



GRIP FAST

JOURNAL

The Newsletter of Clan Leslie Society International

September 2018



A Gathering of Kin

Highlights from the Clan Leslie Society International
2018 Gathering, June 7-10
Salt Lake City, Utah

See Page 5

The Honourable Alexander Leslie, Chief of Clan Leslie



From Salt Lake to Scotland

The dust has almost settled on our recent trip to Salt Lake City. It was a trip to remember – the scenery was amazing, the welcome was as warm as the weather and the Games themselves were well organised, busy and above all, fun. Well done and thank you to Jordan Hinkley and his family for all their hard work.

Not long after we were back than we were on the road again – albeit a shorter one – as the children in Leslie Primary School in Fife were completing their term projects before the summer holidays.

The projects were on Leslie – the town, and Leslie – the family. We were asked to go and present the prizes for the best projects, and talk a little about our family and the town from where we came.

What impressed and inspired us was the enthusiasm for the work and the depth of research that these eight year olds had put into their work. I learned some new things about my Great Grandmother and the Titanic (I didn't know that she had paid £860 for her ticket, which probably included her maid and cousin). As important, I was able to show them the watch that she gave to Able Seaman Jones of Lifeboat Number 8. They also got to pass round the picture of my father as an usher (called Gold Rod) at the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, as well as the sporran and belt that he wore on that historic day.

Our trip to Fife also meant that we were able to meet with Brian and Petra Lesslie and talk about our recent – in principle – decision to have the next Leslie Gathering 2020, in Scotland, alongside the Aboyne Highland Games.

So, while Brian and David Leslie begin to work on the logistics before we make any formal promises or announcements (accommodation is not easy), it is worth putting the weekend of the 8th August 2020 in the calendar. It could be fabulous.

2020 has two anniversaries. The first (and some would say the important one!) is that it will be 25 years since our last Gathering at Leslie Castle in Leslie, Aberdeenshire.

The second, which perhaps is slightly more important, is that 2020 is the 700th Anniversary of the Declaration of Arbroath (our declaration of independence), which was signed by, among others, Andrew de Leslie.

It has been an exciting year already – and it is only September!

Alex Leslie
September, 2018

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ABOUT THE COVER

CLSI Members at the 2018
Gathering Salt Lake City, Utah.
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ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP

The success of any organization large or small depends on its leadership. Not just the chief official but a team of knowledgeable dedicated executives and its governing body. Clan Leslie Society International, CLSI, is fortunate to possess those assets

A case in point. As Chieftain, I had spent the past two years working and planning with the hosts of the 2018 Gathering in Salt Lake City, Jordan Hinckley and his mother, Judy. I had been looking forward to the events which would be held in conjunction with the Utah Scottish Festival and Highland Games. Two weeks prior to the Gathering, I sustained a spinal injury requiring urgent neurosurgery prohibiting my attendance. Although disappointed, I was confident that the Vice Chieftain, Laura Messing, and the Treasurer, Linda Flowers, could take over on short notice and assume the responsibilities for working with the Hinckleys and conducting the business of CLSI and its biennial membership meeting. From all reports, the Gathering was a great success.

Nevertheless, the strength of CLSI is not just dependent on the leadership abilities of the elected executives, i.e., the Chieftain, Vice Chieftain, Treasurer, and Secretary/Registrar.

It comes from the interest and support of Clan Leslie and its Chief, The Honorable Alexander Leslie, and his representative, William Leslie as the North American Commissioner of the Clan. Alexander is active in the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs as its Vice Convenor. He takes great interest in CLSI, being available for counsel and guidance. In addition, he writes a report for the Grip Fast Journal and regularly attends the CLSI Gatherings especially if Clan Leslie is the Honored Clan where he often serves as Chieftain of the Festival and Games. William, a former CLSI Chieftain, is well versed in Clan and CLSI history. He serves the CLSI Council as an Ex-Officio member.

The management of the Society is conducted by its governing board, a Council consisting of the four elected executive officers and six additional members elected at large. Council meetings are held as called by the Chieftain, at least semiannually and more frequently as required. Having served for five years as a Council member at large and four as Vice Chieftain, I can attest to the effectiveness of the Council in conducting the business and program direction of the Society as prescribed in its Constitution and Bylaws and in the best interests of its members. I could encourage any member who possesses administrative skills and an interest in serving CLSI to consider standing for election as vacancies occur. The future success of the Society depends on such leadership involvement.

Yours aye,

Loren Leslie, MD

CLSI Items For Sale

Our website has a great selection
of Leslie items for sale!
Visit our online store at:
www.clanlesliesociety.org/store

The Scottish Island That Buried America's Dead

It is the whisky-making Scottish island, world famous for its peaty single malts and warm hospitality. But the isle of Islay, in the Inner Hebrides, is now being recognised for an almost forgotten example of huge courage and humanity.

A hundred years ago, Islay was on the frontline in the battle at sea during World War One.

Read the article at:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-43948079>

Welcome New Members!

Sarah Lessley
Lutz, FL

Debby Leslie
Rocheport, MO
Associate Member

Ron Leslie
Rocheport, MO

David Abernethy
Bluffton, SC

Leslie Hicklin
Clemson, SC

David Lasley
Honolulu, HI

Ruth Trombetta
Waldport, OR

Mary Erler
Washington, DC

Greg Keefe
Logan, OH

Jamie Leslie
Prescott Valley, AZ

Lorena Leslie
Los Angeles, CA

Robert Stevens
Denver, CO

Leslie Davies
Salt Lake City, UT

Mary LaCombe
Salt Lake City, UT

Rufus Leslie
Picayune, MS

Rennly Williams
Salt Lake City, UT

David Lasley
Raleigh, NC

Lynn McGinnes
Berlin, CT

Dave Duguid
San Diego, CA

Chad Leslie
Olathe, KS

Eric Leslie
Marysville, WA

Juha Kainulainen
Kuohu, Finland

Michael Leslie
Denver, CO

Norene Leslie
Denver, CO
Associate Member

Kathryn Challenger
Tierra Verde, FL

Sonya Stewart
Columbia, SC

Charles A. Moore
Orlando, FL

Emma Reed
Orlando, FL
Inceptor Member

Luckett Reed
Orlando, FL
Inceptor Member

Cillian Moore
Snellville, GA
Inceptor Member

Michelle Smith
Orlando, FL

Jennifer Green
Orlando, FL

Karen Green
Leesburg, FL

Tom Leslie
Toronto, ON

Carol Hudson
Eastover, NC

Mary Allen
Laurel, MD

Lisa White
Paris, France

William Fiet
Leslie, Scotland
Associate Member

Carol Weld
Bel Air, MD

Trent Leslie
Washington, MO

Shelia, Auten
Swartz Creek, MI

Walter Leslie
Carr, CO

Election Nominations Announcement

Election time for CLSI is approaching and nominations are encouraged for several important positions. CLSI must elect a Vice Chieftain and a Secretary/Registrar.

According to the bylaws:

Vice Chieftain. The Vice Chieftain shall meet the qualifications set under Article II 4-2. The Vice Chieftain will perform the duties of the Chieftain in his/her absence, disability, or decease, and shall perform other duties as directed by the Chieftain or Council. The Vice Chieftain shall be elected for a term of two years, and no Vice Chieftain may serve more than two consecutive terms.

The Bylaws state that the Secretary/Registrar:

Secretary/Registrar. The Secretary/Registrar shall keep records of Society proceedings, maintain correspondence files of the Society, receive and process applications for membership and notify applicants of their enrollment, and maintain current membership records. The Secretary/Registrar shall be elected for the term of two years.

Persons interested in running for any of these offices, please contact **Chris Johnson, Secretary of CLSI at: cjohnson355@gmail.com or 1113 FOXHAVEN DRIVE, GREENSBORO, NC 27455.** Please send a short bio and a picture no later than October 15th for printing in the next issue of Grip Fast Journal.

Some Account of the Settlement of Fergus in Upper Canada

This account comes from pages 529-531 of *The Quarterly Journal of Agriculture*, Vol. V, March 1834-March 1835. Published by William Blackwood and Sons, Edinburgh; and by T. Cadell, Strand, London, 1835.

It is not altogether unknown to our readers that Mr. Fergusson of Woodhill, after a preliminary visit to Canada, of which some account first appeared in this Journal, has established himself for a time in that province. The leading object of Mr. Fergusson is to form a settlement, where, in a desirable location, he may establish the junior branches of his family in contiguity with each other, and in the midst of a respectable circle of countrymen and friends. We have lately had a communication from Mr. Fergusson of a tenor most gratifying and satisfactory.

To make a selection among the townships of Upper Canada is no easy task. Four points would seem to have been kept steadily in view, and in the following graduation: 1st, Exemption from local disease, such as fever, ague, &c; 2nd, A copious supply of pure and wholesome water, with a sufficiency of mill power; 3rd, A rich and productive soil; and 4th, what may be considered commercial advantages, such as vicinity to water carriage, &c. These, with some exceptions as regards the last, Mr. Fergusson has found to his entire satisfaction in the Township of Nichol, district of Gore, Lat. 43 ½ degrees N., Long ½ degrees W.

The salubrity of the climate is undoubted, fever and ague being unknown. The Ouse or Grand River, with fine mill-falls of fifteen feet, fronts and partially intersects the block of 8000 acres, running for miles between romantic cliffs of limestone; and the Irvine, a copious stream, nearly divides it, while springs and creeks are to be found on almost every lot. The soil is a dry friable mould with rich clay substratum upon a limestone bed, useful and valuable for every agricultural purpose. The timber, which is very large, consists of all varieties of maple, elm, birch, cherry, butter-nut, cedar, &c. There is found a sufficiency of pine for home use, though not so abundant as in some other townships, from the quality of the soil being too rich for pine. The only advantage to be urged against Nichol is, being remote from the Great Lakes. The distance, however, from the centre of the township to Burlington Bay on Lake Ontario will not exceed forty or forty-five miles at the highest computation, and, by this route, the expense and delay upon the Welland Canal will be entirely avoided. A ready market for surplus produce will be found for many a year within the township itself, and Mr. Fergusson, to our knowledge, has made such arrangements to promote the breeding and feeding of live-stock amongst his settlers, as must render any such distances, or a present indifferent state of roads, of comparatively minor importance.

A village has been commenced in a delightful situation upon the Grand River at the Little Falls, where a carriage bridge has been thrown across from rock to rock; a saw-mill and dam are nearly ready; and a grist-mill (not without a run of stones for The brose of auld Scotland) is fixed to be in operation ere long. A commodious

two-story tavern is now open and well kept, and, to shew (sic) the use to which it has already been appropriated, the pages of the Dundas Weekly Post, "a genuine settler's newspaper", gives this interesting account: "St. Andrew's Day in the Back Woods. – This National Festival was celebrated upon Monday, December 1st in the village of Fergus, Township of Nichol, with true Caledonian spirit, heightened by that zest which must ever attend the 'gathering' of countrymen so far from their native home. That day had been selected by Mr. Fergusson to lay the foundation of a church and school-house, and a numerous assemblage mustered for the purpose. The object was happily accomplished, and, after a suitable address from Mr. Fergusson, in which he named it St. Andrew's Church, the settlers, with some friends from the adjoining townships, make a party of twenty-six, adjourned to the newly-erected tavern, where Mr. Fergusson entertained them at dinner. Under many disadvantages, Mr. Black produced the dishes of the day in high perfection. A better haggis never shewed (sic) his "sonsy face" and a glass of genuine Glenlivet kept all right. A two gallon punch bowl, manufactured in the village by Mr. Petty, from curled maple, was vigorously plied, and a merrier party, we will venture to say, were nowhere on that evening assembled. A St. Andrew's Society was constituted in due form, and we doubt not will flourish, as it seemed a dream to those who here witnessed a party, surrounded with comforts, if not the luxuries also, of civilized life, where, a few short months ago, the foot of man, except a hunter, had never trod." While adverting to the erection of the church and school-house for the use of the settlers, we may mention that we know the firm resolution of Mr. Fergusson to admit of no settlers of doubtful or indifferent character, for any temptation of price.

The settlement of Fergus has every prospect of success. In one short season, and under all the disadvantages of a commencement, above 3000 acres have been sold to emigrants of the very first class, combining industry, capital, and skill, and who will undoubtedly prove a nucleus around which many others will cluster. Then our excellent and worthy friend Mr. James Webster, (would that we could spend an evening with him the Back Woods, for he is a capital hand at a crack), whom Mr. Fergusson has now associated with him in the purchase, and Mr. Buist, a worthy and intelligent farmer from Strathmore, entered upon the land in January 1834, not a vestige of civilized life was to be found. Already above seventy souls are denizens, with many casual visitors, and all the initiatory processes of chopping, logging, house-building, &c, are going briskly forward. Neither have amusements been overlooked. Arrangements have been made to form a library for the winter evenings, and a village band gives fair promise of harmless recreation to old and young. Curling stones are in preparation to ply upon a noble reach of the river; while deer, bear, wolves and feathered tribes abound in the forest. It is altogether an interesting scene, and has our warmest wishes for success. Independence is doubtless before them, let industry and sobriety be their guides. To those amongst us who are looking to the western world we would say, visit Fergus and ponder well upon the advantages of a healthy district, and a respectable social circle, ere you finally decide upon a home.

Bonnie Rudnisky

A Gathering of Kin, 2018

BY JORDAN HINCKLEY, HOST OF THE 2018 CLSI GATHERING

Sometimes, kin are people you do not know, but with whom you share a part of your past. The gathering weekend above all other things was about kin to me.

A bit of history:

Growing up, we always went to the Utah Scottish Festival. The festival is in June and it has always been right around my birthday so to me it was always something cool to do for my birthday. Every year we would go, see the pipers, see the athletics, and look around to see if we could find a clan where we belonged. Our family names never were the major clans, I did not have a Wallace or Donald or Scott anywhere that I knew of. We were Clarkes, and Martins on my mother's side after all and we did not see any of those names in big letters on a banner telling me that these people were MY kin. At the end of the day, though I did not know who my clan was, or where I fit, I knew that these crazy Scottish people were who I had come from. I always teared up hearing the pipes play Scotland the Brave, and Highland Cathedral, and I knew that somewhere in this madness was a place I belonged. Growing up I felt it in my bones, so when it came time for my prom in High school, instead of a tuxedo, we rented a kilt and that was the first time I had ever worn one.

Somewhere in the back of my mind I wanted to find my place, but for prom, it was a stop gap and I was excited to at least be wearing a kilt for this. Finding my place would come later. As I got older, the idea sat in the back of my mind that one day, when I was ready to get married, I would find my place and maybe, just maybe, I would wear a kilt, rented or otherwise to my wedding.

In the spring of 2012, this happened and the tartan I wore was the tartan of Clan Leslie. I had searched, and looked at my history and finally decided that this was the one, and that was where I fit. There was only one problem, as far as I knew, there were no other Leslie's in the state besides my immediate family. In June of 2012 I set up my first tent at the Utah Scottish Festival representing my Clan, shortly thereafter I joined the Utah Scottish Association board and have helped make this festival happen ever since. Of course there were times when it was lonely, it was my immediate family after all who was holding our booth, but I was here and I had finally figured out where I belonged.

Two years ago I was approached about hosting the Clan Leslie Gathering at my festival in 2018 and I was nervous, but at the same time excited to have this opportunity. The gathering is when the people from your clan come together, enjoy the festival, have a business meeting and generally get to know each other. Last weekend, I had 26 members of the Clan

Leslie Society Intentional, including our Clan Chief come to our games as the honored clan.

It was strange, every time I looked around my booth, there were kilts just like mine, and people who knew some of the same clan stories, and things I had read about over the past few years. Here were people who wanted to help me do what I do better, and all of them were willing to step up and teach me things I never knew about hosting a tent, or talking to new members. These were MY people. I ate, drank, laughed and nearly cried with people who live many miles away but are in one way or another related to me. In this moment, it was not just me and my family it was family I never knew who were here with me.

It is hard to know how to judge the success of an event. Some may say that it is all about how many people you have show up, or how many names you get on a list, or if things went smoothly. In this case we had our hiccups, but it all worked out. Sure, we rewrote the script a couple times, we marched last when we should have been first, but we did it in style we did it as a family. We all had a good time as kin, we had some laughs, a drink or two, but at the end of the day, I found my people.

There is something else that happened this weekend that just makes me light up on the inside. At one point, a dear friend, and kinsman from another side of the family told me he wanted to talk to our Clan Chief. He told the Chief of our Clan just how much he appreciated me, how proud he was of me, and how good of a guy I was. He did not have to tell him this, he felt it was important, and that touched me deeply. This weekend I found my people, I found where I fit, and no matter what I know I have friends and kin who want me to succeed, I do not have to be alone.

The root of the word kindred is kin, and this weekend I found some truly kindred souls with whom I share a history, it may not be a near one, it is not in the past century, but it is a shared history. In my heart I know where I belong. But there is something more, I know that my son will grow up knowing where he belongs and that is worth the world to me.

I want to take a moment to thank my mother, my wife, and my sisters for everything they did to make things go smoothly. Without their help, none of this would have come together. They worked long hours to help me make things work as well as they did often working behind the scenes so it all came together and I could not have done it without them.

Lastly, for my Leslie's I have to say: What?!?!

GATHERING PHOTOS



Above: Members of CLSI assembled for their group photo prior to the Chief's Banquet.



Above: Vice Chieftain Laura Sawyer Messing (right) and her mom Janet Leslie Pyatt



Above: Chief Alex and Miranda at the opening ceremonies.



Left: Southwest Convenor Frank Leslie (right) and his wife Lynne Leslie

— GATHERING PHOTOS —

Right:
Chief Alex
chats with
former Chieftain
Tom Huxtable
and CLSI
member
Dean Messing.



Above:
(left and right)
Clan Leslie is
ready to march
in the opening
ceremonies!

Left:
Having your
own piper is
cool but having
THREE pipers is
pretty amazing!
Council member
and CLSI Piper
Gale Walker (far left)
is accompanied
by fellow pipers
Maureen McFarlane
(center) and
Barbie Sands (right).





Left: Chief Alex and Miranda looking fantastic for the Chief's Banquet. Above: Mountain Region Convenor and Gathering host Jordan Hinkley chats with Tom Leslie.



Above:
CLSI Treasurer Linda Flowers and her grandchildren McKenzie (beside Linda) and Dakota (front), son Adam Flowers (back) and daughter-in-law Danielle Flowers.



Left:
CLSI members gather in the tent prior to the Chief's Banquet.

How-To Fest

Saturday, May 12, 2018, The Main Louisville Free Public Library, held its 8th How-To Fest, from 10:00am – 3:00pm. It was advertised as “How to learn 100 new skills in just 5 hours!” The Scottish Society of Louisville’s presentation was from 1:00pm-3:00 PM was titled, “How To Be A Highlander.”

We presented five different topics, some with the aid of PowerPoint presentations, that included, “How to Fringe a Tartan Bookmark and historical information on Tartans”. Examples included a fringed throw of the Stewart Tartan; a sheepskin wool, tanned rug; a loom used by one of our members, with bookmark size tartan strips to fringe as a handout. An authentic Kentucky Tartan Kilt that was displayed on a dressmaker’s form with a Bonnie Prince Charlie Jacket. [The official Kentucky Tartan was made official by Proclamation of former Kentucky Governor, Paul E. Patton in 2000. The Kentucky Tartan was created by Scottish Society of Louisville Past-President Pat Murray-Schweitzer and Past-President Rupert Furgerson.] This segment was presented by Judy Stubbs, Recording Secretary.

Another presentation was “How to make Scotch/Bourbon” by current President, Jeff Forbes and Past President, John Dickson. They showed samples of a variety of grains used to make the spirits of life and discussed the differences between Scotch and Bourbon. No sampling was allowed.

Next was a presentation by Melissa Ingram (Commissioner of Hospitality) on “How to make Scottish foods”. Melissa

displayed specific Scottish food items and discussed how they were prepared. Samples of shortbread cookies very given to visitors.

Robbin Goodin was next and presented on “How to do Scottish Dance”. Several members invited the visitors to participate in learning a Scottish dance. Robbin is Commissioner of Regional Celtic Events.

The last presentation was on “How to become a Scottish Reenactor”. The typical dress was worn, and period weapons were on display. This presentation was by Jack Bowling and Bruce Wilson, Reenactors.

Additionally, a PowerPoint Slideshow of “The Geography of Scotland” by Dr. Andrew Day from the University of Louisville, was running on a laptop, which captivated the audience!

The Society held a children’s table of activities that included clothing to try on, coloring pages, tartan bookmarks to fringe, and a puzzle of a Highland Cow; and another table held our books of lists of names, books of colored copies of tartans, and books of Clan descriptions. These tables are always popular as our Society members help visitors to begin their search for their Scottish Heritage and Ancestors.

We are pleased with the turnout of visitors for our Presentations. We enjoyed meeting new people and we are thrilled that the Library has asked us to return next year!

Judy Stubbs



TENTS AND GAMES

**CLAN LESLIE MEMEBERS HOSTED TENTS EVERYWHERE!
THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR CONVENORS AND TENT HOSTS.**



Frank and Lynne Leslie

Convenor Report for the 32nd Annual Texas Scottish Festival & Highland Games

The 32nd Annual Texas Scottish Festival & Highland games was held at a new venue: the Wise County Fairgrounds in Decatur, TX and was considered a success. Lynne carried the Leslie shield banner during the Calling of the Clans Friday night due to me carrying the Wallace banner. We had sunny weather for the weekend. Wind gusts up to 32 MPH on Friday damaged a number of Clan tents, mine being one. Repair parts are on order. Saturday and Sunday were both breezy but nothing like Friday. I informed the Festival Clans Coordinator that Clan Leslie Society International will be back next year.

Frank & Lynne Leslie
Convenors

FREE PUBLICATION FOR ALL OF YOUR CLAN MEMBERS WHO HAVE EMAIL!

How would you like for all of your Clan Members to receive Beth's Newfangled Family Tree in their very own home/email each month?

It's possible and it is FREE. Just send one email address to bethscribble@aol.com of a member of your clan who has the capability to forward BNFT to everyone twice a month. Section B comes about the 15th and Section A comes about the first of the issue month.

When send the publication to Alastair at electricscotland.com, I will also send a copy to your person - who will then forward the section to everyone. That's it. FREE. No strings, no kidding.

Many clans have already taken advantage of this offer.
Join them for FREE.

If you would like to have news of what your clan is doing within the BNFT pages, that's equally easy. Just add bethscribble@aol.com to your electronic mailing list. If you prefer, send a copy of your newsletter to Beth Gay Freeman, 688 Camp Yonah Road, Clarkesville, GA 30523.

We do have a brand new HughesNet phone: 706-514-0423. I'm looking forward to working with you and your clan.

Aye,
Beth



Halos, Wings and Harps: The Angels Among Us

We get Messages from time to time, and when we are too deaf to hear them, they may literally fall at our feet. I was turning over two or three possible topics for this edition of Grip Fast Journal in what I like to refer to as my mind. While I pondered, I managed to knock off my desk a small angel candy

dish in which I keep paperclips. Then, when I reached for a reference book, another fell out instead about angels in stained glass. Later that morning as I practiced my harp, a score fell out of a stack of music next to me and landed on my feet. It was a piece I had been looking for over the past several months: the Angel's Hymn, by composer Rhett Barnwell (Seraphim Publishing). Shortly after that, I got a call from a dear friend whose family has seen some rough times recently. She once had sea horses as pets and she loves anything to do with them. Knowing all this, I sent her a tee-shirt with sea horses on it and she called to thank me saying "You're an angel!!". At which point I finally got the Message...

The New World Dictionary gives several definitions for angels. The first two are 1. "A messenger from God (in some religious beliefs); one of an order of spiritual beings that are attendants of God." And, 2. "A conventional representation of such a being, usually as a winged human figure clothed in white." Usually, angels are portrayed as beneficent beings, protecting and guiding humankind, and even animals and nature. Images of angels have changed over the centuries according to culture. Now they often appear sweet-looking, or with hinted sexuality in their portrayals, or they are drawn like cute little kids. Yet in the Bible and in other religious works, angels have to say "Fear not!" when they appear to humans. They are not cute in any way, but awesome, numinous creatures who frequently and thoroughly alarm those who behold them, requiring the angels to offer reassurance.

According to a CBS poll, 77% of US citizens believe in angels. (<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/poll-in-nearly-8-in-10-americans-believe-in-angels/>) Some years before, Fox News had also released information saying that while 77% of US citizens believed in angels, in Denmark and the United Kingdom, only at 30-40% of the people did so. (<https://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2012/i-do-believe-in-angels.html>.) One may attribute the difference to the more secular

outlooks found outside of the US. Nevertheless, one third or more of that population holding a belief in angels is significant. The fact is that since the beginning of civilization, humans have believed in Divine Beings. The book, *Born To Believe* (Newberg, A. and Waldman, M.R., 2006) details how and why we are biologically 'hardwired' to believe in God. And as to the Beings themselves, all manner of good fortune and/or disaster was laid at their feet as the prime causes of it all. From ancient times, angels were seen as holy helpers, powerful spirits somewhat below God in heavenly rank, and even as emanations from God, intervening in human lives for the good.

All faiths have special spiritual beings who attend and bless us. Christians, Jews, Muslims, Ba'h'ai and Sikhs all believe in angels and in personal guardian angels who accompany each of us through life. Zoroastrianism (also called Farsi) which originated in the fertile crescent on the Arabian Peninsula, was the first to have specific ideas about angels. There were seven major emanations from God (the Amesha Spentas) which took on lives of their own with attendant duties and areas of the world to oversee. These, two and a half thousand years later, would become the archetypes for the great archangels of the Abrahamic faiths, Judaism, Christianity and eventually Islam.

Angels are mentioned frequently in both Old and New Testaments, and in the Apocrypha, which is considered Canonical by the Roman Catholic Communion. In Exodus, according to Jewish tradition, it is an angel who tells Moses to remove his sandals as he stands before the Burning Bush of God "for that whereon thou standest is holy ground". In Exodus again, God tells Moses he is sending an angel before him on his journey. And also in Exodus (25: 18-20), God gives instruction to Moses on how to build a sanctuary ark (a repository for the scrolls of the temple), and specifically tells him to carve cherubim for it and where place them. Abraham's wife Sarah (who is well past childbearing) and her serving woman Hagar are both assured by angelic visitors that they will each bear a son who will have many descendants. Daniel is guarded in the lion's den by an angel, as are Shadrak, Meshak and Abednigo who are protected in the fiery furnace. Jacob wrestles with his angel, and even Zachariah gets to speak with an angel who awakens him in the middle of the night and instructs him about God using the symbols of lanterns and olive trees. In the Apocrypha, Tobias journeys with an angel who is then recognized as Raphael - the angel of healing - whose name is taken from the Hebrew "Rapha" (healer) and "El" (God): "healer sent from God". Yet it is Gabriel ("messenger of God") and Michael ("who is like unto God") who are the first angels identified by name in the Bible. The New Testament begins with The Gospel

of Matthew and reports Gabriel waking Joseph out of a sound sleep to tell him that marrying Mary is the right thing to do. Luke gives us the Annunciation of Mary, and the angelic choirs bringing news to the shepherds. After visiting the Holy Family, the Wise Men are warned by an angel to avoid Herod and go home another way, and Jesus is tempted by the devil and then ministered to by angels. In the final Book of The New Testament, Revelations, St. John the Divine has visions of angels pouring out their bowls of prophecy at the end of the world. And we are all advised by the Psalmist to be charitable and care for others “for by doing so some have entertained angels, unaware.” Angels don’t hesitate to interact with us, it would seem.

Often countries declare a guardian angel: Michael is Israel’s. None of my research turned up an archangel for either Canada, the US or Scotland. But Scotland has her own bright and shining angel, a silvery beauty 10 meters high, sculpted by Andy Scott who created the magnificent Kelpies mentioned in an earlier edition of this Journal. She is called Angel of the Nauld, has been named Arria, and is a very modern interpretation residing in the Village of Cumbernauld.



Angle of Nauld

There are angels for everything under the sun, and even the sun itself if we wish to speak of Uriel, described as the “sun’s Regent”. Despite only three angels being named in the Bible, other sources and traditions gives us many more. Angels surround us in art and architecture, in music, in movies and media, in our speech... anywhere we chose to look in everyday life. My students gave me an angel lapel

pin for my lab coat at the end of this semester. Walk into our medical office and you can’t miss the collection of angels that patients have provided us over the years. Sometimes angels are part of our personal rituals. The children’s prayer that begins “When at night I go to sleep, fourteen angels watch do keep...” for example. And in Jewish homes before the Sabbath meal, the lovely and soothing song Sholom Aleichim is sung, welcoming angels to the home, inviting them to share the Sabbath peace, and to leave a blessing when they depart. Angels inspire humor, too: years ago a cartoon showed a mouse child holding its mother’s hand and pointing upward with the other at a passing bat. The caption was “LOOK, Ma!! It’s an ANGEL!!”

We aspire to angelic standards while knowing that we cannot meet them. Angels, whatever else one may say about them, are almost always reflections of the highest, purest good. Christ, the prophets, all of the holy women and men who have walked this earth are still human in form. Angels are mystical, they are archetypes, ways of being, to which our imaginations must give substance. They are rare, luminous, other-worldly, and unknown but not unknowable. Any art collection you choose to name will demonstrate this. The way we each think about angels is as unique as they are. Our concepts of angels may be as diverse as the kids in white sheets with tinsel halos at the yearly church Pageant; the beautifully detailed terra cotta angels on the towering Christmas tree in the Metropolitan Museum of Art; a glowing and powerful image gazing out of a stained glass window; a beneficent and grace-filled, formless energy; or the sweet-faced angel child on your coffee mug. Wings? Halo? White robe? Not everyone sees angels that way, and that’s just fine. We are, as Newberg and Walden contend, hardwired for belief in that which is beyond our everyday experience, and comprehension. We are open to all the possibilities of the holy, to new visions of how transcendence and grace may appear. And that leaves us with a lot of wondrous, awe-filled spiritual territory to explore. At least 77% of us are content with that. Beannacht Leat, my cousins.

Samantha Leslie Gray, Chaplain, CLSI

Read about Lt. Gen. Alexander Leslie

<https://allthingsliberty.com/2013/10/general-leslie-really-died/>

Lang May Yer Lum Reek

Long may your chimney smoke!! This is an old Scottish birthday wish, and means 'long may you live to keep your hearth fires burning'. It is your Chaplain's privilege and pleasure to wish a wonderful birthday and healthy, happy personal new year to each and every member of CLSI. The birthdays since our last edition and upcoming toward our next are as follow:

APRIL Trent Leslie - 4/1; Nikita Eike - 4/3; Joan Eike, Scott Wm. Leslie - 4/4; Bonnie Gleason - 4/5; Michael Abernethy, Diana Gay, Linda Flowers - 4/6; Timothy Pannone - 4/7; Ann Musmanský - 4/9; Dakota Flowers, Leila White-Vilmouth - 4/11; Sammie Rainey - 4/12; Craig Allen Leslie, Rufus Leslie, Tomas Leslie - 4/13; Theodore Stone III - 4/14; Donald Leslie - 4/18; Robert E. Leslie - 4/19; Clement Hoffman - 4/23; Leslie Craddock - 4/25; Doris Derrington, John Leslie, Nora Mayer - 4/26; Karen Ingersoll, Jo Lawrence, Thomas Leslie - 4/29; Barbara Seeley - 4/30.

MAY Linda Leslie McNamee, Joseph Thompson - 5/2; Craig Cairney - 5/3; Vera Denny, Richard Leslie - 5/5; James Leslie - 5/6; Lisa White - 5/14; Adam Flowers, Margaret Kelly, McKenzie Flowers - 5/16; John Benz - 5/18; Peter Gray, Jonathan Leslie, Priscilla Roderiguez, Sonya Stewart - 5/19; Orrin Gould - 5/20; James Arnaud, Shiloh Hockman - 5/23; Brenda Meyer - 5/25; William Leslie - 5/28; Susan Abernethy, Lillian Green - 5/30; Benjamin Harris, Leah Leslie - 5/31.

JUNE Tammy Lacey Asterlind - 6/3; Dan Leslie - 6/4; Michael David Duce - 6/5; Linda Jones, George Pravaz-Leslie - 6/7; Hames Abernethy - 6/8; Olivia Phillips - 6/10; Frances Greer - 6/11; William Leslie - 6/15; Roy Abernathy, Elaine Wood - 6/16; Lucket Reed - 6/18; Betty Biggs - 6/20; John Luedecke - 6/22; Tait Goos - 6/25; Doris Lee - 6/28; Douglas Wilcox - 6/30.

JULY Donald Abernathy - 7/4; Glen Abernathy, Carol Law, Dierdre Russell - 7/5; Walter Leslie, William Leslie, Kathryn Challenger - 7/7; Chester Harbert - 7/8; Arthur Leslie, Thomas Leslie IV, Chester Maritz, Linda Schroder - 7/13; Carol Hudson - 7/15; Kurt Regling - 7/16; Melanie Cave - 7/20; Alyson Leslie, Moreita Leslie, William "Bruce" Leslie - 7/21; David Richard Duguid, Gary Leslie - 7/23; Karen Green - 7/25; Patrick Masson - 7/26; Nancy Bitterling, Robert H. Leslie - 7/31.

AUGUST Peter Evangel - 8/2; Stephen Leslie - 8/3; Marca Gibson - 8/5; Michelle Smith - 8/8; Margaret Brown, Harold Leslie, Richard Lynch, Shelia Auten - 8/10; Dean Messing - 8/11; David Abernethy - 8/13; Robert Abernathy - 8/14; Betty Starr - 8/15; Jennifer Green - 8/18; Robert Abernathy, Riley Lanier - 8/22; Anne Maret - 8/24; Irene Bush - 8/25; Loren Leslie, Timothy Leslie, Leslie Short - 8/26; Michael Leslie - 8/27; Lorena Leslie - 8/31.

SEPTEMBER Tom Huxtable - 9/2; David Lasley - 9/3; Jeffrey Kern, Spencer Stubbs - 9/4; Jamie Leslie, Tom Leslie, Judy Stubbs - 9/5; Bruce Eike, Brendan Stubbs - 9/7; Virginia Moore - 9/8; Nell Bonaparte, Leslie Davies - 9/9; David Hanson, Michael Leslie - 9/10; Samantha Gray - 9/11; Kristina Alquire, William Fiet - 9/12; Jane Roe - 9/13; Kirk Leslie - 9/14; Elizabeth Johnson, James Lessly, Abigail Vetter - 9/16; Rose Marie Phillips - 9/17; Michael Gearman - 9/18; Brent Carpenter - 9/19; Martin Brown, Phyllis Dubois, Steven C. Leslie, Juha Kainulainen - 9/22; Stephen Leslie - 9/23; John Gaffney - 9/24; Janet Pyatt, Charles A. Moore - 9/26; Anna Grimm, David Lasley - 9/28; William Leslie - 9/29; Jerry Anderson - 9/30.

To all celebrating: SLAINTE'!!

KEEP OUR COLLECTION STRONG!

The Clan Leslie Collection at the McLaughlin Library, University of Guelph, depends on donations from the members. This collection has grown to be the largest collection of Leslie information in the world. But to keep it growing, more funds are needed. This collection is not static. As one item is discovered and added to the collection, the information from that item often leads to other items. We do this to be in accordance with our Constitution "To collect Clan Leslie memorabilia." More specifically, in the Bylaws to our Constitution is "Archives and Library. The Society shall collect and store books, articles, records, manuscripts, pamphlets and other materials pertaining to Clan Leslie, the Society and its members . . ." Currently our collection efforts have halted due insufficient funds. Your support will be warmly welcomed! To donate by check, please make your check out to **CLSI** and write "**Library Fund**" on the "Memo" line and mail to **Linda Flowers, CLSI, 302 SW 3rd St., Tuttle, OK 73089**. To donate by PayPal or credit card, contact Linda at **LFLOWJINGO@SBCGLOBAL.NET**.

The Alexander Leslie

ERIEAU - Just the mention of the Alexander Leslie brings smiles and memories back to dozens of Eriean residents today.

The coal carrier played an important role for 36 years in the history of this tiny, Lake Erie-side fishing and resort community.

"I well remember the baby buggy parades each time the ship came into port," said Molly Vidler, whose late husband, O.J., worked on the ship "as a kid."

Vidler said mothers would all push their kids to the pier in baby buggies to watch the ship's arrival and to greet their husbands who worked onboard.

Crew members included Garry Apfeld of Eriean, who went from high school to working in the ship's galley at the age of 16 as a porter.

"It was a great time in my life," he recalled Monday. "I had good meals, room and board and a weekly pay cheque."

Apfeld, 80, is one of only a few remaining area residents who worked onboard the Leslie.

"We loaded coal at various ports along the southern shore of Lake Erie, including Cleveland and Toledo," he said.

Apfeld said a large number of area residents who joined the Royal Canadian Navy, including O.J. Vidler, served onboard the Leslie.

Chatham historian John Rhodes described the Leslie as "part of the very substance of the community of Eriean."

The Leslie was named for the manager of the Lake Erie Coal Company and measured 336 feet in length with a beam of 48 feet.

The Leslie was built in 1900 and could carry 5,500 tons of coal. First known as the Hutchinson, she was also called the H.A. Rock and bore that name until 1927 at which time was she was renamed the Alexander Leslie.

Rhodes, in one of his many history books, wrote that he could still recall the first time he saw the ship, which he viewed as legendary.

"We were visiting my grandmother, who had a cottage at Eriean, and had decided to go to the pier," he wrote. "Passing between the two buildings at the pier, I glanced up and saw what I referred to as the biggest thing I had ever seen in the world. This behemothian carrier of coal loomed so close to me I felt I could reach out and touch her side."

By the early 1960s the coal industry was all but dead.

"Where houses, stores and factories were at one time all heated by coal, they were now heated with natural gas," wrote Rhodes. "Where most factories had generated their own electricity by way of coal-fired boilers, they now bought electricity from local utilities."



Rhodes wrote that the two huge coal hoists in Eriean now sat in solitary disuse.

"The Alexander Leslie, once proud in the service of king coal, no longer shunted back and forth across the lake to Cleveland, but sat forsaken at her berth," wrote Rhodes.

On Wednesday, April 15, 1964, former employees of the ship and other spectators gathered at the pier in Eriean to bid a final farewell.

Rhodes wrote they listened in reverent silence as the great ship's whistle discharged a last goodbye - three long and two short blasts - and with that departed the harbour.

"People watched as she faded from sight," wrote Rhodes. "The Alexander Leslie was gone."

She was sold to the Norlake Steamship Company and remained in service on the Great Lakes as a grain carrier until 1969 when she was sold for scrap.

Doug Barnier of Eriean said he can easily recall the great ship arriving in port from Cleveland.

"I was pretty young at the time but it was always a celebration when the ship made port," he said. "Many of the crew members hailed from Eriean."

The Alexander Leslie was built in Cleveland and was wrecked on Point Iroquois, Lake Superior in the great storm of Nov. 9, 1913. She was salvaged and later returned to service. She was extensively rebuilt in 1920.

The Leslie was acquired by the Lake Erie Coal Co. Ltd. and remained in service until laid up in the early 1960s.

bob.boughner@sunmedia.ca



7TP?Rf=@Q cLan Leslie soc teq ,
612 N. Maple Ave. Ridgway, PA 15853

For publication:

July 7, 1995

LARGEST LESLIE GATHERING IN MODERN TIMES!

On June 16, 17 and 18, 1995, over 325 Leslies gathered at Leslie Castle in Aberdeenshire, seat of the Barony of Leslie since the 10th century. This special occasion was to celebrate the name of Leslie, now 925 years old.

David Leslie, owner, rebuilder and occupant of Leslie Castle along with his wife Leslie Leslie and daughters Angela and Yvonne conceived the idea of a grand birthday celebration for Leslies worldwide to gather for this historic event. Attending were Leslies from as far away as Australia, New Zealand, Chile and North America as well as from the United Kingdom. This was perhaps one of the largest, if not the largest, single gathering of any Scottish family in modern times.

Opening ceremonies included an address to the group by Lord Rothes, hereditary Chief of Clan Leslie, a welcome from the local Gordon District Council as well as by David Leslie, Baron of Leslie. The three day event included tours of Leslie Castle and nearby other ancient Leslie houses and castles, genealogical information, entertainment by the Garrioch Fiddlers, the Grampian Police Pipe Band, the Belmont Brass Ensemble, David Low - Piper and Highland Dancers and at the evening ceilidh, Anne Leslie of the C lan Leslie Society provided traditional Scots' fiddle tunes. A regional Scottish Country Dance group also entertained with dances.

This was also an opportunity for clanfolk to join the Clan Leslie Society, the only such Leslie organization in the world with over 500 members and which operates via authority of the Earl of Rothes, Chief of C lan Leslie. Interested persons are invited to contact Bob Leslie, Secretary C.L.S., 612 N. Maple Ave., Ridgway, PA 15853. Leslie Sept members of Abernethy, Bartholomew, Cairney, Lang and Moore/More descent are also very welcome to join.

Information about visiting Leslie Castle, now a small private hotel can write to Leslie Castle, Leslie, By Inch, Aberdeenshire AB52 6NX, Scotland.



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Contact her if interested!

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Our Society, the **Clan Leslie Society International**, was originally founded on May 10, 1978 as the American Clan Leslie Society. Hence, on this May 10th, 2018, our Society is 40 years old. **Happy Birthday!**

Membership Dues Now Due

Members owing 2013 membership dues should have received an invoice by email or mail in the middle of July.

Dues are now due. Please pay your dues as soon as you can. Dues can be paid by check, money order, PayPal,

Visa, MasterCard or Discover card. If paying by check or money order, please mail to Linda Flowers

CLSI Treasurer, 302 SW 3rd St. Tuttle, OK 73089. If paying by PayPal, use the PayPal email address

LFLOWERS1954@YAHOO.COM. If paying by credit card, I need the card type, name on the card, card number, expiration date, and security code on the back of the card. If you have questions, please contact me at

LFLOWJINGO@SBCGLOBAL.NET or 405-381-3577.

CLAN LESLIE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL – SCHOLARSHIPS

CLSI is offering scholarships to our members. We have two different types of scholarships. They are the Alexander Leslie Klieforth Memorial Scholarship (Scottish and Celtic Activities) and the Sherry Huxtable Memorial Academic Scholarship (Academic Studies). The academic scholarship valued at \$250 and the Scottish or Celtic Programs scholarship is valued at \$200 and both can be applied for at any time. The Scottish and Celtic Activities scholarship 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

CLSI OFFICERS CONTACT LIST

CLAN LESLIE

Chief of Clan Leslie

The Honourable Alexander Leslie
Auchenflower
Amisfield, Dumfries
DG1 3LS
Scotland
alex@disruptiveviews.com

Commissioner of Clan Leslie, North America

William Leslie
70 Creighton St.,
Orillia, Ontario, L3V 1B2
Canada
Phone 705-326-6791
w.leslie@rogers.com

CLAN LESLIE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL ELECTED (COUNCIL) & APPOINTED OFFICERS

Chieftain

Dr. Loren R. Leslie
14601 Atrium Way, Apt. 338
Minnetonka, MN, 55345, USA
Phone 952-938-3595
lrieslie1@aol.com

Vice-Chieftain

Laura Messing
12 Dennis Dr.
Burlington, MA, 01803, USA
Phone 314-440-6951
designinvasion@gmail.com

Treasurer

Linda Flowers
302 SW 3rd,
Tuttle, OK, 73089, USA
Phone 405-381-3577
lflowjingo@sbcglobal.net

Secretary

Christine Johnson
1113 Foxhaven Drive,
Greensboro, NC 27455, USA
Phone 336-656-4971
cejohnson@triad.rr.com

Registrar

Dane Gay
15307 Winding Ash Drive
Chesterfield, VA 23832
804-223-0559
dane_gay@disciplefish.net

Ex Officio

David Leslie White
Tom Huxtable

Council

Bob (Robert C.) Bailey
6113 El Toro Court,
San Jose, CA, 95123, USA
Phone 408-224-1190
rcbailey3056@sbcglobal.net

Council

Samantha Leslie Gray ANPC
61 Robinson Avenue,
Glen Cove, NY, 11542-2944, USA
Phone 516-676-5719
riognach@aol.com

Council

Lew Johnson
1113 Foxhaven Dr.
Greensboro, NC 27455, USA
Phone 336-656-4971
ljohnson355@gmail.com

Council

Gale Walker
30 Calder Bay
Winnipeg, MB
Canada R3T 5L9
204-269-5577
galew259@shaw.ca

Council

Susan Abernethy
5643 Limerick Ave.
San Diego, CA 92117
858-576-8293
sabernet@sbcglobal.net

Chaplain

Rev. Samantha Gray, ANPC
(See Council Address Listing)

Co-Editors, Publications Grip Fast, Journal of the CLSI, Griffin

Linda Flowers
(See Treasurer Address Listing)
Laura Messing
(See Vice-Chieftain
Address Listing)

Genealogist

Christine Johnson
(See Secretary Address Listing)

Herald

Susan C. Abernethy
5643 Limerick Av.,
San Diego, CA, 92117-1526, USA
Phone 858-576-8293
sabernet@trexenterprises.com

Historian

Vacant

Justiciar

Vacant

Piper

(See Council Address Listing)

Quartermaster

Lew Johnson
(See Council Address Listing)

Webmaster & Web Site

Laura Messing.
(See Vice-Chieftain
Address Listing)

Clan Leslie Society
International Web Site:
www.clanlesliesociety.org

REGIONAL CONVENORS

Canada (Vacant)

Central Region, USA (Vacant)

Europe/Asia

Brian Lesslie, Sr.
4 Albany Terr.
Perth PH1 2BD,
Scotland.
Phone 07138 563050

Mountain, USA

Jordan Hinckley
535 S 300 E #2,
Salt Lake City, UT 84111, USA
Phone 802-550-2080
dragonfyre99@gmail.com

NE, USA

Laura Messing
(See Vice-Chieftain
Address Listing)

Pacific NW, USA

Steve Olling
3909 - 242 Avenue SE,
Issaquah, WA 98029, USA
Phone 425-557-7672
ollings@comcast.net

Pacific SW, USA (Vacant)

SW, USA

Frank W. Leslie
3432 Upton Drive,
Kempner, TX 76539-5032
Phone 254-577-7050
fleslie@hotmail.com

VIRGINIA, NORTH CAROLINA

Lew and Christine Johnson
(see quartermaster listing)

SOUTH CAROLINA

Leslie Craddock
100 Cobblestone Rd.
Greenville, SC 29615
Phone 864-419-9700
llcraddock@gmail.com

MISSOURI

Joe Thompson
615 N. Gibbs Ave. Apt. 9
Mount Vernon, MO 65712
Phone 417-489-1900
thompsonjo@bbmngmnt.com

Australia & New Zealand Commissioner

Malcolm Wallace Leslie. D. Ua
Clan Leslie Society of Australia
and New Zealand (CLANZ)
4117 / 303 Spring Street.
Kearney's Spring
Queensland 4350 Australia
61 7 4635 8358
malncol@icr.com.au

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visit us at clanlesliesociety.org

CLAN LESLIE GATHERING 2020

Thursday July 30 - Sunday August 2, 2020
Aberdeenshire, Scotland

TO CELEBRATE 950 YEARS OF THE CLAN

Your Hosts will be:

Brian & Petra Lesslie and David & Leslie Leslie

Your Clan Chief Alex and his wife Miranda
will also be attending.

We have already had a high number of people
interested in attending the gathering.

As we will be limited to the number who can attend,
due to the size of the Function room, anyone who is
interested in attending please send your name and
email address a.s.a.p. to BRIAN LESSLIE at:

bless993@blueyonder.co.uk



Join us for this exciting event!



Leslie

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