthill House and return to Lickleyhead Castle and B&B.

Monday 25th July, 2011 All Day :- Pick up guests from B&B, proceed to Lickleyhead Castle pick up guests and proceed to Warthill House for 9.00am. At 9.45am return to Lickleyhead Castle. At 11.45am proceed to Leslie Castle. At 12.30am travel to Inverurie for 1.00pm lunch at the Bennachie Lodge. 1.30pm travel to Fetternear Palace arriving about 2.00pm, 30 minute stop over for photo shoot, proceed to St. John's Chapel for 2.45pm, walk to old Chapel at 3.45pm travel to Balquhain Castle, leave at 4.45pm short visit to Chapel of Garioch and return guests to B&B, Lickleyhead Castle and Warthill House.

Tuesday 26th July, 2011 Late Afternoon :- Timings and exact locations in Aberdeen to be provided. Pick up guests at Warthill House, Lickleyhead Castle and B&B and proceed to Aberdeen for dinner and evening show. Collect at 10.30pm – 11.00pm and return to accommodation.

Wednesday 27th July, 2011 Morning :- Pick up guests from Warthill House, Lickleyhead Castle and B&B at 9.00am for Aberdeen. Timings and exact locations in Aberdeen to be provided. Collect about 9.00pm – 9.30pm and return to accommodation.

Thursday 28th July, 2011 Morning :- Pick up guests from Warthill House, Lickleyhead Castle, and B&B at 9.30am and proceed to East Aquhorities Stone Circle, travel to Kemnay, the Acorn Centre for early lunch at about 11.15am. Leave Kemnay at 12.30pm for Esson's Car Park at Bennachie and drop off guests. Pick up later (time to be confirmed) and drop of guests at B&B, Lickleyhead Castle and Warthill House.

Please note that there may be minor changes in timing due to detailed planning. Also, the City of Aberdeen has not yet been able to confirm the times and prices of their events which we plan to attend. We will inform all those who have committed to these events of any changes.

David Leslie from Leslie

A QUESTION OF DRESS FOR THE CLAN LESLIE DINNER

Since many of the people attending this year's events associated with the Battle of Harlaw commencing 24th July, 2011 will be travelling from overseas, the question of dress code has been raised. Travelling, as most will be by air, with restricted baggage weight allowances will make it difficult to carry additional clothes especially heavy kilts etc.

When we organised the 1995 Clan Leslie Gathering here at Leslie all we asked was that those attending wear something with a touch of Leslie tartan. The touch of tartan could be anything from a piece of Leslie ribbon upwards and we do not wish to insist on formal attire, although some of the more local Leslies will no doubt feel disposed to wear their Leslie kilts and trews.

The only thing I would not wish to see at either the Church or the Dinner is people dressed in jeans. I do not think the above dress code requires carrying additional baggage. I look forward to meeting all those who will be attending the Harlaw events. Good wishes to you all and a safe journey to Scotland in July.

David Leslie from Leslie

YOU CAN STILL MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND THESE HISTORIC EVENTS

We would be happy to add anyone who would like to attend these historical events. You will be immersed in Leslie history in the heart of early Leslie lands and castles and meet the Chief of the Clan Leslie and Leslie Barons and Lairds. Please let me know now.

William Leslie william.lesle@sympatico.ca

TIME CAPSULE

We are asking for your suggestions for items to be included in the Time Capsule which will be installed as part of the Leslie's Cross. The Order of Service Booklet includes all the names of the donors as well as the Dedication Service and it will be printed on a special material to prevent its deterioration in the capsule. One of the things we thought of including was a set of 2011 UK coins. Electronic and photographic material is difficult and expensive to include.

David Leslie from Leslie

CLARIFICATION OF FUNDING FOR THE CLAN LESLIE DINNER

There have been one or two questions about the funding for the Clan Leslie Dinner. The funds raised for the Leslie's Cross will be used only for the monument itself, the time capsule and some small expenses related to the Dedication Ceremony. If there are any funds left over, we will get back to the donors to suggest an appropriate use for these funds. The costs of the Clan Leslie Dinner will be paid entirely by those attending; the cost is £30 and includes dinner and wine. The expense for the Leslie Tours involves hiring a bus to transport those who are participating in the tours from Sunday to Thursday and will be paid entirely by the people taking the tours.

William Leslie william.leslie@sympatico.ca

WARTHILL INVERURIE ABERDEENSHIRE AB51 5BJ

CLAN LESLIE DINNER CELEBRATING THE 600TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF HARLAW

24TH JULY 2011

M E N U

Canapés

Mini Haggis Tartlets

Smoked Salmon on Cucumber & Brown Bread

Venison Pate on Mini Oatcakes with Red Currant Jelly

Beef Stroganoff

Rice

Steamed Summer Vegetables

Mini Meringues with Cream, Chocolate Mousse, Berries

Coffee Tea Chocolates

Wine and soft drinks included

If anyone has any special dietary requirements, please let us know.

Candida Leslie

CLAN LESLIE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL AWARDS HONORARY MEMBERSHIPS

The Chieftain and Council of the CLSI have awarded Honorary Membership in the CLSI to the following:

- Mr. Georg Dorsch, Baron of Leslie, Leslie Castle, Aberdeenshire
- Dr. Nelson Ying, Baron of Balquhain, Aberdeenshire
- Mr. Sebastian Leslie, 15th Laird of Warthill, Aberdeenshire

These gentlemen have agreed to accept this honour.

David Leslie White, Chieftain clanleslie@earthlink.net

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

MEMORIAL DAY - HONORING CLAN MEMBERS WHO SERVED IN THE MILITARY

I had a call from the Clans Coordinator (retired Marine) of the Costa Mesa Scotsfest. Since these Games are on Memorial Weekend, he always does a military honors thing and this year he wants to extend it to honoring clan members who served in the military during their lives, who have passed away since last Memorial Day.

He would want to know:

The person's name. Their service branch. When and where they served.

Anyone with any of this information, please contact : **Susan Abernethy** sabernet@trexenterprises.com

COMING TENTS AT HIGHLAND GAMES AND SCOTTISH FESTIVALS

Please remember to send us a notice of your coming Tents at Games in advance and to send a short report and two or three photographs afterwards.

TEXAS

Frank W. Leslie, Southwest Region Convenor, plans to host a CLSI tent in 2011 at the following events:

MARCH 11-13, Midland Scottish-Irish Faire <http://www.chspb.org>.

APRIL 2- 3, San Antonio Highland Games. <http://sahga.org/>

JUNE 2- 5, Texas Scottish Festival & Highland Games, Arlington <http://www.texascottishfestival.com/>

NOVEMBER 11-13, Salado Scottish Clan Gathering & Highland Games. <http://www.ctam-salado.org/>

ABERDEENSHIRE

AUGUST 06. The Green, Aboyne, Aberdeenshire, Scotland. I will be hosting a Clan Leslie Tent at the Aboyne Games.

David Leslie from Leslie <http://www.aboynegames.com/information/location/>

CALIFORNIA

MAY 28 MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND. UNITED SCOTTISH SOCIETY'S SCOTSFEST IN ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA. Susan Abernethy will portray Mary Queen of Scots at the Clan Leslie Tent.

Susan Abernethy

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

JUNE 25th & 26th. 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.

Susan Abernethy

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

WE HAVE SOME FANS OF OUR PUBLICATIONS

William; congrats for another excellent issue of the *Grip Fast Online!* Well done. The cover photo of Leslie Castle in winter is outstanding.

David Leslie White

2014 HOMECOMING SCOTLAND

William; the Grip Fast is great—I really enjoy getting them. I wish my son, Andrew, and I could join you all next summer for the Harlaw dedication, but we went to Scotland this past summer and won't be able to afford another trip so soon. I hope there will be lots of pictures and videos posted on the Clan Leslie Society Facebook page.

Just a suggestion for the next issue—2014 marks the 700th anniversary of Bannockburn and I heard that there will be another Gathering of the Clans in Scotland to coincide with it. Hopefully, Clan Leslie will participate in the gathering. These events are far enough in the future that, if informed now, Leslies from all over will be able to plan and save to be there.

I look forward to meeting you some day.

Ken Leslie, Vallejo, CA

2012 CLAN LESLIE GATHERING, LOON MOUNTAIN RESORT, LINCOLN, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Make plans to join us for the 2012 Clan Leslie Society International Gathering, in conjunction with the New Hampshire Highland Games in Lincoln, NH. Traditionally held on the 3rd weekend of September, the New Hampshire Highland Games are the largest Scottish cultural festival in the Northeast. These games also have a tradition of outstanding entertainment (You can see their 2010 entertainment line-up on their web site as a reference). Although dates for the 2012 games have not been announced, I will make them available to everyone as soon as they are made available.

Lincoln, New Hampshire is tucked away in the scenic White Mountains, making it the perfect venue for our gathering. To find out more about the New Hampshire Highland Games, please visit: <http://www.nhscot.org>. For more information about other attractions in the Lincoln (and nearby Woodstock) New Hampshire area visit <http://www.lincolnwoodstock.com/vacation/attractions.php>

And of course, I'll be posting updates to this event and others on our Facebook page at:

<http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=696321738&ref=ts#!/group.php?gid=155937880572&ref=ts>

Laura Sawyer Messing 781-272-2065(phone) designinvasion@gmail.com (email)



CLAN LESLIE ON FACEBOOK

Have you checked out our Facebook page lately? If you haven't, you're missing out on some great posts by Clan Leslie Society members, and other Leslies who are not members. You don't have to have a Facebook account to view the posts, events and photos, but you DO have to have an account to contribute to the page. If you're unfamiliar with Facebook, or if you've heard conflicting information about it, allow me to give you a little information about what it is. Facebook is a social networking web site that allows people to connect via short "posts" (a brief sentence about what you or your kinsmen are doing), photos, etc. You can even post videos to our Clan Leslie Society page. It does not take the place of our web site, or our newsletters, but is rather a compliment to each. Say, for example, you are hosting a Leslie event and you'd like to get the word out about



it. You can simply go to our Facebook page (via the link at the end of this article) and add a small blurb about the name, time and place of your event. After the event, you can upload photos or videos to show everyone what a great time the Leslies had. If you don't feel confident uploading your information to our page, simply email me the event or photos you'd like to add and I'll be happy to do it for you.

Our group page is checked almost daily by me to make sure there are no inappropriate entries or discussion topics. The main thing I need from other members, especially those not on the council, are their announcements for upcoming venues and festivals where Leslie tents or events will take place. This will eliminate guesswork as to where Leslie tents will be and encourage more people to come out and participate. Members can add their own information to the page, but most feel it's easier to send their announcements to me for inclusion to the list of

events.

The fact that members can add content to our page and really keep in touch instantly is a phenomenal thing. It's another way we can let people know we're here and that our society is active and fun. I think you will also enjoy all of the posts and photos from your fellow kinsmen.

To find or access the CLSI page on Facebook, simply Google "Clan Leslie Society International" and the fifth entry down is this: "Clan Leslie Society International/Facebook"

Clan Leslie Society International is the official Clan Leslie organization and your place to connect with Leslie kinsmen from around the globe.

www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=155937880572

Click on the link and you can access the page. To add comments or to connect with other Leslies that use the page, you need to become a member of Facebook. This is easy and free, just go to <http://www.facebook.com/> and fill out the brief information panel on the home page. That's it! Even if you don't want to have an actual Facebook page, joining gives you complete access to connect with other Leslies via the CLSI page.



To include your event on the CLSI Facebook page:

Send your information to:

Laura Sawyer Messing, designinvasion@gmail.com

NEXT PUBLICATIONS TO MEMBERS

March 2011 – *The Grip Fast Online Newsletter*.

April 2011 – *The Grip Fast, the Journal of the Clan Leslie Society International*

May 2011 – *The Grip Fast Online Newsletter*.

Please continue to send us your stories. We are recording **your history** and we cannot do it without your input. 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

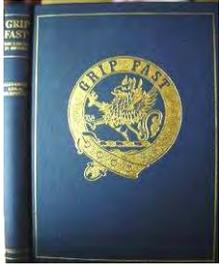
CLAN LESLIE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL – SCHOLARSHIPS

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:

Linda Flowers, CLSI Scholarship Committee, lflowjingo@sbcglobal.net

PETER M. LESLIE, QUARTERMASTER, CLSI

Clan Leslie items for sale are listed on our website, www.clanlesliesociety.org click on the Items for Sale link.



The list of items includes a description, price and photo along with how to order. The Clan Leslie items listed are:

1) Grip Fast – Leslie's in History, a beautifully hardbound book, detailing the Leslie clan from its inception (290 pages), authored by Alexander Leslie Klieforth.

2) The Griffin Reprints, First Series, - No. 1: The Clan Society, some Leslie History and Heraldry, soft cover book (98 pages), printed by The Clan Leslie Charitable Trust, Edinburgh, Scotland.

3) Post Cards – 2 styles. One style contains King Malcolm's promise to Bartolf and the origination of our clan name, and the other style provides open space for your personal note.

4) Grip Fast Pin

5) Grip Fast Patch



The post cards were developed by Laura Messing and can be used by members to tell friends of upcoming Scottish events, to recruit prospective CLSI members and to help increase interest in all events Scottish. A free packet of "giveaway" postcards is available for those Conveners/Tent Hosts who host a CLSI tent.



Peter M. Leslie, scotslad@nwi.net

YOUR SOCIETY NEEDS YOU AND YOUR FAMILY'S STORIES

The Clan Leslie Society International is made up of a dedicated group of people whose main objective is to preserve Clan Leslie history and to create fellowship among members of this ancient and historic family. The publications of the CLSI, the *Grip Fast Online*, the *Griffin* and the *Grip Fast, Journal of the CLSI*, collect, communicate and preserve Leslie historical stories. The Society promotes Gatherings of Clan members so that they can meet their distant cousins, meet the Clan and Society leaders and share family stories. The Clan Society also provides leadership in preserving family history through the growing Clan Leslie Collection in the Library of the University of Guelph. The commitment to offer academic and Scottish arts studies scholarships has helped young Clan members to join in celebrating their heritage. Officers of the Society are joining the effort to make sure that Leslies killed in one of the most significant battles in Scottish history, the Battle of Harlaw, are not forgotten. The Society is active and vibrant and needs your participation.

The *Grip Fast Online* is sent to many individuals who have shown an interest in the Clan Leslie. We know that if you are reading this that you have an interest in the ancient and distinguished history of your family. Why not send us your stories and pictures and help expand and preserve the recorded history of the Society?

Check to see the vacancies where you can serve the CLSI and make a difference. Convenors are needed for various Regions in the USA and Canada. A Registrar/Secretary is needed and I could use help with our publications.

William Leslie, Commissioner Clan Leslie, North America,
william.leslie@sympatico.ca

CLAN LESLIE

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CLAN LESLIE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL - ELECTED (COUNCIL) AND APPOINTED OFFICERS

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Quartermaster	Peter M Leslie	Phone 206-890-3053	scotslad@nwi.net
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	Clan Leslie Society International Web Site - www.clanlesliesociety.org		

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Pacific SW, USA	Vacant		
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