



GRIP FAST

JOURNAL

The Newsletter of Clan Leslie Society International

January 2023

GET READY TO GATHER!

SEE PAGE 3



A ST. ANDREW'S DAY
KIRKIN

SEE PAGE 15

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ABOUT THE COVER

Exciting news awaits in this issue of the Grip Fast Journal. This cover features CLSI member Judy Stubbs (center of photo with the mask) and other members of the Louisville Scottish community attending a St. Andrew's Day Kirkin.

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2023 Clan Leslie Society Gathering

Greenville, SC in conjunction with the Greenville Scottish Games



May 26 Friday Evening - Games Saturday May 27

**Clan Chief Alexander Leslie and
his wife Miranda Leslie will be attending.
Clan Leslie will be the Honor Clan**

More details to come

So that we may continue our planning process, please go to the form using the link below and respond to our three questions to get a headcount.

Or, send an email to LJohnson355@gmail.com or call **336-656-4971** with your name and the number of anticipated attendees in your group.

Click here to fill out the Gathering Interest Form

—The Gathering Planning Committee

The Honourable Alexander Leslie, Chief of Clan Leslie



Happy New Year!

New Year is, of course, the perfect time to look ahead to what we can expect but it can also provide the opportunity to glance backwards.

This year we all now believe, we really will be able to 'meet again some sunny day' in Greenville on the last weekend in May. Miranda and I visited the Games there several years ago and were given a wonderful welcome, a great time and the opportunity to meet Leslies from all over North America.

While last year was a disappointment, with the cancellation of our Gathering in Las Vegas (the decision was taken at a time when allowing it to go ahead would have been reckless), we are looking forward to Greenville all the more.

We did, of course, have to look back recently with the sad news of the passing of many Leslies who were important to us all: David Leslie, former Baron of Leslie; Don Abernathy of Albermarle, NC; Dr. Loren Leslie, former CLSI Chieftain and Craig William Leslie of Florida. They will all be greatly missed.

I have many fond memories of Don who we all liked and respected and, let's face it, if anyone he met was not a member of the Clan Society that same day it was an exception. He will be missed. I remember more than a decade ago Don and Janice

opened their house to me when the volcano in Iceland meant that I could not get home to Scotland. Their hospitality, echoed by many others who offered me help, was superb, their house was beautiful and Don's bar perfect. You could hardly see the bar itself for the range of malt whisky on offer.

I am sure there will be malt whisky, fried chicken and a wonderful welcome for us all in Greenville.

We can't wait to see you there.

Alex Leslie, January 2023



Laura Sawyer Messing, Chieftain, Clan Leslie Society International



Great things are happening!

It's a new year and CLSI has so many exciting announcements. As you noticed on page 3, we are finally able to gather together. This is more important than ever, especially as we remember everyone we've lost recently. After the cancellation of our Las Vegas gathering the council voted to have a gathering THIS year in Greenville, SC in conjunction with the Greenville Scottish Games (Gallabrae).

This is a wonderful opportunity to get back together with everyone and experience a really top-notch event. If you have never been to the Greenville Games, I encourage you to do so! The games themselves are held one day on Saturday, May 27th but you won't want to miss marching in the parade on Friday the 26th. Other gathering events are being planned so be sure and click the link on page 3 and fill out the questionnaire from the gathering committee.

Did I say click? **YES!** This is the first issue of the Grip Fast Journal that is all electronic. You can easily print these pages out for easier reading if necessary, but as a PDF document we're able to add features that just weren't possible in the printed version. You'll be able to click on links, buttons and logos that will take you to different

pages and websites. Our web address in the footer is a hyperlink to the CLSI website that you can click on from any page. Need to email a council member? Click on their email address to open your mail application. We hope these new features will enhance your experience as you click through the stories and articles.

Lastly, it's exciting to see so much participation at our Leslie tents at various Scottish festivals. Despite the increased participation, I get many messages from members saying they attended a festival and did NOT see a Leslie tent. While hosting a tent is really fun, it's impossible for convenors and hosts to be at every festival. That's where you come in! We would love to have more tent hosts and more participation at festivals in general. Hosting a tent is easy and it's a great way to connect with other Leslies and share information. If you would like to learn more, drop me a line at: **designinvasion@gmail.com** (yes, you can click the email address! My email is also in the council listing on page 12).

Hope to see all of you in May.

**Laura Sawyer Messing,
Chieftain, CLSI**

In Memorium

David Carnegie Leslie

Former Baron of Leslie

It is with great sadness that we share the news that David Carnegie Leslie has passed away. David was the former Baron of Leslie, a renowned architect who worked on designs for many buildings, but of all his works, his most important was the restoration of Leslie Castle. Without David the Castle would have been lost and with it an important part of Leslie Clan history.

David was a husband, father and grandfather. He was a great friend and he stood by the Castle until the end. He was always there tending to the lawn, advising on repairs and maintenance. He was there when local authority permissions were needed, always giving invaluable advice. His knowledge of the building was unsurpassed, there was so much more information we should have sought, but one is always conscious of being overwhelming and always hoped there would be more time. He will be sorely missed, everywhere we turn we see his work. We are so grateful to have known him. Our thoughts and deepest condolences to his wife Leslie, his daughters Angela and Yvonne and the rest of the family.



Donald Kendrick Abernathy

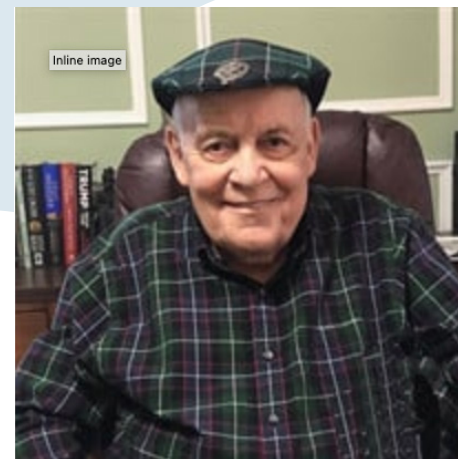
Donald Kendrick Abernathy, 85, of Albemarle passed away on Tuesday, December 6, 2022 in Atrium Health Stanly. A memorial service will be held at 2PM on Saturday, December 10 at First Presbyterian Church, Albemarle. The family will greet friends in the church parlor at 1 PM prior to the service.

Born July 4, 1937 in Charlotte, NC, he was the son of the late Ben Abernathy and Edith Kendrick Abernathy. He was raised in Gastonia, NC. He was a member of First Presbyterian Church and was retired as an Executive with the Boy Scouts of America. Don received his B.S. in Education from Appalachian State University. He was a past Chairman of the Stanly County Republican Party and was a member of the Board of Directors of the Community Concerts. He was also on the Board of Directors of Historic Rosedale in Charlotte. Don was a Mason and member of Albemarle Lodge #703 A. F. & A. M., and the Scottish Rite Valley of Charlotte. He was a worldwide traveler and visited all 50 states and many countries around the world. He was a member of Clan Leslie Society and was involved in the Highland Games.

Mr. Abernathy is survived by his wife Janice Burris Abernathy, sons Ken Abernathy (Cheri) of Orlando, FL and Rich Abernathy (Shani) of Toledo, OH, five grandchildren Richard Abernathy II, Josh Abernathy, Lou Abernathy, Carley Hazel, and Shelby Abernathy, and one great-granddaughter Addison Hazel.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother Tim Abernathy.

The family wishes to express their thanks for the excellent care their received at Atrium Health Stanly, especially Dr. Induru and Tena Martin, PA.



In Memorium

Dr. Loren Lesiie

Former Chieftain, CLSI

Leslie, Loren R. CAPT Loren R. Leslie, MC, USNR (Ret) of Lutsen and Minnetonka, MN, died on 31 December, 2022 at the age of 88. He was born in Fillmore County Minnesota, and attended LeRoy High School. He went on to attend the University of Minnesota, graduating with Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, and Doctor of Medicine degrees. In 1955 he wed his high school sweetheart, Arlene Kivell, and they remained happily married for 58 years until her death in 2013. After Medical School he completed two years of active duty with the Navy, before returning to Minnesota to specialize in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. He later served as Executive Director of the Sister Kenney Institute of Minneapolis, the Institute of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Peoria, IL and lastly as the Chief of Rehabilitation Medicine at the Minneapolis Veterans' Administration Medical Center. A 34-year Navy Reservist, CAPT Leslie was recalled to active duty in 1991 to serve as the Commanding Officer of Fleet Hospital 15, a combat zone 500 bed field hospital in support of the First Marine Expeditionary Force while deployed to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait during the first Gulf War. Following retirement to the North Shore of Lake Superior in 1997, he and Arlene traveled extensively in the US and Europe, often visiting the Leslie family ancestral home in northern Scotland and the Shetland Islands. In retirement, Loren served for nine years as the Medical Director of the Silver Bay Minnesota Veterans' Home, and was later elected to the Board of Regents of Concordia University St. Paul, serving on the Executive Board as well as Chair of the Academic Committee. Subsequently, he was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from the University.



Craig William Leslie

Craig Leslie passed away peacefully Dec 1st, 2022 at the age of 95. He was born in Schenectady, New York on November 7, 1927 to his parents William and Frances Leslie. Craig was preceded in death by his wife Shirley K Leslie and had celebrated 60 years of marriage before her death. He attended Hope College where he met Shirley, after which he attended The Veteran's Vocational School at Troy, in Radio & Communications and were married 7/2/49 in Chicago IL.

After graduating from the Veterans College, now Hudson Valley Junior College, with a degree in Electronics, he moved the Chicago area where he installed Radio Antennas, and later worked in the emerging development of Televisions. While at Radio Condenser, he designed the electronic portion of car radios, where an associate said that he knew more about coils than anyone else in America.

Craig worked for TRW (the former Radio Condenser) in both Hoopeston IL, and Markham, Ontario. He then worked at Standex Electronics (Cincinnati, OH) in Sales and then as Electrical Engineer where he holds several patents for his work.

For retirement in 1989 from Standex Electronics, Craig and Shirley moved to Scottish Highlands in Leesburg Florida (where they were a founding members of New Hope Presbyterian of Eustis FL). He recently moved to Lake Gibson Village of Lakeland, FL where he resided for the last 3 years.



RESOURCES FOR TRACING YOUR SCOTS-IRISH FAMILY TREE

CHRISTINE JOHNSON, CLSI GENEALOGIST

In attempting to trace the Scots-Irish line of my husband Lewis' great grandfather, I encountered many obstacles. It seemed that records were spotty and/or unavailable online.

In an internet search, I located Ireland xo Reaching Out (<https://www.irelandxo.com/>) and posted an inquiry about John Johnson born in Ballymoney, County Antrim, Northern Ireland with a father's name of Robert. Within a week or so, Elwyn Soutter, a volunteer for the online genealogy community, responded and provided some basic information on my Johnston family. I learned about a resource in Belfast, Northern Ireland called PRONI (rhymes with pony) which is the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland. I told Elwyn that my family planned to visit Northern Ireland in July. He graciously offered for a nominal fee to meet us at PRONI and provide a half day introduction to the services and get me, the family genealogist started on research. With Elwyn's assistance I was able to learn about the archives housed at PRONI and how to access much of the information online.

PRONI contains:

1. Street Directories: These are printed books which contain the name, address, and occupation of every household in Belfast and some of the other larger towns in Northern Ireland. These directories start in 1809 and continue with gaps to the 1990s and are available on the website.

2. Census: The 1901 census gives the name, age, religion, occupation, and various other details on every individual in Northern Ireland. The 1911 census also adds the number of children born to women and the number of children surviving. Both censuses are available free on-line at www.nationalarchives.ie.

3. Poor Law Records: Under the Poor Relief Act of 1838, Ireland was divided into districts or unions in which the local ratable inhabitants were held financially responsible for the care of paupers in their areas. Northern Ireland was divided into 28 Poor Law Unions, which each had a workhouse. Each union also had an infirmary and fever hospital. Indoor Relief Registers list name, age, religious denomination, marital status, former occupation, and nature of disability if one exists of people entering or leaving the workhouse. Outdoor Relief Registers were kept of relief given to able-bodied poor in the form of goods or money. Outdoor Relief was also given for boarding orphan or deserted children.

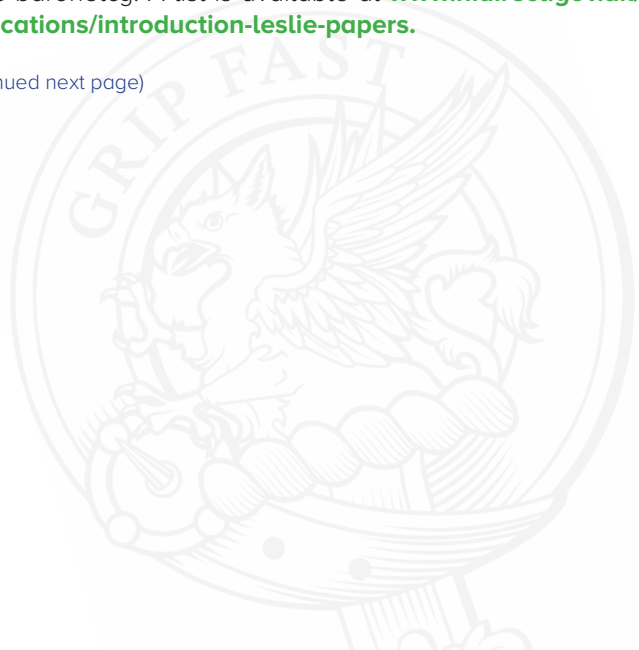
4. Griffith's Valuation: This record was taken between 1848 and 1864. These records are of extreme importance because no census material of the 19th century survives. It was carried out to determine the amount of tax each person should pay toward the support of the poor within their poor law unions. It gives the name of the householder, the name of the landlord, the size of the land, and ratable value. It is free on www.askaboutireland.com.

5. Church Records: PRONI does not hold records for every church – some are held in local custody. These records usually state baptisms, marriages, and burial. Most of the church records held by PRONI are available on microfilm. Presbyterian Church records date from the early 19th century with some listed as "Dissenters" in the registers of the Church of Ireland.

6. Emigration Records: Emigration is not very well documented. Most passenger lists are found at the port of entry rather than departure. Those records at PRONI are part of DIPPAM (Documenting Ireland: Parliament, People and Migration) which is an online archive of migration from 18th to late 20th centuries. Emigration letters, passenger lists, and journals are free online at www.dippam.ac.uk.

7. Leslie Papers: The archive at Castle Leslie, Glaslough amounts to 128 PRONI boxes, plus several outsized albums, rolled maps, and the boxed patent of 876 that created the Leslie baronetcy. A list is available at www.nidirect.gov.uk/publications/introduction-leslie-papers.

(Continued next page)



RESOURCES FOR TRACING YOUR SCOTS-IRISH FAMILY TREE

(Continued from previous page)

This is not a comprehensive list of PRONI resources. PRONI does offer an enquiry service, which provides free advice and guidance to written/email enquiries about the records held there. It also offers a fee-paying service including Search Service and a Copy Order Service. To request a search go to proni@communities-ni.gov.uk. Find out more information about PRONI at their website www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni. Many free, helpful materials are available.

Here are some additional web sources:

- Ulster Historical Foundation <https://www.ancestryireland.com/>
- Emerald Ancestors <https://www.emeraldancestors.com/>
- Roots Ireland <https://www.rootsireland.ie>
- Irish Genealogy.ie <https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/>

In answer to your question, yes we did find Lewis' great great grandfather, a record of his first marriage, the baptism of 6 of his 9 children, and we had our photo taken in from of the house where he lived in Ballymoney, County Antrim, Northern Ireland.



Pictured at left is
Elwyn Soutter and
Christine Johnson



Roberts Ballymoney House

People in photo (at right) left to right:
Kate Connolly (who gave us a tour
of Ballymoney), Elizabeth Johnson,
Christine Johnson and in front
Mary Quigley (my granddaughter).

TENTS, GAMES & EVENTS

2022 WAS A GREAT YEAR FOR CLSI TENTS! A BIG "THANK YOU" TO ALL OF OUR HARD-WORKING CONVENORS AND TENT HOSTS WHO REPRESENT CLAN LESLIE AT SCOTTISH EVENTS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES. WHILE WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO EVEN MORE TENTS THIS YEAR, CLSI IS ALWAYS IN NEED OF ADDITIONAL TENT HOSTS IN THE US, CANADA AND EUROPE. TENT HOSTING IS FUN AND A GREAT WAY TO MEET OTHER LESLIES, ABERNATHYS, LANGS, MOORES AND BARTHOLOMEWS. CONTACT LAURA MESSING, CHIEFTAIN, AT DESIGNINVASION@GMAIL.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION.

2022 NEW HAMPSHIRE HIGHLAND GAMES & FESTIVAL

**TENT HOSTED BY LAURA SAWYER MESSING
SEPTEMBER 16-18, 2022**

It was a wonderful weekend at Loon Mountain Ski Resort in Lincoln, NH for the 2022 New Hampshire Highland Games & Festival. It was a real treat having Janet Leslie Pyatt visit all the way from St. Louis, MO to help with the tent. Dean Messing was also in attendance and carried our Leslie banner for the parade of tartans. The weekend started off a little rainy but soon cleared to warmer, sunny weather. New Hampshire Governor Chris Sununu gave opening remarks at the games as the clans lined up during the opening ceremonies.

We were excited to have so many Leslie visitors to our tent, including Rose Marie Lessley whom we had not seen since the gathering in 2012. We were also delighted that Karen Lawton of Horsham, West Sussex, UK stopped by. Karen, at one point, lived across the road from Leslie Castle in Aberdeenshire, and regaled us with stories of the Leslie gathering at the Castle. She was extremely impressed by how well attended that gathering was and made it a point to find our Leslie tent to tell us the story. New Hampshire state representative Stephen Pearson also came by to chat over shortbread. You never know who will stop by your tent!



Janet Leslie Pyatt & Laura Sawyer Messing at the Leslie Tent at the New Hampshire Highland Games & Festival



Karen Lawton of West Sussex, UK & a Friend visiting the Leslie tent.

TENTS, GAMES & EVENTS

2022 STONE MOUNTAIN HIGHLAND GAMES

**TENT CO-HOSTED BY LEW & CHRISTINE JOHNSON, SHERYL & CHARLES MOORE
OCTOBER 15-16, 2022**

Lewis and Christine Johnson and Sheryl and Charles Moore co-hosted the Clan Leslie Society International clan tent at the Stone Mountain Highland Games. The games were attended by nearly 90 clans and the attendance exceeded the organization's expectations. With perfect weather of clear skies and a light breeze people enjoyed the various music venues and the athletics competitions. These games are unique in that the clan tents are arranged along paved paths and nestled among towering pine trees. This setting allows the clans to set up additional hospitality tents.

The clan tent was next to the Clan Johnston/e tent which made it very convenient to embrace the Johnston side of our family. We had 25 Leslie-related visitors to our tent, including a few honored guests. John Leslie, brother of Guy Leslie, our food sponsor for the games recently made a trip to Scotland and stayed at Leslie Castle. We were fortunate that he spent time at our tent both days and shared his experiences at the castle and his travels in Scotland. We had visitors from Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, South Carolina, and North Carolina.

Guy Leslie and his wife Lydia, owners of Sonny's BBQ in the greater Atlanta area, graciously provided breakfast donuts and lunch for all of us at the clan tent on both days. Later in

The Leslies were well represented in the Parade of Tartans, with Ethan and Sid Talley bearing the clan tartan flags and Sheryl, Chuck and Lew displaying the banner. We were pleased to have John join us for his first Parade of Tartan.

Thank you to everyone who visited the CLSI tent and those who wished us well via Facebook. We especially enjoyed hearing about the Scotland trip Jason and Melanie took to Scotland earlier this year to visit Leslie sites of interest. We met them at the Bethabara Games and provided a list of Leslie places to visit. Also, it was great to spend some time with the Talley family and to get to know them better.

We look forward to the games next year and have started making plans for winning the best clan tent award.

Lew and Christine Johnson
Charles and Sheryl Moore



A toast to Clan Leslie



Charles, Guy, Lydia, John & Sheryl



Jason and Melanie



The Talley Family,
Ethan, Sid, Emma &
Eddie, with Luciana

TENTS, GAMES & EVENTS

2022 CENTRAL FLORIDA SCOTTISH HIGHLAND GAMES

**TENT CO-HOSTED BY SHERYL MOORE & MICHELLE GREEN SMITH
JANUARY 2022**

Late fall, winter and early spring is “high season” in Florida which means it is the perfect time for outdoor festivals and events. Just about every weekend there are Scottish Festivals and Highland Games somewhere in the state. It is also the dry season so you can almost rest assured that the weather will be nice. Choosing the right ones are tricky since you want to reach as many people as possible. This year Michelle and I focused on the larger festivals closest to Orlando, where we both live.

The Central Florida Highland Games held in January each year are probably the largest in the state and this year was the 44th Gathering. The games last year were canceled due to Covid-19 so we knew it would be well attended. Saturday was a picture-perfect day with clear a clear blue sky and light wind blowing. Perfection, to say the least, is where our tent was assigned. It was on the main entrance to the Scottish Clans. We were busy all day with people stopping by the tent. Sunday morning was the complete opposite.

We arrived at the park with heavy wind and rain. The tent was saved by Chuck and Sheryl Moore along with 2 park employees where they spent about 45 minutes holding the tent in place from the blowing winds. Approximately 10 clans were not so lucky with their tents being damaged or destroyed by wind and water. The sun came out about noon and so did the crowds with many people again stopping by our tent.

February saw Clan Leslie participate for the first time at the Mount Dora and NE Florida Highland Games. Both were a complete success with many people happy to see us participate.

Next Year all three games will be a must participate. Plans are now in the making for South Florida being added to the schedule. ‘ The Savannah Games in May are definitely on the schedule. Again, this will be a first time, We are looking forward to meeting and making new friends.



2022 QUECHEE SCOTTISH GAMES & FESTIVAL

**TENT HOSTED BY LAURA SAWYER MESSING
AUGUST 27, 2022**

A verdant field was the setting for the 44th Quechee Scottish Games in Quechee, Vermont. The CLSI tent was hosted by Laura Sawyer Messing with assistance from fellow CLSI member (and husband!) Dean Messing. This was our first time hosting a tent at this event. It was lovely all around with bagpipe competitions, vendors and music. We reconnected with old friends and were excited that David McGaw stopped by to talk about his Leslie ancestry with us! We look forward to this year's festival.



Meet the CLSI Members

Brenda Brown Meyer

My interest in genealogy began during conversations with my maternal grandparents, James Fletcher Lesley and Annie Mae Paige Lesley when I was very young, approx. 10 or 11 years old. Grandma Lesley gave me most of the information of her family and Grandpa told family stories.

They had many pictures to share with me and such wonderful stories. They were so special to me, I named my oldest daughter, Lesley and my second daughter, Jennifer Paige in honor of their families.

I didn't know the word "genealogy" at that time; however, it didn't take very long to discover my passion for family history was equal to my love of all history. Many notebooks and photo albums, and many research trips later, I learned of Family Tree Maker and later Ancestry.com. This was the beginning of the confirmation of our Scottish roots.

Lesley and I started going to the Scottish Parade in downtown Greenville, taking her boys and their cousins. Then she and I went to the Scottish Games to learn about the Clans. There was no Lesley/Leslie Clan represented. We wanted to do something to change that fact. The following year provided an opportunity for my husband, Bruce and me to go to Scotland with friends, Griff and Jean. Jean had been born and raised in Scotland and was a great tour guide. Jean

asked where I wanted to go, and as a good researcher should do, I had notes and routes planned. We had a GPS with the Scotland app. and we were ready to go.

First, we went to Glasgow, then west to Paisley and on to Renfrew home of my great grandmother's Carswell ancestors. There I went to the local library and the librarian was very familiar with the family, she directed me to the Kirk across the street to visit the family graves and she contacted a Carswell cousin who came home from work to meet me at the family farm. The farmhouse had walls three feet thick and the barn was attached. He showed me the ruins of the original home on a hill in a nearby meadow as well as old documents and photographs. The next day we were off to Balmoral and then north in Aberdeenshire to find my Leslie cousins. There was a village on the maps named "Leslie", so we set the GPS and off we went. Entering the village, we saw the sign for Leslie Castle and stopped in the village of Insch. There I met David and Lesley Stuart Leslie. He was spreading gravel on the drive and she was trimming flowers. They invited us in and we spent an hour talking about the castle and the family heritage. He showed me the books of our family history much to my joy. As they had plans for the evening and we needed to be on our way, in parting David told us we should go to the church where most of the early Leslies were buried.

[\(Continued next page\)](#)



Dr. Morrow, Lord Lyon,
Ben and Lesley Craddock, and Brenda Meyer
Greenville Highland Games 2022

We traveled a short distance to the Parish of Garioch, a village adjoining Glenrothes. The church was set in a quiet crop of trees surrounded by the cemetery. We left there to end our day in Inverurie. Upon arriving I saw the Carnegie Library and set out to do more research. Unfortunately, the librarian was very young and new to the library, so he could not help me. Next, I walked to the local historical society and met the most wonderful, knowledgeable historian. He knew the history of the Leslie Clan quite well. In our discussion he asked if I had been to the castle and met Baron Leslie. I told him I had been there and met David and Lesley Leslie. He then laughed and said I had spent the afternoon with the baron. I had no idea, that the wonderful, kind, gracious couple were the Baron and Baroness. We talked for a long while of the Leslie family and their influence in this area long ago as well as today.

While traveling with Jean and Griff, I had the great pleasure to meet Jean's childhood friend, Alice. Alice and I have become great friends and have spent many fun times in each other's home. On the second of my three trips to Scotland, I traveled alone. Alice had graciously invited me to stay with her and she promised to show me her Scotland, which she did in no small part. This was my opportunity to find things for my family to wear to the Greenville Scottish Games, as we were already planning to introduce Clan Leslie to Greenville. Without Alice's help this would have been impossible. She knew just where to go and who to see to find everything on my list. Our search was so successful, I had to purchase more luggage to bring everything home.

As my friend Jean said, "my two trips were pure serendipity". I feel it was all as it should be, finding family, learning more history of our family, seeing things I had never dreamed of seeing and most of all, making a new friend, dear Alice. Alice and I have visited back and forth since that time and are planning more trips in the future. I feel truly blessed from meeting so many wonderful people along the way as I learn so much more of my ancestors' story.

My daughter, Lesley and I truly love history. We have spent many hours: talking, researching, planning, and most of all sharing our Clan Leslie at Scottish games in Greenville, Grandfather Mountain and Charleston. There is no better way to teach and spend time with my grandchildren. What a great opportunity to teach the next generation of the rich history of our family.

It was at the Grandfather Mountain Scottish Games that we met Lew and Chris Johnson. They are convenors for Clan Leslie Society International and what wonderful mentors they have been for Lesley and me, as well as great friends and extended family. Words are not adequate to express the love and appreciation we have for them and their family.

Clan Leslie Society International has become a very important part of our lives as a family. We cherish the time we are together with the many people we now can call friends.

YOU NEED SOME LESLIE SWAG!

Don't forget about the Leslie store on our website! We have some really nice items. Click on the photos below to go directly to our store page or visit clanlesliesociety.com/shop to shop anytime.



Set of 5 Leslie
Tartan Stickers



Leslie Clan Badge Cap



The Griffin Reprints
(Lots of interesting information!)

A St. Andrew's Day Kirkin

The Scottish Society of Louisville was invited by The Brotherhood of the Episcopal Church here in Louisville. Each year, the installation of new members of The Brotherhood, is held in a different Episcopal Church in Louisville. We rotate among many Episcopal churches. The President of The Brotherhood told me that he thinks Louisville's Brotherhood is about the only one in the whole country that invites Scottish Society's to be part of the service. We have a highly talented Piper and Drummer pipe us in a Processional and out in a Recessional.

I have a speaking part in the liturgy: A Thanksgiving from The Scottish Society of Louisville, and include an olde traditional Scottish prayer. I also read off the names of the Clans of members present. We only had six members who participated by carrying their Clan flags, and I asked men of The Brotherhood to join with us, to make 10 people walking in this. We have two flags stands, which one of our members made, and each one holds 5 flags. They were placed up high, near the Altar, one behind the Pulpit and the other one near the Lectern. A lovely reception was held afterward when "waters of life" was available and two large tables of delicious cookies, some Scottish shortbread and other were Christmas cookies.

An administrator in the Episcopal denominational headquarters here in Louisville always attends and gives the sermon. He preached on St. Andrew, as yesterday was The Feast of St. Andrew day. The Pastor of the church had many speaking parts also. These two church officials decided to use the Episcopal Church's banners, and they were up high with our flags. Communion was served by Intinction. It was a splendid worship service!

We're so pleased to be invited to these Kirkin' O' the Tartans! You might want to tell the members of large Clan Leslie groups, to reach out to the Brotherhood in the local Episcopal Church near them, and offer to help with the pageantry in their installation of their members on St. Andrews Day. It's a wonderful connection!

Grace and Joy,

Judy Stubbs



The failed immigration of tenant farmers, or crofters, from the Scottish Highlands to the Sandhills region of eastern North Carolina in 1884 is one of the most peculiar instances of European immigration in the state's history. Scottish Americans residing in the area of present-day Scotland, Richmond, Hoke, Moore, Robeson and Cumberland Counties were inspired to organize a scheme to introduce up to 350 Scottish Highland crofters into the old Highland settlement in the early 1880s. They launched the scheme after hearing of the extreme oppression experienced by these small landholders at the hands of their landlords and factors in their homeland and the organized resistance and rent strikes that began on the Isle of Skye in 1882. Worldwide attention was drawn to that region by a small skirmish between tenants and police known as the Battle of the Braes, which served as the beginning of popular uprisings throughout the Highlands against oppressive land tenure policies. Several of the crofters prominently involved in this event were among the parties that settled for a short time in North Carolina.

The plan, organized by Highlander Margaret MacLeod and others in Scotland, aimed to remove groups of crofters from their holdings on the Isles of Skye and Lewis, as well as other regions of the Scottish Highlands, and relocate them to the established Highland settlement of North Carolina. North Carolina's Highland settlement was thought to be an ideal home for these immigrants as it was expected that the established Scottish American families would foster the successful assimilation of the newly arrived Highland crofters. Private funds were collected for the scheme on both sides of the Atlantic; the North Carolina Bureau of Immigration, under the leadership of John T. Patrick, and the Seaboard Air Line Railway also contributed substantially to the effort. Local efforts were steered by James L. Cooley of Wagram. Unknown to the immigrants, Lord MacDonald and other prominent Highland landowners secretly contributed to the efforts as a means of ridding themselves of some of the land reform agitators and superfluous tenants.

The first group of crofters, numbering 73, arrived in North Carolina via Norfolk in March 1884 and was transported to Laurinburg under the care of Cooley and D. P. McEachern. From there the crofters dispersed themselves throughout the community, as arranged by their sponsors. A second group arrived in May, and its 65 members were transported to the vicinity of Cameron under the care of Cooley and Frank W. Clark of the Seaboard Railway. Additional small parties arrived in Richmond County throughout the spring. Newspaper accounts touted the success of the immigration and spoke of the possibility of additional large parties that would arrive in coming months.

Upon arrival, however, the immigrants found that the promises of free land and employment held forth by MacLeod and others were not true. By July some newspapers reported dissatisfaction and unemployment among the crofters. It became apparent that many of these immigrants lacked the skills necessary to integrate into agricultural pursuits immediately and that many of the families were further handicapped by the fact that they spoke only Gaelic. There is also evidence that the host families had taken advantage of the opportunity for an ethnically attractive labor force, and that their sponsorship of the crofters had not been entirely humanitarian. Two of the crofters returned to Scotland in early July and reported to newspapers that "where work was obtained the only wages given was the bare food, and the houses provided were the small one-roomed huts formerly occupied by slaves."

By the fall of 1884, most of the crofters had made efforts to return to Scotland or relocate to other areas in the United States. Most of the immigrants did eventually return to their

homeland, feeling deceived by the organizers and dissatisfied with their experiences in North Carolina. Newspapers of the day show that the crofters themselves were forced to bear most of the blame for the failure of the plan, although the reputation of state immigration agent John T. Patrick was severely tarnished by his association with the affair. As a result, the state did not engage in any further recruitment schemes for foreign immigrants in the late nineteenth century.

Only a handful of crofters remained in North Carolina, most being young men employed as farm overseers or in similar pursuits. One of the most notable families that remained was that of Alexander MacRae. After failing at agricultural attempts in Moore and Robeson Counties, MacRae was employed by businessman Hugh MacRae of Wilmington, who sent him to present-day Avery County to serve as foreman in building the Yonahlossee Turnpike between the new resort village of Linville and the town of Blowing Rock. MacRae and his family operated a guest house for tourists on what is now known as MacRae Meadow near Linville. This site would later become the location of one of the world's largest Scottish gatherings – the Highland Games at Grandfather Mountain.

Reference: Rowland T. Berthoff, *British Immigrants
In Industrial America*

William S. Caudill

Encyclopedia of North Carolina
William S. Powell

Linda,

Thought this might be of interest to some of our
Clan Members.

Some facts I was unaware of.

Thanks for all of your hard work
and Congratulations to Adam, now on our
Council

Don & Janice Abernathy



Congratulations Guy and Lydia!

Clan Leslie Society International is very fortunate to have a benefactor who helps with the costs of hosting a clan tent at a highland games and making CLSI members feel welcome. Guy Leslie and his wife Lydia, owners of Sonny's BBQ in the greater Atlanta area have over the past several years provided lunches to all Leslies who are at the clan tent for both Saturday and Sunday.

To recognize their ongoing support, CLSI presented them with a plaque reading: "Presented in appreciation and gratitude for support to Clan Leslie Society Int'l at the Stone Mountain Highland Games."

Pictured are Guy and Lydia with their award.

On the coast of the East Neuck of Fife is the village of St. Monance, also known as St. Monans. And on the south end of this village is the St. Monance church, formerly a priority. And in this old church is a wooden plaque, with the inscription "Sigillum Commune De St. Monance, Mare Vivumus, 1792, Grip Fast." This would translate as "Seal of the town of St. Monance, We Live By the Sea, 1792, Grip Fast." One might ask why "Grip Fast" appears on this old plaque. Further south from this church, but easily seen, are the ruins of Newark Castle. This castle was owned by General David Leslie, later to be named Lord Newark for his military accomplishments. Hence, it is possible that this plaque dated 1792 was placed there by David Leslie.

Submitted by David Leslie White



Carol Lucas

Dear Fellow Clan members. For the last couple of years, we have not had a Christmas tree. And I now have reached an age, and strength, that putting up said tree is a bit much for me. (some of my diminished strength has to do with Covid which I had in January of 2020)

So I thought about what I could do. I found this wonderful quilt panel, please see attached. By purchasing two of them, quilting and sewing them back to back, I will suspend it from a frame of some sort. This way I can take it out and put it away when I need to. This will be my tree.

My intent is to attach an "ornament" in front of the white balls printed on the tree panel. Something like a charm of about $\frac{3}{4}$ " to 1" in size, or homemade ornament would be great. I was reaching out to my fellow Leslie's to see if anyone had something that could help me with populating this tree.

This is just an idea, but if you are interested in helping out a fellow clan member please send to Carol Lucas 2177 Buckingham Rd, #474, Richardson, Texas 75081.

A Leslie Love Story

When I lived in Germany my mother had a friend in Canada, a German lady who had emigrated several years before. She worked there in a household and looked after a little girl who grew to love her. Thea was well received in Canada and was quite happy except that she longed for a friend with whom she could speak German and exchange German views. After having travelled to Italy and to England, I was always ready to pack my suitcase again. I already spoke English well since I had a job as a multilingual secretary. This time I would stay a while in a foreign country and spend time with Thea and her friends.

I rented a room with a family in a cozy small house in Guelph. They had a baby boy with whom I enjoyed playing. I became more and more comfortable in this Canadian environment, and I decided to stay a while and get a job so I could pay the rent. Someone advised me to try the Ontario Agricultural College where a multilingual woman might well find work. And so I did. I worked for the Head of the Food Services at the College.

There I came in touch with a great number of students and I rejected all their proposals because I intended to go back to Germany eventually and did not want to get tied down. Until I met the ONE: Michael Alexander Leslie. He was very handsome in his half-Scottish, half-Venezuelan way. And he was brilliant and charming. We were made for each other, and very soon we tightened the bond by marriage. Our parents sent us their loving wishes.



Soon after our wedding we moved to Lafayette, Indiana, where Alec studied Agricultural Economics at Purdue University. We lived there quite comfortably in the Married Students Courts, and I was able to get a job at the University. When Alec graduated with his Masters Degree we moved back to Canada and rented a charming little house in Toronto. Alec soon found a good job at Merrill Lynch. Having a secure income now, we were able to indulge our great wish: to become parents.

Our son Michael was born to our great delight. Our second delight, Fleur, was born 4 years later. When she was 1 year old and Michael 4, Alec was transferred to a position in Mexico City. Mexico! I had always wanted to visit this mysterious country. We rented a lovely house in the city and learned many new things, among them Spanish (I had already had some instruction when I was still in Germany). A maid lived with us and helped us to get adjusted to many new experiences. We made friends with several other immigrants and many Mexicans. After several years we moved back to Toronto where we still enjoy living. We hope to celebrate our 60th Anniversary this August.

Edith Leslie



Pictured at left: Alec Leslie. Pictured at right, Edith and Alec Leslie.

BARONS OF BALQUHAIN

In 1340 Sir George Leslie , 5th son of Sir Andrew de Leslie and Mary Abernethy received from his father the estate of Balquhain and so commenced the Barons of Balquhain.

Malcolm the first laird of Cults (a few miles north east of the original Leslie castle) was the illegitimate son of Sir Andrew third Baron of Balquhain , and he received the land as a gift from his father.

The fourth Baron of Balquhain in the mid 1400s was very prominent in national affairs and he was also a prolific breeder. It is from him that many branches of the Leslie family are derived.

In the mid 1400s Alexander the first son of the 4th Baron of Balquhain , became the first Baron of Wardis when he received from his father the estates of Wardis , Drummies and Middleton.

And in 1490 from the second Baron of Wardis came the Leslies of Warthill (just north of Pitcaple near Aberdeen)

And in 1611 from the second son of the first Laird of Warthill came the Leslies of Little Folla. With the assistance of the Baron of Pitcaple the Leslies bought the land of Little Folla.

And through the Leslies of Little Folla came the Leslies of Rothie , which was purchased in about 1723.

From the second Baron of Wardis also came the Leslies of Bucharn (just south of Huntly) through his fourth son Andrew and this Andrew's third son was the progenitor of the Leslies of Clisson in France.

From the fourth Baron of Wardis came the Leslies of Glasough in Ireland - 1600s and the Leslies of Tarbet also in Ireland 1600s.

The fourth Baron of Balquhain's second son William received from his father Craigtowie and on buying from his brother the lands of Kingraigie he became the first Laird of Kinraigie

The fourth Baron of Balquhain's second son from his second marriage , George, became the Leslies of New Leslie (near the original Leslie Castle).

And the second son of this George , an Alexander , became the first Laird of Kininivie (near Dufftown).

From Alexander , the first Laird of Kininivie, in the early 1600s through his third son George came the Leslies of Drummuir (a mile or so from Kininivie).

And from George the first Laird of Drummuir came the Earls of Leven holding the lands of Balgonie.

Article submitted by Brian Lesslie

BALQUHAIN CASTLE

Balquhain Castle , the ancient residence of the family of Leslie is situated about 3 miles north west of Inverurie and 19 miles from Aberdeen.

It is located in a rich valley on the high bank of a small stream . The fertile heights to the north extend westward and the Chapel of the Garrioch can be seen in the west.

The Castle was erected at a very early period by George Leslie , the first Baron after he had received the lands of Balquhain , Braco and Syde from his father Sir Andrew de Leslie in 1340. The properties were consolidated into one , the Barony of Balquhain .

The original castle consisted of a quadrangular , turreted building having a courtyard enclosed with a wall and towers on the front.

In the early 1500s there were many feuds between neighbours and factions . The Balquhain Leslies supported the Earl of Huntly against the Forbeses and the Douglasses. In 1526 there was one feud between the Leslies and the Forbes and the castle was burned. The fighting continued and when castle was repaired by Sir William Leslie the ninth Baron in 1530 he added a square tower or keep to strengthen it against future attacks. King James 5th took action to reduce the widespread infighting and bring more settled times.

In 1562 Queen Mary stayed there as she made progress to the north .

Balquhain Castle remained the seat of the Barony until the fifteenth Baron in 1690 decided that Fetternear offered a more commodious living and he transferred to that castle leaving the residence of Balquhain to his son George Leslie and his wife Margaret Elphinston .

After 1710 , Balquhain Castle was occupied by managers of the estates and it fell into disrepair. And the Duke of Cumberland later ordered it to be burned but it was saved to some extent by one of the tenants who bribed the soldiers.

The building continued to deteriorate and today it is a heap of ruins far removed from the building which had once offered protection , comfort and elegance.



Article submitted by Brian Lesslie.
Photo from Wiki Commons.

New Members

Harriett Hoskyns-Abraham
AMichael Abernathy
Boone, NC

Kathryn Whitaker
Orleans, VT

Roger Luckey
Kannapolis, NC

David Olling Jr.
Bothell, WA
Rejoined

Heather White
Golden, CO

Bret Leslie
Vienna, VA
Rejoined

Jean-Francois Codomier
Toulon, France
Associate Member

Marla Kissack
Hendersonville, TN
Rejoined

John Abernathy
Ennice, NC

Jamie Abernathy
Ennice, NC
Associate Member

Joseph Cairne
Mono, ON
Canada
Rejoined

Rob Leslie
Weatherford, TX
Rejoined

Pekka Liljeblom
Taby, Sweden

Jeffrey Dorsey
Salem, VA

Katheryne Simonds
Tuscon, AZ

Jacqueline Leslie Cetnar
Middelburg, FL

Janet Leslie
Malua Bay, Australia

Melesia Leslie Rhodes
Arma, KS
Rejoined

Wendy Leslie
Prescott, AZ
Associate

Patrick Leslie
Mesa, AZ

Elizabeth Leslie
Mesa, AZ
Associate

Isabel Leslie
Prescott, A
Inceptor

Nobel Leslie
Mesa, AZ
Inceptor

Eligh Leslie
Mesa, AZ
Inceptor

Bailey Leslie
Mesa, AZ
Inceptor

Jeffrey Bell
Fogelsville, PA

Janice Leslie Morse
Peru, NY
Rejoined

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Claude Moore
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Welcome new
members &
rejoining
members!
Thank you to
everyone who
donated.

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