

# **grip fast**

THE NEWSLETTER OF CLAN LESLIE SOCIETY  
OF AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND. (CLANZ)



# **DOWN UNDER**

Vol. 4 No 9, Jan, Feb. March 2009

## **REPORT ON CLANZ.**

Well here we are at the end of another year, which just happens to be our tenth year. I wonder where all the time has gone, it certainly does not feel like ten years since we started putting out our newsletters, but it most certainly is. People say that time goes fast when you are having fun.

In our second ten years we must look at increasing our numbers and also getting more participation in the running of CLANZ from our financial members. We no longer have to worry about Public Liability insurance as we have that completely covered.

As you will have seen in the last few issues of our newsletter, "Grip Fast Down Under" the section "Roll of Honour" can be used to feature ordinary Australians and New Zealanders who have just been carrying on with their lives and their story needs to be told and recorded for future generations of Leslie's.

Another thing that has to be built up is the Clan Leslie DNA Project (see story later in this newsletter). This is an issue, which should interest all Leslie's, as it preserves their DNA for later generations to examine.

Included with this newsletter is a membership renewal form for members of CLANZ. It would be appreciated if payment could be either forwarded by cheque or paid by Direct Debit and this will save me lots of time and effort.

I need stories and articles to put into this newsletter so if you have an article for me, or you wish to find out about any aspect of Leslie history, please let me know and I shall endeavour to find it for you.

I would also like to wish all Leslie's who receive this newsletter a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Safe and Prosperous New Year.

Yours Aye.  
Barrie Leslie



**Ella Dorothy Winifred Leslie. M.B.E.**  
**May 23 1896 – November 26 1963**

Ella was the second child born to Andrew John and Mary Edith Leslie, at Kaiwaka in Northland New Zealand. She had an older brother Harold Keith; and younger siblings John Morrison Hall, William Bruce, Andrew John Marcus Wallace, and one sister Mary Betty. Her father, known as Jack was the youngest son of William and Ann Leslie from Shetland. They were the first pioneer family to arrive at Kaiwaka in 1859 to take up land under the 40 acre scheme. Ella's mother (known as Edith) was the eldest daughter of John and Elizabeth Hall. John Hall came to Kaiwaka to work in the Kauri timber industry c. 1888 as a tallyman and later manager for the Kauri Timber Company at Pukekaroro a few kilometres north of Kaiwaka.



*Ella Leslie in 1921*

When Ella was born she had very little hair, which at birth is common in our branch of the clan. As she received gifts of ribbons, her mother resorted to sewing them on her bonnets. The lack of hair didn't last for long though and she grew a beautiful head of dark auburn hair. Ella was a very intelligent person and her thirst for knowledge continued throughout her life. She did well at school and gained her certificate of proficiency in 1910. Her youngest brother known as Wallace, and later Bob, was born in 1909 and early signs of her nursing ability became apparent at that time. She cared for him as a baby forming a bond, which remained for the rest of their lives. According to early records Ella was a member of the Kaiwaka hockey team, and her long time friend Myra Sarah was a member of the opposition team at nearby Hakaru. Ella's later teenage years were spent working on the farm alongside her brothers, she was a very fit young woman and there are stories of her chasing her brothers over hill and dale in response to annoying behaviour on their part. She enjoyed a wonderful relationship with her father whom she held in high esteem.



*Ella Leslie in 1918*

Apparently none of the eligible young men in the district were considered by him to be suitable for his daughter, and at the age of 21 she embarked on her nursing career at Auckland Hospital with his blessing.

After four years training alongside childhood friend Myra Sarah, Ella qualified in 1921 as a State Registered Nurse. At this time she took up the position of District Nurse at Tolaga Bay near Gisborne in Poverty Bay. The area was home to many large sheep stations and a predominantly

Maori population, people with whom she had a great affinity and respect. She revelled in her contact with Maori women and their babies, encouraging breast feeding amongst mothers often a little too keen to adopt the European "titty bottle," which to her dismay were usually unwashed bottles containing sour residue.

Horseback was the main form of transport around her district, which was perfectly satisfactory for a girl with her background, but it was a challenging life in a remote area. During her years at Tolaga Bay there is a story of a romantic interlude in her life with the Aide-de-Camp to the Governor General of the time. Unfortunately the romance was not to be. One night when Ella's 12 year old brother Bob was visiting her in Tolaga Bay he overheard a violent argument between the couple. Bob jumped out of the window of the house and ran to the schoolteacher next door to come to Ella's assistance. The Aide-de-Camp was sent packing and that was the end of the affair.



*Ella and her niece, Judy Leslie in 1941*

In 1925 Ella returned to Northland as District Nurse at Rawene in the Hokianga, again an isolated region where many settlements could only be reached on horseback. Ella later had a car to travel the district, its make was a Trojan but there were many stories of its idiosyncrasies.

The legendary Dr G.M. Smith was the Medical Officer at Rawene Hospital during those years and Ella found him an inspirational colleague in difficult circumstances, a feeling, which was reciprocated and she and his family became lifelong friends. During this period she qualified as Charge Nurse in Ante-Natal Nursing - her forte

as babies were her specialty. She attended Victoria University in Wellington completing a post graduate Nursing Diploma in Public Health Nursing in 1928.

Jack Leslie, her father who was diagnosed with Brights disease, spent some of his last months with her at Rawene but sadly died in 1930 at the age of 60. Her time in the Hokianga ended in 1934 following a course in Child Welfare at Truby King-Harris Hospital in Dunedin. After the course she moved to Whangarei to work for the Department of Health as "Nurse Instructor in Northland", followed by "Senior Nurse Inspector of District Nurses in Northland and "Inspector of Nurses in Public and Private Hospitals". This period of work in Whangarei was interrupted from 1939 to 1942, when she was seconded to work with the Director of Nursing Services in Wellington. Following this secondment she returned to Whangarei until her retirement in 1949. In 1937 Ella was awarded the MBE in the Coronation List of Honours for, "Her outstanding services rendered under most difficult circumstances in the Hokianga".

A cutting from the Northland News, Kaikohe, dated 18<sup>th</sup> May 1937 reads:

"Honour Received by Miss E D Leslie – Highly Esteemed by the Maori Race.

The Maori people of the North as well as the European residents, will be glad to learn that Miss Leslie, whom they hold in such high esteem, was one who shared in the honours' list recently, having the title of MBE bestowed upon her.

Miss Leslie is well known to people of North Auckland, having worked among the Maoris for twelve years and was also resident Native nurse at Rawene for many years. During the early part of this period, Miss Leslie's task was an arduous one as she had to cover the territory on horseback.

It is safe to report that no one has done more to develop the technique of district nursing. When Miss Leslie took charge of this work the Maoris feared the hospitals, but as the result of careful management she was able to make the Maoris realise that hospital was the proper place for a sick person. She did away with the bottle of medicine so dearly loved by the Maori as a placebo, and realised that the district Native nursing had to be ultimately associated with the district hospital.

An instance of the good work Miss Leslie carried out apart from her nursing duties can be gauged by the fact she began teaching the Maori children the art of spinning with wool at the schools. The wheels for this work were copied from an old wheel, which Miss Leslie had received from her grandmother from Shetland. Miss Leslie, who is the eldest daughter of the late Mr Jack Leslie of Kaiwaka, was three years ago appointed Nurse Inspector of District nurses for North Auckland." On a more personal level, Aunt Ella was an impressive member of our family. She had made a career of nursing and remained a nurse even in retirement. Frequent childhood treatments were administrations of "brilliant green" to our many cuts and scratches, and flat ginger ale when one had the "gastric". She was a mine of information on all health related matters, as well as just about anything else one might want to know!

She loved her nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews, and knitted a shawl and various baby items for each new arrival, with plenty of advice for the new mother. Sally my first doll with eyes that opened and shut, and a carved camphor wood chest (one of which she gave to each of her nieces) were wonderful presents. Interest in our Scottish heritage was fostered with various gifts of Leslie tartan, ties, scarves, berets, and rugs.

She retired about the time that I started school, but she administered my diphtheria immunisation and was in charge of the head lice inspection at school. I was very proud of her so didn't mind having the check and I think she made an effort to be in attendance at Kaiwaka, probably making it one of her last "Nurse Inspector" duties.

I have very fond memories of Aunt Ella, as I spent a lot of time in her company. Our holiday cottage was next door to her home at Mangawhai Heads and my favourite pastime was reading. She had a good library of books and encouraged me to read well ahead of my years. She liked me to read aloud when she had visitors, which was a bit embarrassing as I was very shy. She didn't mind playing card and board games with me, Chinese Checkers was a favourite. She used to squat on the floor to play patience, which was very impressive for a woman in her late fifties and sixties and supposed to be, "very good for the muscles after child birth" (also a good position for a child to get through a wire fence). I remember her telling me, that native women dug a hole in the ground and gave birth squatting over it, she thought that a very good idea.

She had an interesting collection of antique furniture and porcelain acquired over the years,

the Grandfather, and Grandmother rocking chairs were always popular, but one was required to rock in a restrained manner. She was a stickler for good manners and grammar and loved radio quiz shows. She was something of an expert on Maori language and culture.

As I was a very thin and puny child she was determined to “build me up” so whenever I stayed with her we had rump steak from the Waipu butcher and New Zealand spinach out of her garden with mashed potatoes. I ate with relish, but didn’t grow any more robust. I remember one time when I had an abscess in my ear and Mum was doing her best to comfort me but the only person I thought could make me better was Aunty Ella. So the phone call was made and she was there like a shot to cradle me all night. In the morning when the pain had gone, I was sure she had effected the cure.

Her pet name for me was “Little Missy” and I enjoyed tagging along on visits around the neighbourhood. Mangawhai Heads has always been a popular retirement choice and it was very formal. Mr, Mrs or Miss was the correct form of address used but she did have nicknames for some. The “Little Man” was the ex-Kew Gardener who specialised in growing pompom dahlias and “The Black Man” was from the West Indies. He had the first crop of chillies I had ever seen, lovely big shiny red and green varieties. Ella was a keen gardener herself, and her asparagus bed was the first I had seen, as was her avocado pear tree, I think it had one tiny fruit on it (before the days of grafted avocado)!



*Ella Dorothy Winifred Leslie. M.B.E.*

Ella was delighted when Dad (whom she always called Wallace) bought the farm at Kaeo in the Far North, even though it meant we visited her less. Kaeo was her old stamping ground and Ella and her brother Keith were Dad’s first visitors and assistants before Mum and I moved up. Aunty Ella was in her element ringing around the area and catching up with old friends from her nursing days. She kept the wood stove going in the heat of November for cooking and hot baths and even hopped on a horse to help muster the sheep for shearing.

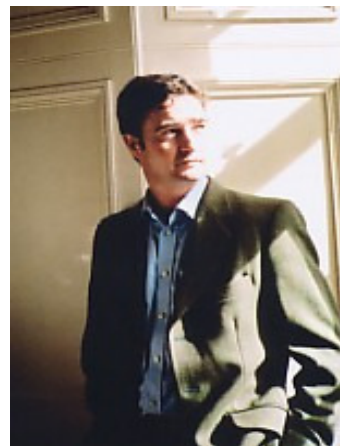
Unfortunately it was only four years later that Ella suffered a stroke and ended up in Whangarei Hospital. I had just started working in Whangarei and when I visited her she was unable to speak. She indicated to me that she wanted me to attend to her finger nails, I did so and it made her so happy that tears shone in her eyes. Only a week later she passed away with Dad and Pat Leslie at her bedside. A wonderful woman loved and respected by many.

Maureen Slako nee Leslie. November 2008.

*Many thanks to Maureen for the above information on her Aunt.*

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#### **MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING CHIEF OF CLAN LESLIE, HON ALEX LESLIE.**



I have had an eventful and fascinating year. I moved to Dumfriesshire, not exactly Leslie country, but a beautiful if wet part of Scotland (mind you, everywhere in Scotland has been wet this year).

I have met some extraordinary and extraordinarily nice people. I have been fishing, I have been riding and enjoying the true country life. And I have been working quite hard too, so that I can afford to do these things.

In the summer I went to Norfolk, in England, for a weekend Gathering of Leslies. What was satisfying about it was that every Leslie there was directly related to Noel Rothes, who survived the



sinking of the Titanic in 1912.

There was a granddaughter and a grandson, five great grandchildren and seven great great grandchildren. Although some knew each other very well, others had not even met before. I did not know four of the great great grand children, my cousins.

For that reason it made the gathering very worthwhile indeed, and provided an opportunity to focus on something that my father was very committed to achieving – continuity.

It is all very well for those people who establish Societies (and work extremely hard and unrewarded to do so) but there comes a time when the founders need to find the next generation of enthusiasts, those who can take the reins of their society and make it into what their generation of Leslies want it to be. It was lovely to see the younger generation being interested and enthusiastic about their family and connections and I hope they will play their part in shaping things for the coming years.

Next year there is The Gathering in Edinburgh – Homecoming 2009. It is a long way from Australia or New Zealand, but it would be excellent if one or two could be there. However, there is an event taking place at the same time, as part of the larger 'show' that I think will be very important – the Clan Convention, hosted by the Scottish Parliament.

The agenda is not yet fixed, but the theme of the event is the role that Clans and Families can play in a 21<sup>st</sup> world. We are who we are and belong to the societies that we belong to because of the past, because of our history. However, this convention brings together government and heads of clans and clan societies and is an opportunity to discuss this issue of continuity. It is something that I believe is extremely important and I will make sure that it is discussed properly and fully. I am looking forward to 2009 very much, and I have enjoyed 2008 very much too. So let me wish you a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous and fulfilling New Year.

*Alex Leslie  
Acting Clan Chief*

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### **NEW ZEALAND SOLDIER STATUE ON ANZAC BRIDGE. SYDNEY.**

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, I was one of approximately twenty New Zealand veterans invited to attend the dedication of the World War I New Zealand soldier statue on the ANZAC Bridge in Sydney.



*Barrie Leslie after the Dedication.*

I was very pleased to be able to attend the dedication as the number of attendees was severely restricted by the New South Wales Government, owing to security and safety concerns. I was also very happy to be wearing my grandfathers medals, from the Boer War, WWI and WWII .

*Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.*

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### **MARTIN TREGENNA HAWORTH LESLIE**

Born. 2 May 1896 Nowra NSW

Died. 4 March 1971 Castle Hill Sydney

Married. Nettie Margaret Harper

21 Dec 1928 Suva Fiji.

On the gates to the Turramurra Memorial Park, at Turramurra on the North Shore of Sydney, is the name of Martin Tregenna Haworth Leslie, who is named after Martin Edward Haworth, who was the husband of Mary Elizabeth Leslie, 18<sup>th</sup> Countess of Rothes. Died 19 Sept 1893 London.



*Gates to the Turramurra Memorial Park. Sydney*

Martin Tregenna Haworth Leslie was the grandson of Mary 18<sup>th</sup> Countess of Rothes and he is survived by his daughter, Mary Haworth Grigor ( nee Leslie) who is a member of Clan Leslie Society of Australia and New Zealand. Martin went to WWI as a Lieutenant with the 1<sup>st</sup> Machine Gun Battalion of the 1<sup>st</sup> AIF on the 4 January 1915 and returned safely 12 April 1919. His elder brother, Edward Biddulph Leslie served with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Machine Gun Battalion and he returned to Australia, 6 September 1919.



*The Memorial to Martin Tregenna Haworth Leslie, on the right hand column of the Turramurra Memorial Park gates. 3<sup>rd</sup> from top*

Martin's mother was Caroline Edith Biddulph, an old English family who were resident at the "The Earee" in the Shoalhaven, Southern New South Wales and more information can be found in the book "The Letters of Rachel Henning" Penguin Books ISBN 0 14012047 S.

Martin was the son of the Hon Edward Courtenay Haworth-Leslie, born 2 July 1840, Mainhead Devon England and died 31 Jan 1911 in his home "Kilsyth" The Boulevard Strathfield Sydney NSW Australia and is interred at St Thomas' Church of England Cemetery Enfield Sydney, Section 43, No 23, Registered Burwood 887.

Martin's mother was Caroline Edith Biddulph born 5 Oct 1862 at "The Earee" Shoalhaven, NSW and died 10 March 1948 at Wahroonga, North Shore of Sydney.

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## MARY ELIZABETH LESLIE 18<sup>TH</sup> COUNTESS OF ROTHES.

Mary Elizabeth Leslie, 18<sup>th</sup> Countess of Rothes was the grandmother of Martin Tregenna Haworth Leslie (see above) and was born 9<sup>th</sup> July 1811 in England, to Henrietta Anne Leslie 14<sup>th</sup> Countess of Rothes and her husband, George Gwyther.



*left, Mary 18<sup>th</sup> Countess of Rothes and right the 13<sup>th</sup> Countess of Devon.*

The Countess and her husband Martin Edward Haworth had nine children and her 3<sup>rd</sup> child, Edward Courtenay Haworth-Leslie came to Australia.

Mary, 18<sup>th</sup> Countess of Rothes was married, 11<sup>th</sup> August 1835 in Leslie House Fife and succeeded to the Earldom in 1886, on the death of her nephew and died on the 19<sup>th</sup> September 1893 in South Kensington London.

*Barrie Leslie, Gordon, NSW.*

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## CLAN LESLIE DNA PROJECT

When I started the Clan Leslie DNA Project, I was hopeful that it would be a means of connecting Leslie families and also preserving information on Leslie families where the male line had died out.

I have to thank Evelyn Leslie of the USA for volunteering to be a Project Administrator for the project, as I could not find time to carry out those duties. I was extremely pleased to receive a notice from Family Tree DNA that there had been a match between two of the participants and that the match was a 37 marker and that I was the match with an Andrew John Leslie from the United Kingdom. Now we have to find out where our families converge.

If you go to:-

<http://worldfamilies.net/surnames/1/leslie/results.html> you can see some of the results of the program. I would urge all persons with the surname of Leslie or any of the variants of Leslie to participate in this program.

*Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.*

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## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS.

Hi all, It is that time of the year again and I would be pleased if you could send your subscription renewals when you receive this newsletter. Please refer to the enclosed "invoice" which is **\$25-00AU** for Australian and **\$29-00NZ** for New Zealand CLANZ members.

Australians can send me a cheque or deposit into our bank account, while New Zealanders can send a cheque, made payable to R M Leslie, 1 / 76 Wallace Road. Mangere Bridge. Manukau City New Zealand.

Thank you all for your support over the last ten years and I hope that you will all see your way to supporting us in the coming year.

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## THE COMBINED SCOTTISH SOCIETIES OF N.S.W. INC

The 139<sup>th</sup> Annual Highland Gathering of The Combined Scottish Societies of N.S.W. Inc, was held at the Castle Hill Show Grounds, which is an outer suburb of Sydney, on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2008. The weather was a beautiful 24 degrees, fine with a light wind.



*Barrie with Jean Marshall, High Commissioner for Clan Keith, Australia and New Zealand*

Unfortunately I was not feeling well and decided not to get dressed in my kilt and jacket. I was also asked if the High Commissioner for Clan Keith, Australia and New Zealand, Jean Marshall could share my tent, as she was attending the games by herself.



*Barrie with Sean Cairney*

Also attending the games was Sean Cairney, CLANZ member and Australian Editor of "The Scottish Banner"

I had been speaking with Sean regarding a feature coming up in "The Scottish Banner", next year and I am happy to say that one of the first interviews for "Meet the Chief" articles will be our own Alex Leslie, acting Chief of Clan Leslie and you can read the interview below.

*Barrie Leslie, Gordon, NSW.*

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## Meet the Chief



The Scottish Banner is pleased to be running a series to help readers get to know their Clan Chief and quite literally put a face behind the name. Scottish Banner readers will be "meeting" a variety of Clan Chiefs over the months to learn about the person who connects Scots around the

world.

This month we welcome the Hon Alexander John Leslie the acting Chief of Clan Leslie and trustee of the Clan Leslie Charitable Trust.



**SB:** Can we begin by you telling us a brief bit about yourself and when you took on the role of acting Clan Chief? Do you have a role outside the Clan itself?

**AL:** I took over as Acting Chief following the death of my father in 2005. As the 21st Earl of Rothes he was the hereditary chief. The Earldom passed to my elder brother on my father's death, but he does not have an interest in the family history, so it was decided that I should take on the role of Chief. Outside the world of clans and families I am a consultant, advising telecom companies around the world on how to manage their revenues and customers in a fast changing world.

**SB:** Many people are fascinated by the Clan ancestral home? Where is the official Clan residence and do you in fact live and run the property? Also can the general public visit?

**AL:** The ancestral home is in Fife, just north of Edinburgh. There was a house on the site of the current Leslie House as long ago as the 12th century when it was called Fythkil. The house was rebuilt as a formidable 'palace' in the middle of the 1600s. This was designed and built by John Leslie, who was made a Duke by Charles II, and appointed Lord High Chancellor of Scotland. The dimensions of the 'palace' were enormous, and slightly larger than the Palace of Holyrood – and on purpose! My grandfather was forced to sell the house because of Death Duties. It became an Eventide Home until 2005, when it was bought by a property developer who has plans to convert the house into flats, but aims to keep the character of the house intact.

**SB:** Do you get to meet many international Clan members and if so how/where? And if not how do you best communicate with the international Clan membership?

**AL:** Occasionally I manage to attend Clan Leslie Society gatherings in North America, and some members of the Clan will attend the Gathering in Edinburgh in 2009. This event is being heralded as the largest international gathering of Scottish descendants for 30 years. I always try and write articles for the society newsletters, both the International and Australia/New Zealand versions. I keep in touch with the members of the Council via email and telephone.

**SB:** For those readers who are not part of your Clan, is there a favourite piece of Clan history or information that you find interesting or that may not be general knowledge?

**AL:** I suppose the most colourful character was Bartholomew, who accompanied Margaret to Scotland from Hungary in 1066. Margaret married the king and Bartholomew became her champion and married the king's sister. However, possibly the

most amazing tale was the size of the Duke's funeral procession, which was 16 miles long. If you can imagine 16 miles from where you are sitting right now, it is quite impressive. I believe he thought that the king would pay the bill, but sadly he did not, having already funded a state funeral for the Duke.

**SB:** If it's possible to describe what would you say is the most rewarding aspect of being a Clan chief?

**AL:** It is a responsibility and an honour. My father invested a lot of time and effort in setting up and promoting the Clan Leslie Society and I feel that it is my role to continue his work, and to lead the process of getting younger people involved and interested.

**SB:** What future projects or goals do you have planned for the Clan? Is there anything specific you wish to accomplish whilst Clan Chief?

**AL:** I would be happy if I saw a significant increase in the number of younger members of the societies, and the level of activity.

**SB:** Genealogy is gaining more popularity all the time. What is the importance you feel of belonging to a Clan and the modern day Clan system as we know it?

**AL:** I think that a Clan provides a community of common interest. It is also a useful network of informal researchers that just might help people find their ancestors and relatives.

**SB:** What message do you have to both your international Clan members and our Scottish readership in general?

**AL:** I think it is very easy to think about Clans and Scotland in the past tense. There is a wealth of interest, humour, heroism and honour in our history. I believe very strongly, however, that we need to think carefully about the role of Clans and Societies and to work out a role for this network, this interconnected community, that is relevant, useful and forward looking.

**SB:** If people wish to know more about your Clan how do they get in touch?

**AL:** [www.clanleslietrust.org](http://www.clanleslietrust.org) / [www.clanleslie.org](http://www.clanleslie.org) or [www.clanlesliesociety.org](http://www.clanlesliesociety.org)



Many thanks to Sean Cairney of "The Scottish Banner" for permission to preview the above article, which will appear in "The Scottish Banner" early in 2009. If you would like to take a subscription to "The Scottish Banner, Sean can be reached, phone 61 (02) 9664 6843, email [info@scottishbanner.com](mailto:info@scottishbanner.com) or web [www.scottishbanner.com](http://www.scottishbanner.com) or the postal address is The Scottish Banner. PO Box 107, Coogee. NSW. 2034 Australia.

*Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.*

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### **CAPTAIN GEORGE WILLIAM LESLIE. MV. MALABAR.**

Early on the morning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1931 the MV Malabar, enroute from Melbourne to Sydney and then on to Singapore, struck the headland at Long Bay, just south of Sydney.



*MV. Malabar. 4512 tons gross.*

The Malabar was built from the West shipbuilding yard of Barclay, Curle and Company, Scotstoun, Glasgow on the 9<sup>th</sup> July 1925 and was named after a small town in Java, about 25 kilometres, south of Bandung. During sea trials in October 1925, the Malabar rammed the Wemyss Bay railway pier, when the steering failed. On the 10<sup>th</sup> October 1925 the Malabar was taken over by the Burns Philp, London Branch.

The Malabar had an incident free life and proved a very good investment for Burns Philp and the usual practice was for some of the crew of the Malabar to be relieved at Sydney on her voyage from Singapore to Melbourne and Captain Leslie would often relieve the regular captain for the run to Melbourne and back to Sydney.

On the 31<sup>st</sup> March 1931, the MV Malabar, under the command of Captain Leslie left Melbourne for the trip to Singapore, which was her 32<sup>nd</sup> trip. At approximately 6-35am on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1931, the Malabar passed Cape Baily, near Cronulla,

which is about 25 kilometres south of Sydney. The weather was rather hazy and then a dense fog rolled in and Captain Leslie was concerned about being so close inshore (this was to take advantage of the current running north) and ordered a course change of 5 degrees to starboard (right) to move away from the coast, but unfortunately the helmsman misunderstood the order and steered 5 degrees to port (left) and by the time the course could be changed the Malabar ran aground on the northern headland of Long Bay.



*MV Malabar on rocks, 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1931.*

Captain Leslie stopped the engines and ordered the evacuation of the ship. The passengers and crew of 108, Chinese and Malays were all safely put ashore and three valuable stud horses were swum ashore and the only loss of life was the ship's cat, who refused to leave the ship.



*MV Malabar on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1931*

The Sydney newspaper, the Telegraph estimated that more than 500,000 people had visited the wreck and people had set up booths to sell refreshments to the crowds.

The NSW police suspected that Chinese members of the crew were importing opium and were waiting at Sydney Harbour to search the crew, but

then had to rush to the wreck and then followed several of the crew to Dixon Street (Sydney's Chinatown) and later smashed there way into a building and arrested several people found there, including three members of the Malabar's crew.



*Three lifeboats being launched. Note fog.*

On the 7<sup>th</sup> April 1931 the wreck of the MV Malabar was sold to the Penguin Salvage Co for 140 pounds and the cargo for 41 pounds and salvage started on the 8<sup>th</sup> April and the binnacle stand, some furniture and other fittings were removed but work had to be suspended on the 9<sup>th</sup> April, due to the heavy seas and the Union Jack and the bosun's stores were recovered on the 10<sup>th</sup> April, but after these attempts, the wreck lay undisturbed for more than 25 years.



*The MV Malabar passing under the Sydney Harbour Bridge, before it was completed.*

On the 15<sup>th</sup> April 1931 a Marine Court Inquiry was commenced into the loss of the MV Malabar, before the Chief Stipendiary Magistrate of NSW, John Laidlaw, Esq, where Captain Leslie was charged with "failure of duty" in the matter of the navigation of MV Malabar.

The Court found that Captain Leslie had failed in his duty and his Certificate was cancelled, but he remained a Sydney Harbour Pilot, until his retirement.

Before the federation of the Australian States in 1901 when a qualified Master Mariner obtained his Sydney Harbour Pilotage Exemption, he was qualified to take any vessel of which he was Master in and out of Sydney Harbour without a pilot, therefore Captain Leslie obtained his Exemption Certificate before federation.



*Long Bay, now Malabar headland today*

An interesting postscript to this story is that the suburb of Malabar was originally called Brand or Long Bay, after the nearby jail but the residents of the suburb petitioned to change of the suburb and in the Government Gazette of the 29<sup>th</sup> September 1933, the name of the suburb was officially changed to Malabar.

The wreck site was off limits for many years as the wreck was located right next to Sydney's largest sewage treatment plant, ocean outfall and the NSW Health Department closed Malabar Beach because of the extreme pollution and it was not until the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1990 that the Malabar Sewage Treatment, Deep Water Outfall system was opened, that discharged the sewage 3 to 4 kilometres out to sea and ended over 200 years of dumping sewage on the shoreline.

This opened up the MV Malabar and the nearby wreck of the SS Goolgwai to public scuba diving.

*Can any of our readers give me any information on the family of Captain George William Leslie and what happened to him after he lost his*



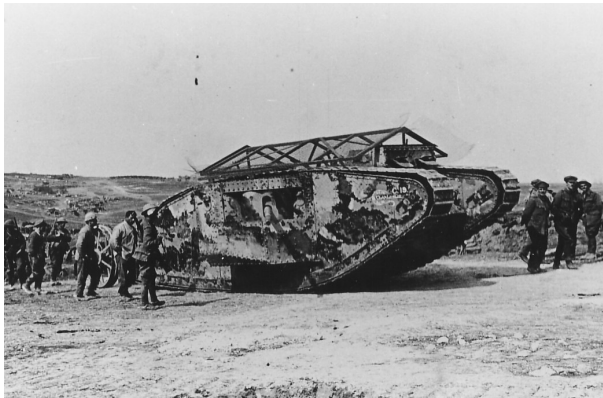
*certificate. It would be nice to know who his family was and also be able to finish this story.*

*Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.*

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## CLAN LESLIE TANK BOVINGTON TANK MUSEUM.

During the early part of the World War I England assembled a large number of tanks to attack the German lines. On the 15<sup>th</sup> September 1916, No 4 Section, C Company, Heavy Section, Machine Gun Corps tanks were moving up the Chimpanzee Valley, heading for the front when one of the tanks, named Clan Leslie broke down and missed the battle.



*Clan Leslie, 15 September 1916*

The only surviving example of a Mark I tank is now at the Bovington Tank Museum Dorset England, but its identity is not known. It has been painted in the colours of the original Clan Leslie tank and had been brought back to England and presented to Lord Salisbury in 1919 for display at his Hatfield Park Estate, Hertfordshire. UK.



*The replica Clan Leslie (see name by C19)*

The original Clan Leslie tank (tank 705) was numbered C19 and was commanded by Captain Archie Holford-Walker who had six tanks under his command and it is presumed that all were named after Scottish clans, but the only other name known, was Clan Ruthven.

The Mark I tanks were divided into male and female models and 75 of each type were built. The male tank (which Clan Leslie was) had two 57mm cannons and the female models had extra machine guns fitted. You can see the cannons protruding from the side, in both photographs.

Weight overall	28 tons.
Speed road	3.7 mph.
Armour thickness	12.00mm
Engine power @ 1000 rpm	105 BHP
Range	23 miles
Length	8.05 metres
Width	4.19 metres
Height	2.45 metres.

*Many thanks to David Fletcher of The Bovington Tank Museum, Dorset, BH20 6JG England for permission to show all the above details. See website [www.tankmuseum.org](http://www.tankmuseum.org) for further details*

*Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.*

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## CLANZ MEMBER

**NEVILLE CHITTOCK.**  
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*Neville Chittock*

Neville has been a member of CLANZ for a number of years and has traced his Leslie ancestry back to John Leslie of Parkhill, born circa 1515 and was a younger brother of George 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Rothes. John Leslie of Parkhill was also known as the Rector of Kynmore and received a charter of the Kings lands of Parkhill, in Fife dated 24<sup>th</sup> March 1537. He was taken prisoner at the rout of Solway Moss, in 1542 and was released on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 1543 on payment of a ransom of 2000 merks.

He aided his nephew, Norman, Master of Rothes in the murder of Cardinal David Beaton and was forfeited on the 14<sup>th</sup> August 1546.

He married Euphemia, second daughter of Sir John Moncrieff in 1526 and had two daughters, who probably died young, as they were not mentioned, or their heirs, in a contract, made by George, Earl of Rothes and John Leslie in 1573.

Some records say that John Leslie also had a son James, but there is no further record of him and John Leslie is said to have had a natural son as well. John Leslie had no lawful male issue and he resigned his lands in favour of his nephew, Andrew 5<sup>th</sup> Earl of Rothes, 24<sup>th</sup> March 1573 and he died in 1575.

John Leslie of Parkhill obtained "Letters of Slains" for the murder of Cardinal Beaton, from David Earl of Crawford, John Beaton of Balfour, Robert Beaton, his brother and several others, as nearest of kin and allies of the dead Cardinal and



*Naomi Chittock daughter of Neville Chittock*

forgave John Leslie of Parkhill for the slaughter of the said Cardinal and forgave the said John Leslie the rankour of their wrath and deadly feud, with all actions, criminal or civil – 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1575.

*Neville has various papers, referring back to the "noble family of Rothes" and would be pleased to hear from anyone who can help him with details on the children of John Leslie of Parkhill. Neville can be contacted on [nevec@datafast.net.au](mailto:nevec@datafast.net.au) or contact can be established through me.*

*Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.*

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY  
NEW YEAR TO ALL.**

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**WEBSITE for CLANZ.** <http://www.clanleslie.org>

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