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WHAT A GATHERING! The 2023 CLSI Gathering in Greenville, SC

Gathering Highlights & Photos Clan Leslie News 2023 Tents & Events Stories of Interest & Big Announcements!



The Honourable Alexander Leslie, Chief of Clan Leslie

Gatherings are good, let's do more

It was a huge pleasure to finally attend a Clan Gathering, after a gap of five long years. And what a Gathering it was. The hospitality of South Carolina is extraordinary, the events of the weekend were seamlessly organised by Hosts Lesley Looper Craddock and Brenda Myer, as well assistance from memebers of the CLSI council.

The weather on the day of the Games was, shall we say, very Scottish, with a cold wind, the constant threat of rain (which duly arrived) and a definitely Scottish feel. It did nothing to dampen the atmosphere and it was a privilege to meet - and meet again - so many Leslies from all over North America and indeed the world.

The military theme is always very moving and during the fly past when one plane banked away to signify fallen comrades, I have to confess to having a piece of grit or something in my eye. I do not think I was alone.

The banquet was a huge success and the Awards all very well deserved. Chris and Lew have been such firm supporters of the Society and Gatherings and have my deepest admiration, as too, does Linda Flowers (and, of course, her hero of a son, Adam).

The business meeting was a great success, with many thanks to Laura, and it generated lots of discussion, some great ideas and some new volunteers.

Among the volunteers are me and Miranda, who are more than happy to host a Gathering in Scotland in early July 2025. Plans are at an early stage but we think we will try a two venue event, in Edinburgh and Aberdeenshire, where there are plenty of Leslie places to visit. Already the list of ideas is in need of shortening!

The 2023 event proves beyond doubt that nothing can replace a physical Gathering – and nothing should.

Thank you for making us so welcome, again, and thank you for being there. And, of course, thank you for the cowboy hat Zippie!

Very best wishes to those of you we saw and those of you we did not - this time.

See you in 2025.

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Laura Messing, Chieftain, Clan Leslie Society International

Hello everyone! It has been a big year for CLSI, mainly because of our 2023 Gathering at the Greenville Scottish Games. Greenville has always made us feel so welcome...Board member Dean Harbert greeted me with a big hug, even though I hadn't seen him in years. Our gathering was wonderfully organized by CLSI members Lesley Looper Craddock and Brenda Myer who are quite literally, the queens of hospitality. Members Lew and Christine Johnson were outstanding assisting in the Leslie tent and helping Leslies to better understand their history.

It had been so long since we were last together in person, and I parrot Chief Alex's sentiment of: gatherings are good, let's do more. There is noting that replaces the coming together of Leslies. We share our knowlege base, our experiences and

our enthusiasm for our famly history live and in person. We volunteer, we share ideas and we make plans for the good of this organization and contribute to the knowledge base of Leslies everywhere.

As Chief Alex mentioned, we are excited for our next gathering in **SCOTLAND** (more on that on page 3). We have been trying to bring the gathering back to Scotland since 2017. Chief Alex, Sebastian Leslie, Tom Huxtable and Myself gathered with several other Leslies for a get-together after marching in the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. We all excitedly discussed the prospect of our next gathering taking place in Scotland and put a plan together.

Then, as we all know, COVID happened and not one but two gatherings ended up being postponed. That's why our gathering in Greenville was such a big deal. It's why our upcoming gathering in Scotland **IS** a big deal. Because the first of the three objectives of CLSI is to "to gather kindred together in clanship." It takes all of us to make up CLSI. And sharing our talents when whe get together only makes us stronger.

SEEKING A VOLUNTEER TO PRODUCE THE GRIP FAST JOURNAL

Have you been looking for a way to help CLSI but weren't sure how? We need someone to take over the production of the Grip Fast Journal.

I (Laura) have been putting our newsletter together since 2013 and recently, I haven't had the time to give this publication the attention it deserves. It doesn't have to follow this format. It can be a word document or any other format that can be saved as a PDF. If you would like to volunteer, please email me at designinvasion@gmail.com.



ABOUT THE COVER: Our 2023 gathering group photo!

CLSI ELECTIONS The council members and officers who were up for re-election all ran unopposed.

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SAVE THE DATE NOW! CLSI GATHERING 2025

JULY 3-6, 2025

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HOSTED BY: THE HONOURABLE ALEXANDER LESLIE, CHIEF OF CLAN LESLIE & MIRANDA LESLIE

Save the date! Make plans to Join Chief Alex, Miranda and your Leslie kinsmen for an unforgettable gathering in Scotland, July 3-6 2025. Not only will we be visiting historic Leslie places but there will be exclusive experiences and opportunities to view rarely seen treasures from the Clan Leslie Charitable Trust. You won't want to miss this wonderful event. Details to follow!

Valuable Leslie History Resource

Review of the Historical Records of the Family Leslie 1067 to 1868-9 by Colonel Charles K. H. Leslie, 26th Baron of Balquhain.

On the CLSI website under Resources there is a Leslie History e-books online link to the three volumes of the Historical Records of the Family Leslie. For anyone interested in learning more about Leslie history and genealogy this is a must read. This publication was a key research source for the book Grip Fast: The Leslies in History by Alexander Leslie Klieforth. The books are in pdf format and can be downloaded and read. What I like about the pdf version is that most pdf readers allow the reader to resize the page to make the type larger and the readers usually have a search bar option.

Volume I contains four chapters:

- 1. Dynasta De Leslie Starting with Bartholf and going father to son.
- 2. Leslies, Barons of Leslie The Barons of Balquhain
- 3. Leslies, Earls and Countesses of Ross
- 4. The Garioch Information on the Chapel of Garioch, Leslie Castle, and the Rothes.

Volume II contains two chapters:

- 1. Leslies Lords and Earls, Countesses of Rothes, Dukes of Rothes
- 2. Leslies of ... Ten branches of the family including the two main branches in Ireland

Volume III is the longest of the three volumes at 698 pages, it contains three chapters:

- 1. The Barons of Balquhain which is in part a repeat of the info in Volume I
- 2. Counts Leslies of the Holy Roman Empire
- 3. Leslie Family Branches Information on nearly two dozen branches of the family Leslie.

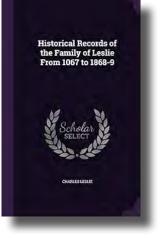
An appendix which is nearly two hundred pages long provides documents such as charters from other nobility and family members and lease agreements. Some of these documents are in Latin, while most are in English.

Each Volume ends with a rather comprehensive index.

The three volumes are expertly researched and rely on many original sources, such as land grant and royal charters. It is fascinating to read the details of Leslies from its beginnings with Bartholf. While the reader is likely not to be able to follow all of the genealogy information, it is quite interesting to read the historical notes and events in which the Leslies participated over the years. It is fascinating to learn that when Mary Queen of Scots was in France and Scotland was in negotiations with the French about the Dauphin receiving the crown of Scotland as king, a Leslie was part of the negotiation ambassadors. The background information leading up to the Battle of Harlaw was very interesting. Also, our current Clan Chief the Honorable Alexander Leslie is son of the 21st Earl of Rothes, so the background on that main branch of the Leslies was an informative and worthwhile read.

The books are available in soft cover from Amazon at a cost of about \$30 per volume. The print is large and clear. I ordered the three volumes to have at the clan tent with sticky notes and highlighting of the parts I want to quickly locate for clan tent visitors.

Review by: Lewis Johnson



PLEASE PAY YOUR CLSI DUES!

If you have received a notification to pay your CLSI dues, please do so. This helps keep our bookkeeping streamlined and ensures that you remain a member in good standing. **It's easy to pay online!** Visit our website at: <u>https://www.clanlesliesociety.org/membership</u>, navigate to the bottom and pay via paypal. Thank you!

UPCOMING LESLIE TENTS

Check the CLSI website for our games calendar as we hope to add more events!

April 20-21 | **Loch Norman Highland Games** Huntersville, North Carolina, Hosted by Lew & Christine Johnson

July 11-14 | **Grandfather Mountain Highland Games** Linnville, North Carolina, Hosted by Lew & Christine Johnson

July 20| **Glasgowlands Scottish Festival** Northhamption, Massachusetts, Hosted by Laura Messing

Septembr 20-22 | **New Hampshire Highland Games & Festival** Lincoln, New Hampshire Hosted by Laura Messing

October 19-20 | **Stone Mountain Highland Games**, Stone Mountain, Georgia, Hosted by Lew and Christine Johnson

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What A Gathering!

CLSI's first gathering in five years proved to be a fun-filled weekend for all at the Gallabrae Games in Greenville, South Carolina. Leslies came from far and wide (even all the way from Australia) to reconnect, learn, and spend time together. We were delighted that the Honorable Alexander Leslie, Chief of Clan Leslie and Miranda Leslie made the trip from Scotland to join us and to serve as Chief of the Games!

The Gallabrae Games are a one day event held every Memorial Day at Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina. The festivities started on Friday evening with a Meet and Greet coordinated by hosts Lesley Looper Craddock and Brenda Myer. We then proceeded to the Great Scot! Parade that winds through lovely downtown Greenville. The Leslies did not disappoint! With Chief Alex and Miranda serving as Grand Marshalls the Leslies led the procession as the honored clan, waving to hundreds of people lining the streets.

After the parade, everyone changed into their more formal attire for the Chief's Banquet. There was a delicious buffet and presentations from the hosts as well as Chief Alex. We dined, laughed and presented awards: Lew and Christine Johnson and Linda Flowers were the award recipients.

Saturday was festival day with the Leslies lining up early for the parade of clans. After Chief Alex's opening remarks the Leslies once again led the procession and then disbanded to enjoy the festival. The Leslie tent and adjoining hospitality tents were wonderful, and provided a place for everyone to chat and enjoy refreshments. Rain threatened the festivities but managed to hold off until the end of the day.

Sunday's business meeting was a fantastic exchange of ideas and information. We had our last opportunity to chat and say our farewells before going our separate ways.

Thanks again to our hosts Lesley and Brenda with support from Lew and Christine for a very memorable gathering.

We hope to see everyone in 2025 at our gathering in Scotland!





The Leslies line up for the Great Scot! Parade

The Chief and Miranda are all set to lead the parade!

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The 2023 CLSI Gathering Greenville, South Carolina





COUNCIL OF SCOTTISH CLANS AND ASSOCIATIONS (COSCA)

Clan Leslie Society International is a member of COSCA, an organization that provides organization, technology, and program assistance and support to clan societies. Starting last year, the emphasis has been on developing services such as the Find My Clan web-based database. Also, COSCA has begun a series of more frequent blog postings for Clans to improve membership outreach and internet presence.

One service of COSCA is to provide more frequent interaction between COSCA and clans at highlandgames. This outreach comes in the form of 12 regional commissioners, who will attend highland games and visit with other clan representatives. Mr. John Bellassai, President of COSCA, is pleased to announce that Lewis Johnson from CLSI has been appointed as Regional Commissioner for the Southeast Region (NC, SC, GA, FL).

Lew Johnson

Leslie "Prisoners" Transported to America

Here is the historical record of two Leslies who were "transported" as prisoners to America. Alexander in 1716 and Margaret in 1685.

LESLIE, ALEXANDER: Jacobite captured at Preston. Transported from Liverpool to South Carolina 7 May 1716 on the Susannah, master Thomas Bromhall. (page 91)

LESLIE, MARGARET: Covenanter, Prisoner at Dunnotter and Leith. Banished to the Plantations, at Leith 18 August 1685. Transported from Leith to East New Jersey on the Henry and Francis, Master Richard Hutton, by George Scott of Pitlochie 5 September 1685. (page 92)

The above information is taken from the book Directory of Scots Banished to the American Plantations 1650-1775 by David Dobson, originally printed by the Genealogical Publishing Company, 1983

King's Own Scottish Borderers



EDITOR'S NOTE:

Some of you may remember Alexander McBroom from the 2017 Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo when he instructed the Leslies on how we were to proceed to the parade grounds. It was during that event we learned that Mr. McBroom had served in the Kings Own Scottish Borderers and wore the Leslie Trews. Mr. McBroom is an honorary member of CLSI. It may be of interest to the Chief and members of our wonderful Clan that I have recently reestablished the Pipes and Drums of the King's Own Scottish Borderers. The band is made up of veterans of the 1st Battalion and several others who have demonstrated support for our aims and values.

So far, we have performed at the annual Battle of Minden anniversary commemorations in Berwick-Upon-Tweed, regimental dinner nights, weddings, Burns' suppers and, unfortunately; Borderer's funerals. We are booked to play at Minden Day 2023, regimental dinners and even a Scottish Premier Football League match - all in the name of the Borderers - and of course to support our fellow soldiers and veterans.

We're at the very early stages. It takes a lot of effort, time and funding to get to a position where we all look and sound uni-formal. The end state will be that our drum corps are back wearing Leslie tartan trews and pipers will wear Royal Stewart kilts.

I thought it might be of interest to you.

Please pass on my very best to Clan Chief Alex and all members of Clan Leslie.

Alexander McBroom

Famine Walls

By Lewis & Christine Johnson

While traveling to Galway in Ireland by bus, the guide pointed out long rock walls build across the landscape. While there are rock walls in fields to serve as fences, the rock walls I saw were across barren rocky land. The guide referred to these rock walls as famine walls. As we traveled into rural Ireland, there were in some locations six-foot-high walls set back off the road. I thought the walls were intended to wall in an estate and prevent entry onto the property, but I was wrong.

We found out that Castle Leslie Estate had those walls. During the famine of 1840's, under the compassionate efforts of Christina Leslie and her son Charles Powell Leslie III, the Estate initiated the Leslie Relief Programme that paid members of the local community to build the walls to provide employment and support. The relief effort resulted in building 4 km of walls and saved many families from starvation or migration away from their homes. In the area two other estates employed community members to build famine walls. Today these famine walls serve as reminders of the Famine and as a monument to the compassion and generosity of the estate landowners.

Currently, the famine walls of the Castle Leslie Estate are overgrown and in need of restoration. The walls serve as a reminder of the Leslie legacy of contributing to and supporting the Glaslough community during these dark years of Irish history. They are an awesome sight, and we hope others visiting the Estate area will appreciate their significance.



Leslie by Insch

The prolific Scottish author, Nigal Trantor, visited and wrote about over 600 Scottish fortified houses in Scotland. Some of which had never before described in print. Mr. Trantor published this work in five books, all named **The Fortified House in Scotland** followed by the volume number. This book, number four, was published in 1966, and printed by Robert Cunningham and Sons, Alva, Scotland and published by Oliver and Boyd, Edinburgh and London. It includes the counties of Aberdeenshire, Angus and Kincardineshire. By the way, a "fortalice" is a small fort or castle. I have transcribed this articles as written, and some of the original spelling is no longer used. The "Leslie by Insch" article was written almost 30 years before David C. Leslie and his wife Leslie Leslie completed the restoration of this castle.

In the Preface, Tranter writes "Aberdeenshire, indeed, is by far the most generously endowed county in all the land, in this respect, both in numbers and in the quality of not a few of the fortalices, which here reach the very peak of Scottish domestic castellated architecture, in structures such as Craigievar, Midmar, Castle Fraser, Fyvie and Drum." Tranter was saddened by the loss of a large number of fortalices that have been destroyed or allowed to fall to rubble. It is not sheer age and the elements which are responsible but human neglect, vandalism, and the decline of the landed gentry. These fortalices were built to resist armed attack but not today's road-wideners and sweeping "modernity."

"Scotland, partly out of national character, partly from historical conditions and a lack of centralized control, and partly because of the prolonged links with France, produced a flowering of castellated architecture unequalled elsewhere, in vigour and strength tempered with grace. Here is a monument to something vehement, vital and enduring in our nation. Let us cherish it."

The following is transcribed from pages 64-65.

"Standing close to the village of Leslie, three miles south-west of Insch, this large and well-planned house,thoughnowruinous,isespecially interesting as illustrating the late date at which defensive fortalices were being built in the North-East. The present building is dated 1661, but many of its features are more typical of a century earlier. The house, which stood within a courtyard with a surrounding moat, drawbridge and gatehouse, belongs to the L-plan, with a square stair-tower rising in the re-entrant. There are three storeys and an attic, the stair-tower reaching a storey higher, and circular turrets grace each main angle. The gables are not crowstepped and the chimneys are unusual, placed diagonally in Tudor fashion. The windows are fairly large and numerous, and there are many gunloops and shot—holes.

The entrance is in the foot of the stair-tower, surmounted by a weatherworn lintel. Nearby is a stone inscribed FUNDED JUN 17, 1661.The Forbes arms are displayed in various positions.. The basement is vaulted and in the main block contains the kitchen with a great fireplace in the west gable and a stone trough for water supply. There are two vaulted cellars in the wing to the east, one, the wine -cellar, with the usual private stair to the Hall above. The main stairway is wide and squared. The first floor main block contains the Hall and withdrawing -room, with a large fireplace having a heraldic lintel. The private room in the wing at this leval has an unusual vaulted strongroom in the north-east angle. It has also has an outer door for reaching the garden by means of a removable timber stair. There has been ample bedroom accommodation higher.

Bertolf, a Fleming, acquired the lands of Lesselyn, in the Garioch in the 12th century, and his descendants took the name of Leslie. The last of this line married, at the beginning of the 17th century, a daughter of Patrick, Lord LIndores, son of the 4th Earl of Rothes, another branch of the Leslie family. She survived her husband and then married John Forbes, son of Monymusk. By redeeming the debts on the Leslie estate he became the possessor of the barony. His son, William Forbes of Leslie rebuilt the castle and died in 1670., his son John thereafter selling it to the Leiths of Leith Hall."

Pitcaple Castle

The following is transcribed from pages 72-73.

"This fine house stands in its ancient estate on the bank of the River Urie, five miles north-west of Inverurie. Now a good example of the Z-plan, with the main block lying north and south and round towers projecting to the north-east and south-west, it appears to date from the early 17th century; but there is older work included. The walls, rising to three storeys and an attic, are roughcast. An angle-turret graces the south-east corner, and a tiny stair-turret projects in the re-entrant between the south-west round tower and the main south gable. The peculiar shape of the tower and turret roofs is something of a modernization, for the castle had fallen into a bad state of repair and was largely renovated about 1830 when these roofs were built, the main roof-level altered, and the crow-stepping of the gables removed, in an attempt by the then laird to copy the chateau architecture of France. Recently, when the house was being re-harled, early 16th-century type gunloops were discovered in the north-east or Thane's tower, with circular shot-holes elsewhere. The castle was originally surrounded by a moat and outer curtain-wall, with a gatehouse at its south-western angle and a drawbridge.

The original entrance was in the foot of the south-west round tower. The basement of the main block is vaulted, as are four storeys of the Thane's tower. The Hall, as usual, is on the first floor, with bedroom accommodation above. One of these chambers, on the second floor, is known as the King's Room. Here Charles the Second spent a night in July 1650 after having landed at Garmouth from exile in Holland.

James the Second, in 1457 confirmed a charter of Pitcaple to David Leslie, son of Sir William Leslie, 4th of Balquhain nearby, head of a prominent and powerful family. The original castle probably dates from that period. The Leslies were wild as well as powerful, and Pitcaple had an eventful history. The 4th laird killed George Leith of Freefield, and in consequence his family and the many Leiths in the area became at feud; he was eventually forced to leave the country, and died a captain in the Emperor's army. James the Fourth visited here, as did his grand-daughter Mary Queen of Scots, when in 1562 she made her progress into the North to demolish the power of the Gordons. She has spent the night at Balguhain, 1 but curiously enough is said to have breakfasted here. She is reputed to have planted a thorn tree- under which her great-grandson Charles danced a century later-and

which survived until 1856. It is now replaced by a red maple, planted by a later Queen Mary in 1923.

In 1630, James Leslie, second son of the laird, was implicated in the terrible tragedy of the burning of the House of Frendraught, which set the North of Scotland by the ears for some time.2The laid himself died at the Battle of Worchester in 1651, fighting for the King he had entertained at Pitcaple-buying up all of the claret in the neighbourhood to do so-the year before. Here, the same troubled century, the great Montrose was brought a prisoner on his way to his death at Edinburgh, after having been betrayed by Macleod of Assynt, preceded by a herald crying, 'Here comes James Graham, a traitor to his country!' The room where he was lodged is still pointed out, and tradition has it that the lady of the house would have engineered his escape had the Marquis agreed.

The Leslies retained possession until 1757 when Sir James died and his half-sister Jane carried the the property to her husband, Professor John Lumsden, of King's College. Their daughters sold Pitcaple to Harry Lumsden of the Cushnie family nearby, with whose descendants it still remains.

- Castle Balquhain was not included in any of Nigel Tranter's books as nothing is left except one wall. Balquhain is a ruined tower house in Aberdeenshire. It was the stronghold of the Leslies of Balquhain and is protected as a scheduled monument. Balquhain castle was built in the 14th century and held by the Leslies from 1340. The castle was sacked during a feud with the Forbes family (there are the Forbes again!) in 1526. This castle was rebuilt in 1530. It was burned by the forces of Prince William, Duke of Cumberland in 1746 and was abandoned. The Barony continues, and the current Baron of Balquhain is Dr. Nelson Ying.
- 2. Frendraught Castle. The original castle was located about 6 miles east of Huntly, Aberdeenshire. The original castle was burned in 1630, during a feud with the Gordons. The Lord of Rothiemay, Lord Aboyne and four others were killed in the burning, but the Crichton laird and his people escaped. Since this was considered a "terrible tragedy," I assume that perhaps the perpetrators locked the doors from the outside, resulting in the deaths of at least two lords.

Submitted by David Leslie White

Chaplain's Corner Samantha Gray, Chaplain, CLSI



RUE: GRACE, PROTECTION AND...CHEESE?

According to several botanical sources, the plant badge of Clan Leslie is related to oranges, kumquats and lemons. Apparently the family Rutaceae contains more species than Ruta Graveolens,

the common rue plant. Leslies have claimed rue as our plant badge for centuries, primarily owing to its nickname even mentioned by Shakespeare, "herb of Grace." It stands for repentance and a bestowal of Grace thereafter. It also stands for a purity of spirit and was considered a "strewing" or cleansing herb (Wikipedia.com). Consider: hundreds of years ago before hygiene was understood much less practiced regularly, lack of cleanliness was an issue so much so it contributed to several historical plagues, written about in this column several years ago. Decaying matter was often left where it lay, washing linens was tedious and done infrequently, woolens were never washed, sanitary measures were scarce for most people by the middle ages. Even with descendants of the Celtics, known for their good personal habits and cleanliness, this eventually deteriorated by the early middle ages and people, clothing, linens and castles in general stank. Strewing herbs were plants with sweet or aromatic scents. These were cut and brought indoors and were strewn on the castle or cottage floors. When walked upon they gave off a pleasant odor to counteract the usual noxious ones present in dwellings of all sizes. It is believed that rue was brought to Europe along with other Mediterranean herbs by the conquering Romans. Some were discovered to have medicinal or healing properties. Others repelled vermin and insects (such as fleas which carried the organism responsible for spreading Bubonic Plague). One of the latter protective herbs was rue. It was grown around homes to keep unwanted beasties out, and for the spiritual qualities attributed to it. Because it was also used to flavor liquor and several cheeses, it was grown in cottage herb gardens.

Rue takes it's name from the middle English/vernacular "hreow" meaning "sorrow". The spelling changed over the years, typical in linguistic shifts, and it was first noted to be spelt "rue" in the 12th century.

According to Spiceography (Spiceography.com/common-rue/) Such worthies as Hippocrates, the 'father of medicine', and the famed philosopher Aristotle believed rue was an antidote to venomous bites, poisons, anxiety and witches. Pliney the Elder, another noted thinker, declared it was good for eyesight and advised artists to use it. Yet another source considered rue could open up the 'third eye' or second sight. In churches, penitents were sprinkled with holy water from a branch of rue. Aside from the more esthetic uses, Ethiopian cooking employed rue as a popular spice - especially in coffee - for centuries and still does.

As written about in an earlier edition of Grip Fast, plague doctors wore masks with hollow beaks, stuffed with herbs and facing downward to prevent the plants from falling out. One of the cleansing and protective herbs used during the plague was rue, as it's scent was believed to purify the air inside the doctor's mask.

For those who would like to grow rue, it is fine through zone 7 or 8, and dislikes swampy or boggy conditions. It needs 6 to 7 hours of sun daily, and prefers well-drained soil, although it will grow in poor soil as well if it receives proper water. . It produces woody, attractive seed pods from small yellow flowers growing in groups on slender branches. Rue benefits from trimming to keep it bushy, or it becomes leggy. Even a very "runaway" rue will seldom grow more than two to three feet high (approx. 1 meter). It loses its leaves in the winter, but is early to sprout leaves in the spring. It is aromatic and bittersweet in flavor and scent because of rutin, it's alkaloid. The flavor and scent are reminiscent of green orange peels or capers, both of which also contain rutin. A caution is in order, as some people find rue irritating; in some individuals it may even cause a rash. Garden gloves are advised unless you now for certain you are not sensitive.

The Leslie Crest has crossed rue branches in flower. The actual plant looks somewhat different, and readers are advised to Google it. The small golden flowers, and the ferny, well-cut lacy leaves are a very pretty - and useful - addition to a flower or herb garden or as a walkway border. May all Leslies always have Grace, whether or not they grow this lovely ancient plant.

of not they grow this lovely affecting plant.

Meet the Clan Leslie Honor Guards and New Honorary Members of CLSI

Recently, distinguished guests attending highland games in the United States have been provided honor guards for these events. Two representatives of the Clan Ranald Trust for Scotland have answered the call to provide their service to the Honourable Alexander Leslie, Chief of Clan Leslie, and to Sebastian Leslie, Chieftain of the Balquhain Leslies.

Steve Melians, U.S. Army First Sergeant (Retired)

Steve is a retired U.S. Army Ranger, having served for 25 years, and participating in Operation Just Cause in Panama, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. His military awards include the Bronze Star Medal with Oakleaf (2 Awards), and the Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge with Star, and Master Parachutist Badge with Combat Jump Star, and Ranger Tab, among many others.

He currently works as a military contractor as Cadre for the Marine's MARSOC (Marine Special Operations Command) Assessment and Selection program. He is also an artist, writer, motivational speaker, and avid fitness enthusiast who runs marathons and ultramarathons. His family traces its Scottish heritage to members of Clan Craig who came to the colonies and eventually fought in the Revolutionary War for the Continental Army. He has ties to several clans, including Hamilton, MacDonald, MacAlister, and Smith. He has been involved with the Clan Ranald Trust for Scotland since 2019.

He is married to Kristina Cornwell, US Army Colonel, currently stationed at Fort Eisenhower GA, (Formerly Ft. Gordon), who is currently serving as a Brigade Commander.

Randy Dedrickson, U.S. Navy Lieutenant Commander (Retired)

Randy is a U.S. Navy prior Chief Petty Officer and retired Lt. Commander who served for 22 years and is credited with inventing an afloat threat warning intelligence capability for the Fleet that revolutionized afloat combat readiness. He was awarded a Defense Meritorious Service, two Meritorious Service medals, a Joint Commendation and two Navy Commendation medals, one Joint Achievement medal, three Navy Achievement medals and numerous unit awards. Randy recently completed 25 years as a DoD Intelligence Agency contractor and government civilian, and retired in October of 2022. His civilian service significantly improved national threat warning support to U.S. and Allied forces. His unit provided game changing support to Seal Team Six and the war in Ukraine.

His Scottish community involvement is the U.S. representative for Clanranald Trust of Scotland, along with previous leadership roles within Clan Hamilton, Clan Bell and Clan Wallace. He is also the past President of the Williamsburg, Virginia Scottish Festival. He recently completed Medieval Sword fight training in Scotland with Combat International.

Randy is married to Ms. S. Barry Hallenburg. They were married on March 13, 2010 at Murthly Castle, Scotland. They have a 17-acre farm in western South Carolina.

Note: Clanranald Trust is a Scotland-based non-profit that has constructed a full-scale replica of an early Medieval Fortified Village located near Denny, Scotland. https://www.duncarron.com/



Lew with Steve and Randy



Randy (L) Steve (R) Our Parade Honor Guard SMHG.jpg

In Memorium

David Leslie White, Former Chieftain, CLSI



David Leslie White, 86, died after a brief illness on December 22, 2023.

David was born in Council Bluffs, lowa November 7, 1937 to Warren Leslie White andSadie Bedford White. He grew up in Oakland, and graduated from Oakland High School in 1956. He attended Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa and graduated in 1960 with a degree in biology. David then joined the Army and trained at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. At that point, he was shipped to an Army hospital in Korea.

Subsequently, he received a commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Medical Service Corps, and an assignment to Denver, Colorado. Later he received orders to a field hospital in Thailand where he also acted as the U.S. Army liaison officer to the Royal NewZealand Air Force, a duty he greatly enjoyed. After returning from Thailand, David wasassigned to Fort Wayne in Detroit, then to Fort Carson, Colorado Springs, followed byStuttgart, Germany, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, Vietnam, Fort Devens, Massachusetts, and finally back to Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio. Clearly, he lead the life of a gypsy.

He married his first wife, Carol Berg of Taylor Falls, Minnesota in 1964. They had two wonderful daughters, Lisa and Lara, and three grandchildren, May, Leila, and Max.

David completed a Master's degree in Hospital Administration from Webster University, St. Louis in 1976. He left active duty with the Army, and obtained a position as an assistant director at the University of Michigan Hospitals, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Later he took a position as vice president with Archbishop Bergan MercyHospitalinOmaha,Nebraska. He then acted as a consultant with American Medical International in Atlanta, and completed his career at Harris Methodist in Fort Worth.

David retired from the Army Reserve as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1997.

David married his second wife, Beth Meriwether of Fort Worth in 1998, until her death in August of 2023. With that marriage, he gained two more daughters, Beth Anne and Lisa, and three grandchildren Kate, Abby and Zach.

In retirement, David enjoyed genealogy, where discovered his Scottish ancestry. He joined the Clan Leslie Society International and became a member of the Council, and later served two terms as the Chieftain of the Society. Furthermore, he and his wife, Beth, enjoyed travel, especially to Scotland. He was also an avid reader and had a house full of books.

David was preceded in death by his 3 infant children, his parents, sister Priscilla, and second wife, Beth. He is survived by his daughters Lisa, Lara, Beth Anne, and Lisa Francis, as well as his grandchildren May, Leila, Max, Kate, Abby, and Zach, and his great granddaughter Liana.

The Parting Glass

Of all the money that e'er I had I have spent it in good company and all the harm that e'er I've done Alas, it was to none but me.

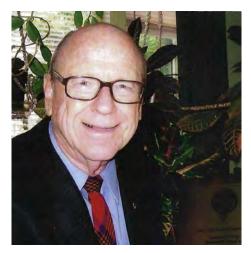
And all I've done for want of wit To memory now I can't recall So fill to me the parting glass Good night and joy be with you all.

Of all the comrades that e'er I had They are sorry for my going away And all the sweethearts that e'er I had They would wish me one more day to stay.

But since it falls unto my lot That I should rise and you should not I'll gently rise and I'll softly call Good night and joy be with you all.

So fill to me the parting glass And drink a health whate'er befalls Then gently rise and softly call Good night and joy be with you all. Good night and joy be with you all.

Lorne Frederick Leslie



November 19, 1934 - October 25, 2023 Lorne Frederick Leslie, beloved husband of Meryl, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at the age of 88, after a long battle with Parkinson's. Fred was born on November 19, 1934, in Toronto, the son of Archibald and Virginia (Flexen). He was a kind and gentle man with a wry smile and a big heart that endeared him to anyone he met.

As someone who could fix or build almost anything, Fred learned to work with his hands at Central Technical High School. This is where he met his future bride, Meryl. A natural aptitude for both science and art, he excelled in chemistry, photography, and automobile repair. He started his career as a lab technician at Lever Brothers, currently Unilever, when he got

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the opportunity to apprentice as a scientific glassblower under his mentor and friend, Arthur Hunt. When Arthur retired, Fred happily took on the role of Scientific Glassblower at the University of Toronto where he worked for more than 30 years, until his retirement in 2002.

Fred was proud of his Scottish heritage and delighted in several trips to Scotland to learn more about his ancestry. Haggis, neeps and tatties, bridies and a wee dram of Scotch were particular favorites. He maintained a life-long passion for all things mechanical, photography, movies, classical music - he played piano and cello - and made a superb lasagna too. Always willing to lend a hand, Fred was an active member of many organizations including St. Martin-in-the-Fields Anglican Church, the American Scientific Glassblowers Society, Clan Leslie, the Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Toronto, and the Cairngorm Club of Toronto to name a few. He was exceptionally proud to participate in the 100th anniversary of Central Tech School in 2013.

Fred is survived by his wife of 67 years, Meryl (Rivers); his children, Tina, Dennis, and Jennifer (Rob); his grandchildren, Matthew (Libby), Jessica (Steve), Dennis Jr., Laura (Adam), Julia, Ryan, and Kyla; and his great-granddaughter, Riley. He is predeceased by his parents, Archibald and Virginia; and brothers, Harold Kenneth and Stuart. A beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and friend, he will be greatly missed by all those who were fortunate to meet him. His dry sense of humour and infamous quips will be missed by all.

A Good Man Never Dies

A good man never dies– In worthy deed and prayer And helpful hands, and honest eyes, If smiles or tears be there: Who lives for you and me– Lives for the world he tries To help–he lives eternally. A good man never dies.

– James Riley

New CLSI Convenors in Europe

We are happy to announce that CLSI has some new representation in Europe! **Nicola Teal** of Leslie Castle is our convenor in Scotland. **Jean-François and Virginie Cordomier** are proudly representing the Leslies as our convenors in France. Jean-François also translated all of our handouts into French! They will be available on our website soon. Thank you to Nicola, Jean-François and Virginie!

The Much Honoured Raymond Morris of Balgonie & Eddergoll.

4 August 1930 to 28 August 2022. An appreciation by his son.

y father was very proud of his awards that he received from the Clan Leslie Society. His interest in history went back to his youth. He was heavily influenced by the romantic view of the medieval knight and chivalry, largely through the films of Errol Flynn and his ilk. This interest delved deeper into Scottish history, the clan system and Celtic art. As a boy, he would improve his toy soldiers, then progressed to building model ships from scratch. One of his models won him a prize and is the only one that I have. This went on to him working with his hands, in adult life, in heraldry, Celtic art and the making of targes.

He went to Queen Mary's Grammar School, but he was not very scholastic, however, he said that he was thankful as it gave him a good grounding for life. A couple of years above him was the actor, Frank Windsor. The one part of school that he enjoyed was the Officer Training Corps which he joined in 1942. The war was in full swing, and he did his bit by acting as a messenger for the Home Guard and ARP. Unbeknown to his parents (his father being in the ARP), he would climb over bomb sites to look for scraps, preferably from incendiary bombs, which were apparently ideal for model making.

He was called up for National Service in 1948, doing his basic training with the HLI at Fort George. He was posted to the Gordon Highlanders and sent to Germany, first Essen and then Berlin. This was the hight of the Berlin Airlift, the largest humanitarian effort of the 20th century. His one lasting impression was seeing people sitting at the side of the roads chipping the cement from the bricks, so that they could be used to rebuild the city.

The one exciting thing that happened on the run up to May Day in 1950. There was a belief that the Soviets were going to use a gathering of the Communist Youth at the Brandenburg Gate as an excuse to invade West Berlin. The Gordons were put on alert. My father's company were stationed in a hotel near the Gate. However, the hotel was under construction and consisted of concrete walls, floors and ramps (where the steps were going to be built). The ramps were difficult to get up with army tackety boots. Thankfully May Day past without anything untoward.

He knew that he did not want to work in an office so most of his jobs were outdoors. After demob he went into the leather tanning industry. During this time he took silversmithing classes and made a number highland accoutrements, some of which were hallmarked with to coronation mark for 1953. He changed direction and worked on a farm outside of Scone, where he gained his Tattie Rouging certificate. He joined the Perth Gaelic Society and then became a member of the Inchside Dancers, touring France in 1954. He got itchy feet and moved to Tarland in Aberdeenshire to work with the MacRobert fold of Highland Cattle. The manager was the late Bill Reid VC. My father was still not settled, so moved to Angus and became a Forester for the Earl of Airlie. He would sometimes climb to the top of the then ruinous, Forter Castle, to eat his lunch. He would also work in the policies of Airlie and Cortachy Castles. The old Earl loved to tinker with engines so would often be in a boiler suit. On one occasion and American family appeared in the grounds of Cortachy. They asked the boiler suited old man if the Earl was around. The Earl pointed to my, kilt wearing, father and said 'that's him'.

He went to study Forestry at the East of Scotland Agricultural College (part of Edinburgh University). This is where he met my mother, who was studying Horticulture (she was a rose grower). After marriage they moved to Loch Tay, where my father was a Head Forester and where I came along. His love for old buildings saw him beginning the first of several restoration projects, by buying the Old Mill. The Mill went back to 1480 and belonged to James III. The restoration was put forward for a Civic Trust award.

In 1969 he started to work as a leather craftsman, specialising in Celtic art and heraldry. He exhibited in Sweden, America and Austria. His work is housed in collections around the world and one of his works is housed in the National Leatherwork Museum.

In 1973 my father was invited to exhibit at the British Fortnight of Neiman Markus department store in Dallas, Texas. By chance he met Jimmy Logan. At this point Jimmy was the highest paid British entertainer. So, my father introduced himself to Jimmy, who in turn exclaimed 'you exist'. Apparently, people had been going up to him and asking if he was Raymond Morris! An interesting aside is that my future mother-in-law was just along the road, as a Dallas Police Officer. It is a small world. My father was Chairman of the Kenmore and District Tourist Association. My mother was Chairman of the local SWRI and on the Perthshire committee for the Queen's Silver Jubilee.

The next restoration project was a Georgian Town house in Cupar. The outbuildings turned out to be a medieval merchant's house. Although the centre of Cupar was a conservation area, our outbuildings were not included. This was very surprising as they were possibly the oldest domestic building in the town.

1985 saw the start of the final restoration project, Balgonie Castle. This has been a very slow project which I am continuing. The restoration of our Chapel led to a very successful wedding business, drawing couples from over forty countries. My father opened various Galas and was asked to stand in for Princess Anne (who's mother-in-law had just died) to open the 1st Fife Vintage Car Rally. Local artist, Max Scotto, painted my father's portrait, which was unveiled by Margaret Dean, Lord Lieutenant of Fife. Max later painted a posthumous portrait of my mother. He was also a founder member of the Heraldry Society of Scotland, principal founder of the Scottish Castles Association, founder member and Honorary President for life of the Markinch Heritage Group.

In the recent years he struggled with the effects of a lifetime of physical activity. He also had a heart condition and a very rare heart murmur. During one long stay in hospital, the medical students were told to listen to his heart, because they would probably never hear this murmur again in their medical career.

Balgonie is full of my father's heraldic and Celtic work, which includes carving fifteen doors. My father made preparations for his final journey by making his own coffin. This was painted with Celtic art, his arms and Guidon and other images associated with his life.

SMoB&E



Raymond Morris of Balgonie & Eddergoll with his Leslie Awards. Above him is one of his many beautiful carvings, this one showing Leslie heraldry.



Raymond Morris of Balgonie & Eddergoll painting by Max Scotto



Raymond Morris as a Gordon Highlander in 1949

Leslie Weddings

We are always excited to announce Leslie weddings!

KIRK LESLIE, JR. & MELANIE SEYARTO

On August 6th, 2021 in Temecula CA, Kirk Leslie Jr. and his bride Melanie Seyarto tied the knot in a lovely Scottish themed ceremony. The pictures with the red Leslie tartan are from the rehearsal dinner the night before. The groom's cake was done in the red Leslie tartan and the guys all wore the ties to match. The wedding day pictures are in the kilts with full dress jacket.



Kirk Leslie, Sr. & Kirk Leslie, Jr.



Kirk & Melanie Leslie

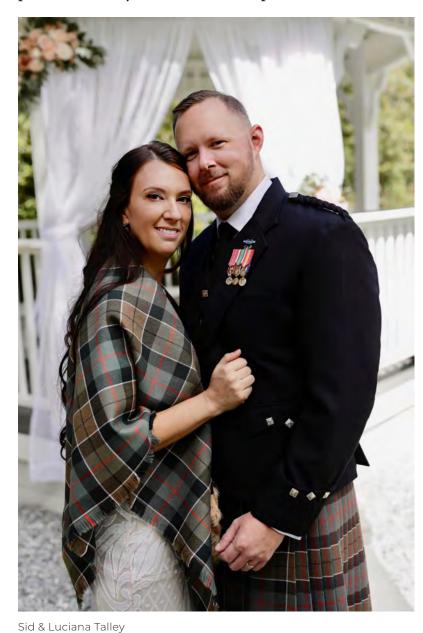
A fun, Lesliethemed cake decked out in red Leslie tartan.



Kirk Leslie, Jr. and Melanie Seyarto at their Leslie-themed rehersal dinner!

SIDNEY EDWARD TALLEY & LUCIANA XAVIER DE CAMARGO FERNANDES

On October 14th, 2023, Sidney Edward Talley and Luciana Xavier De Camargo Fernandes were wed in a private ceremony at the home of her parents, Ubiraci and Luci Fernandes in Tampa, Florida.





Sid, Luciana and Cooper Talley



Luciana & Sid

Congratulations to these beautiful Leslie couples!

TENTS, GAMES & EVENTS

2023 LOCH NORMAN HIGHLAND GAMES TENT HOSTED BY LEW & CHRISTINE JOHNSON



Lew Johnson, John Abernathy, Jamie Abernathy, Christine Johnson & Roger Luckey

Christine and Dr. Durie

Leslie History

After having the last two years of the games challenged by torrential rains one year and cold temperatures last year, this year's Loch Norman Highland Games had great weather.

The clan tent was hosted by Christine and Lewis Johnson and by our count this was our 11th year.

We had a busy time at the tent welcoming visitors and answering questions about the games and Clan Leslie. We had very nice visits with the Abernathy family, and also a new member Roger Luckey.

Christine had the opportunity to share information about her genealogy work on the Leslies with Dr. Bruce Durie, one of Scotland's top genealogists. They shared information about doing family history research and Christine learned more about doing research on families in Ireland. He provided contact information for individuals who can help her research. Christine also worked with someone researching their Carolina Leslie

connection. The games provide a great opportunity to make a personal connection which can then be continued via email.

Branches of Leslie Family Tree

We also spent time with a couple who will be hosting their first clan tent in a few months. We provided a convenor's handbook, sources for pins and patches, hats, and leather coasters.

The Parade of Tartans is the highlight of the clan activities at the games. Clan Leslie inadvertently was not mentioned as we passed the review stand. This resulted in Clan Leslie receiving special recognition from the announcer at the end of the procession and many cheers as we passed the review stand while we returned to our tent.

GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN HIGHLAND GAMES JULY 6-9, 2023 TENT HOSTED BY LEW & CHRISTINE JOHNSON

Clan Leslie Society International was well represented at the GMHG. This year at the Games Sebastian Leslie, Chieftain of the Aberdeenshire Leslies, and his wife Candy attended the Games as Distinguished Guests. Candy is a member of the Fraser Clan, and she was a special guest in the Clan Fraser tent. Clan Leslie was a clan of Distinction and we all marched in the parade of tartans near the front of the procession, right behind the honored clan. We arranged for a special honor guard dressed in a great kilt, carrying a sword and the newly acquired Leslie targe to accompany our honored guests. Lesley Craddock's son, Benjamin was also an honor guard, while his older brother Joseph carried our banner.

We had about 40 Leslies/Abernathys at the games counting everyone. The clan tent was a busy place! Lesley, Peter and Lesley's mother Brenda Meyer did a great job with hospitality. Their tent provided a place to sit and watch the games events, eat snacks and enjoy all sorts of refreshments. Chris, Beth and Mary managed the informational tent. At the information tent, there were lively discussions of Leslie history and Scotland travel. Sebastian and Lewis had ample time during the four-day games to network and talk with other clan chiefs, clan society chieftains, and representatives of Scottish Heritage USA, COSCA, and the American-Scottish Foundation. During these discussions, the theme of strengthening involvement across generations within clan societies and between generations in the USA and Scotland was a central topic.

At the tent, we did a short informational talk on the Battle of Harlaw (July is the anniversary month) and provided a handout authored by Commissioner William Leslie of Canada. Sebastian and the Abernethy ladies (who attended the Fergus Gathering) did a brief thank you video and sent it to William.

During the Games, Sebastian made opening ceremony remarks all three days of the Games, Sebastian's comments at the opening ceremony were well received. Friday afternoon there was a COSCA Scottish clan and family caucus that both Lewis and Sebastian attended.

The Johnson, Craddock, and Meyer families want the thank all who attended the games with some traveling from Tennessee, Texas, South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Virginia, and Georgia.





Joseph, Sebastian and Steve

TENTS, GAMES & EVENTS

2023 GLASGOWLANDS SCOTTISH FESTIVAL JULY 15, 2023

TENT HOSTED BY LAURA SAWYER MESSING



July 15, 2023 was a scorcher in Northhampton, Massachusetts for The 28th Glasgowlands Scottish Festival. This wonderful, 1-day festival held at Look park featured 40 Clan tents and 31 pipe bands.

While I didn't have any Leslies, Abernathys, Langs, Moores or Bartholomews visit the tent, I met a very enthusiastic gentleman wearing a Kings Own Scottish Borderers Shirt. He is a tremendous admirer of the KOSB and knew all about their history and stopped by the tent specifically because he knew that they wore the Leslie trewes. He is working on a tribute uniform for reenactment purposes and showed me his work on it so far including a pair of the Leslie trewes he had procured from eBay. He especially enjoyed my display on the KOSB!



A KOSB enthusiast visited the Leslie tent at the Glasgowlands Scottish Festival

NEW HAMPSHIRE HIGHLAND GAMES & SCOTTISH FESTIVAL SEPTEMBER 15-17, 2023 TENT HOSTED BY LAURA SAWYER MESSING

Clan Leslie Society International was once again represented an the New Hampshire Highland Games and Festival at Loon Mountain Ski Resort in Lincoln, New Hampshire. Janet Leslie Pyatt flew in from St. Louis to help out with the tent and represent the Leslies!

Friday was a great day to set up and get the festival started. Saturday was a different matter. The weather on the Mountain was problematic and forced the closing of the games due to high winds. Everyone was disappointed because Saturday is the main festival day. Fortunately, the newer tents provided by the festival were extremely sturdy and kept all of our materials safe during the wind storm. On Sunday, we participated in the Kirkin and had a really nice, full festival day. We had several Leslie and Abernathy visitors and a couple of inquisitive Langs throughout the course of the weekend. We were especially pleased to see CLSI members Kirk and Barbara Leslie back at the tent! Photos of their son's beautiful Leslie wedding can be seen on the next page. All of the clans participated in the closing ceremony since there was no parade of clans on Saturday.

Despite the weather, it was a great weekend to reconnect with old friends and to make some new ones! We will be back in 2024!



Tent host, Chieftain Laura Sawyer Messing



Janet Leslie Pyatt at the Leslie tent!

New Members

Lynn Griffin Marietta, GA

Cheryl Solomon Douglas, GA

Gregory Moore Emerson, AR

Susan Dodson Red Boiling Springs, TN

Annabel Ballew Ball Ground, GA

Joshua Persons Heath, TX

Frederick Persons San Diego, CA

Scott Leslie Allen, TX

Alexander Halpern New York, NY

Scott Coleman San Diego, CA

Bart Maney Columbus, TX

Amie Fernandez Colton, CA

Bobbie Jo Peacock Mathiston, MS

Buffie Gold Oceanside, CA Associate Member

Ryan Festerman Oceanside, CA

Broadus Trotter Moore, SC

Madeline Mann Winston Salem, NC

Amanda Crowe Concord, NC

McKenzie Flowers Yukon, OK Inceptor to Member

Tony Leslie Nottingham, UK Ginger Bryant Todd, NC

Elizabeth Hallman-Dye Rochester, NY

Stephen Knight North Fork, CA

Dr. Robert Swinea Prineville, OR

Jennifer Lang Austria

Sherryl Wiseman Leander, TX

Melanie Hudson Lyman, SC Associate Member

Brad Leslie St. Augustine, FL

Sanya Bird Wichita Falls, TX

Derek Leslie Cheshire, UK

Meghann Viggiani Stafford, VA

DeWayne Leslie Lottsburg, VA

Simon Muff Bavaris, Germany

Kirk Leslie Lanesborough, MA

Stanley Yon New Orleans, LA

Amanda Daiber Jefferson. GA

Cynthia Kallmeyer Georgetown, Ontario Canada

Alexia Fisher Oak View, CA

Walter Wolfe Columbus, OH Rejoining

Adam Leslie Chilliwack, Canada Rejoining

Donations General Fund

Lew and Chris Johnson In Memory of Don Abernathy

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JoAnne Dandin Las Vegas, NV

Ellen Adams Marietta, GA

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W. Bruce Leslie Brockport, NY

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Charles Lewis Leslie Little Rock, AR

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

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visit us at clanlesliesociety.org

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Set of 5 Leslie Tartan Stickers



Grip Fast The Leslies In History



The Griffin Reprints (Lots of interesting information!)





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