

Vol. 9 No 5, April-June 2018



I am pleased to report that payment of subscriptions has been excellent this year. We

I posted an article in the last issue entitled “Where are we Going?”, asking for your views on how our Society was progressing, and for suggestions on how we could improve and grow. There was also a suggestion from Chief Alex regarding possible re-affiliation with CLSI. Sadly, I have not had a suggestion, opinion or reply to this.

I would ask that all of you let me know your thoughts.

If anyone out there was thinking of buying Castle Leslie in Aberdeenshire, I'm sorry to say that you are too late. The property has now been sold, and I believe that the new owners plan to run it as a guesthouse/private hotel. Still, there is an opportunity for any of you heading to Scotland, to spend some time in an ancestral property.

As we all get a little older, we tend to slow down, and I am not looking forward to a

Malcolm Leslie, Commissioner/Chieftain

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There have been some changes in a small but increasingly important Scottish organisation. The Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs was established in the late 1950s, basically as a lunch club so that Chiefs had somewhere to go and have a decent lunch before the annual Garden Party at Holyroodhouse.

And in recent times, these changes have been quite dramatic. Since Sir Malcolm MacGregor took over as Convenor back in 2011, the organisation has become involved in several Scottish Government initiatives to encourage and support clan based tourism to Scotland. Funds have been created to help this initiative and it is now reasonably easy to get access to this fund.

Whilst the contact between the Government and the clan network is, if you like, one step removed, the Chiefs – as a group – do have a certain amount of influence because they are the heads of clan or families.

The reason for mentioning this, when I should clearly be discussing matters of great importance to Leslies, is that it has been my pleasure and privilege to act as Vice Convenor since 2011. And I have agreed to continue in this position under the new Convenor, Donald MacLaren of MacLaren, who is a career

diplomat and, as such, very used to dealing with politicians at all levels.

One issue that is close to all our hearts is, of course, what some refer to as the Diaspora (a group that we rather like referring to as 'overseas Scots'). Scots that live in Australia and New Zealand are obviously an important part of this.

It is, however, no secret that Scottish support and Scottish sentiment has been on the wane in Australia and New Zealand and a crucial question for us all is 'is there anything we – the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs' – or the Government, can do to help?

Malcolm MacGregor visited Australia a couple of years ago and received a very warm welcome indeed. Clearly, although the numbers of enthusiastic supporters is less than it was, the enthusiasm itself is still very much there. We are still planning a trip in the reasonably near future.

If you have any suggestions, it would be very helpful for our discussions.

Alexander Leslie, Clan Chief

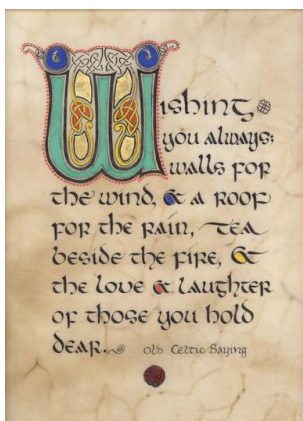
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ARTICLES

I would be **greatly** pleased if members could send me articles or reports of events they have attended, or any news of interest, so I could include them to make our newsletter more newsworthy.

It is a difficult job to put out a regular issue if there is no news to go in it.

Send articles to: malncol@icr.com.au.



SITUATIONS VACANT

The following situations are vacant and we need enthusiastic Society members to volunteer to take them on:

Editor, Grip Fast Down Under

Membership Secretary

Representative Victoria

If anyone can see their way clear to make any of these positions their own, please contact the Commissioner/Chieftain

Clan Leslie Septs

Bartholemew

As you all probably know, Bartholemew (or Bartolf) was the founder of our clan. In his excellent book "Grip Fast", Alexander Leslie Klieforth states "*Five septs are listed for Clan Leslie; in the case of Bartholemew, two other clans are indentified as the associated clan*".

He does not expand further on this statement.

This rather intrigued me, so I looked up a few other references. Most sources show Clan McFarlane as the main clan to which Bartholemew should be attached. In some instances, the name is shown as a separate family in its own right.

Black, in his "The Surnames of Scotland", states that the name is a widespread personal name in medieval England, and is of Semitic origin, meaning "son of the twin". Bartholemew was one of the twelve apostles. However, the name appears in Scotland as far back as 1296, when an Alisundre Bertholmeu was recorded as paying homage.

Through the years, the name has been recorded in marriage records as Bartelmew, Bartilmo, Bartelmo, and Bartilmew.

Bartholemew is also used as the anglicized version of the Irish name Parlan, or Partholon. This name has no real relationship to the Scottish name Bartholemew. It is interesting to note that the Earls of Lennox (Clan McFarlane) claim descent from Partholon, who in Irish mythology was the first to take possession of Ireland, 278 years after the flood. Whatever the truth of these various sources, we of Clan Leslie are happy to welcome those Bartholemews who wish to claim kinship with us.

The following article is an extract from the "Proceedings of the Society of Antiquities Scotland 1978-80" which I thought would be of interest to Society members.

Introduction to the Rothes Papers

By W G Rowntree Bodie

In 1966 the Rothes Papers were discovered in the roof space of an old farm building.

The building was one of several situated near the stables of Leslie House, once the home of the Earls of Rothes. Leslie House lies within the designated area of the new town of Glenrothes, Fife, and the farm building was the property of Glenrothes Development Corporation at the time the Papers were discovered. They are now on loan to Kirkcaldy District Museum. The Papers I have seen cover dates from 1580 to 1830. Among them are bills, farm tacks, business letters, and accounts relating to coal and salt workings. One 17th-century scroll measures 6ft in length. Many have to do with the factoring of the estates of Leslie House, its policies and lands. The Earls of Rothes are descendants of a Hungarian noble, Bartolf, who came to Scotland in 1067, was granted the lands of Leslie in Aberdeenshire, and took the name of Leslie. The title stems from the lands of the Leslies at Rothes in what was the County of Elgin. The interest of the Leslies in Fife came from a Sir Norman Leslie acquiring the lands of Fythkill, which the Barony of Leslie was then called, around 1282. The first Leslie to become Earl of Rothes was George, whose second wife was a daughter of Walter Halyburton of Dirliton. It was about 1457 when he was created Earl.

The third Earl was killed on Flodden Field. A son of the fourth Earl, Norman Leslie, was one of those responsible for the murder of Cardinal Beaton in 1546. Another Norman Leslie conspired with others who slew Archbishop Sharp on Magus Moor in 1679.

The earliest date I have seen, 1580, appears in items listed relating to land tenure. The seventh item reads '*Tacta wilielm murray Terram De pitcauhar apud Tillibardin 20 De mensis Augusti 1580*'. In 1580 Mary Queen of Scots was a prisoner in England. She was involved with the fifth Earl who was a supporter of the Protestant party and a signatory of the Book of Discipline in 1561 which deeply offended Queen Mary. After the murder of Rizzio in 1566, to be revenged on the Lords who slew him, she gave appointments to the former Lords who had been in disfavour. Among them was Rothes. He was one of those

who exposed the plot. When Darnley was murdered in 1567, Andrew, Earl of Rothes was one of the jury who '*voted and acquitted the said James Earl of Bothwell of art and part of the said slaughter of the King . . .*' (Davison 1965, 293).

The sixth Earl became a Covenanter. Along with the Earl of Loudoun he was the chief instrument in getting agreement to the signing of the National Covenant in Greyfriars Church. He died in 1641. The seventh Earl supported Charles II. He and Lord Balcarres each commanded cavalry regiments raised in Fife, and fought at Worcester. Both Rothes and Balcarres were taken prisoner and lodged in the Tower of London. Rothes was later moved to Newcastle where his Countess visited him. His lands were sequestrated in 1658 but later that year he was allowed to return to Leslie by permission of General Monk. Popular with Charles II, he was appointed General of the Forces in Scotland in 1666, and in 1680 created Duke of Rothes. His wife Anne, daughter of the Earl of Lindsay, had strong sympathy with the Covenanters. He would say 'My hawks will be out tonight, my Lady, so you had better take care of your blackbirds'. (Watt 1913, 195). The Duke died at Holyrood in 1681. He received an elaborate and costly funeral which was a financial burden on the family for many years. Four engravings showing 'The Funeral of John, Duke of Rothes' are exhibited in the Scottish National Portrait Gallery. The ceremony was continued in Fife as we find from the Kirkcaldy Burgh Records dated 22nd Aug 1681:

Thair being a letter direct fra the Erie of Haddington inveiting them to the buriell of the Diuk of Rothes, his father-in-law, and considering the great and many obligations that lies upon them mair nor uther burghes in this shyre, and that laitlie his Grace had purchased fra the King's Majestic ane gift to them of several impositions for building thair harbour; thairfore they appoint all inhabitants quha can get horse to go to the said buriell upon their own expense, and that thair shall be thirtie murning cloaks provydet upon the toun's expense, and heirby appoynts the Thesaurer to send for the sam to Edinburgh.'

The Dukedom became extinct when Margaret the eldest daughter succeeded to the Earldom. Margaret's sister Christian married the third Marquess of Montrose while she married the fifth earl of Haddington. Her son John became the ninth Earl of Rothes when she died in 1700, while her second son Thomas became the sixth Earl of Haddington.

The ninth Earl fought on the government side at Sheriffmuir. He married Jean, the daughter of the second Marquess of Tweeddale, in 1697. When he died in 1722 their son John became the tenth Earl, and it was during his lifetime that Leslie House, except for the W front, was destroyed by fire in 1763. Upon his death in 1767 it was a son of his first wife Hannah who succeeded to the title. Jane Elizabeth Leslie the sister of the eleventh Earl became Countess of Rothes in 1773. Her uncle, the Hon Andrew Leslie, whose schooldays at Haddington are mentioned in the Papers, disputed her right of succession.

The Papers were kept by a steward or factor described as servitor to the Earl in one bill of 1705. They provide a wealth of information regarding payments in kind, in pounds Scots, or sterling, over several centuries. Among names which appear in the Papers are those of Lady Elizabeth Kelly, Lady Haddington, Lady Balfour of Burleigh, Lady Montrose, Lady Wemyss, Lord Yester, Lord Lindsay of Byres, Marquess of Tweeddale, Earl of Bute, Lord St Clair, Robert Mylne, George Dundas and John Adam.

WHEN THE COUNTESS WENT TO EDINBURGH

One bundle of papers was tagged 'Depurped be me when yr Layp went to Edr the 17 Sepr, and the time yr Lad abood yr, and yr Layp Coming horn to Leslie the 4 day off Deer 1696'.

It covers the stay of the Countess in Edinburgh where it would seem she was preparing for the marriage of her second son, the sixth Earl of Haddington, to Lady Hopetoun.

She left Leslie House in a coach drawn by two horses, one of which was mounted by a postillion. Accompanying the coach were five hired horses carrying retainers, servants and baggage to the ferry-boat at Kinghorn.

Her steward in his day-to-day record of expenses and wages reveals the activities of her guests and servants. It also contains information about various modes of travel. When the crossing of the Forth from Kinghorn to Leith was made, 9 shillings Scots was given 'to the Skipper in Drinkmunie', and as her entourage passed to 'yr Ladys Lodginge', customs of 10 shillings Scots had to be paid at the Nether Bow Port.

There are frequent references to money being given to the poor. At this time there was an agricultural depression causing famine in Scotland which increased the number of

beggars in the capital and countryside. On Sunday, 20 September the Countess was given by her steward '4 ffive Shiling pefes' to give to the poor. As she passed down the Canongate to the 'Abay' she distributed 12 shillings Scots, and later when she went to the Tolbuth Kirk' 14 shillings Scots.

When someone required a sedan chair its two chairmen were paid 14 shillings Scots.

Although sedan chairs had been in use in London since 1634 it was not till 1687 that Alexander Hay, a carpenter in Edinburgh, built six chairs and was granted permission by the Town Council to operate them exclusively for 11 years. It would be his chairs which were in use in 1696, although it is likely he would have had more chairs in use by then. He was granted permission to operate on condition that he increased the number of chairs if there was a demand for them.

Stanley Bruce

Stanley Bruce has written several articles about Leslie matters, which we have fortunately been able to print in this newsletter. We have been told that he will soon be publishing a book entitled "Leslie—Ship-owners, Shipmasters and Ship Builders of Aberdeen".

A draft of this has been sent to Past Commissioner Barrie, to read.

We will let you know when it comes out, and hopefully, will be able to share some of it with you.

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An American Tale

The following story has come our way, which outlines a clan member's history:

William Leslie – Revolutionary War &

Schoolmaster

William Leslie was born on 29 October 1759 in New London Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania, the son of George and Elizabeth Leslie. We have some details of his life because he filed a Revolutionary War pension application in 1833 that is full of personal information.

William served three tours of duty with the Chester County militia during the Revolution. He enlisted as a volunteer in a company hurriedly organized in the spring of 1776 by Capt. John McDowell, forming part of Col. William Montgomery's regiment. On 8 June

1776, the company marched from Chester County to the vicinity of New York City. The British had occupied Staten Island, and the Chester County militia was stationed at a place called Blazing Star on the New Jersey shore opposite the enemy. Apart from minor skirmishes with enemy troops, the company saw no action. Sometime in September or October 1776, the company returned to Chester County and was discharged from active service.

In November 1776 William again volunteered as a private in Captain McDowell's company, this time commanded by Col. Evan Evans. The company was on guard duty in Philadelphia until December 1776, when they crossed the Delaware River in row boats and landed at night about three miles from the town of Burlington, New Jersey. The troops camped at Crosswicks near Bordentown until Christmas Eve, when they received orders from General Washington to rendezvous with his troops at Trenton.

After marching all night, the company reached Trenton just as the alarm was sounded that the British were approaching. The Hessians attempted to drive off the Americans with a bayonet attack up King Street, but were driven back by artillery fire and an attack on the British left flank. Col. Rall, the Hessian commander, tried to rally his troops in an orchard outside of town, but he was mortally wounded and his troops surrendered. In the engagement the Americans lost only four killed and eight wounded, while the Hessians lost 22 killed and 918 captured. After the battle, Capt. McDowell's men were ordered to take charge of the baggage train loaded with much-needed arms and provisions captured from the Hessian troops, and were with the baggage train while the battle of Princeton was fought on 2 January 1777. William's term of enlistment expired while he was with the baggage train, so he returned to Chester County.

Early in December 1778 William served another tour with the militia, this time substituting for his father, George, who had been called to service.

By this time the British, under General Howe, had captured and occupied the city of Philadelphia, seizing food and supplies from the local farmers.

As a private in Capt. Dunn's company, William took part in the scouting parties that served to restrain enemy foraging and prevented disloyal farmers from selling goods to the

British. Chester County residents suffered much during the Revolutionary War. Both British and American troops appropriated horses, livestock, and crops from local farmers, either paying nothing at all or paying with worthless "continental" currency.

Wartime hardships might explain why the Leslie family sold their Chester County farm and moved west. In 1779 the Leslie family moved to Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, in the central section of the state. For about five months in 1779 William accompanied pack horse trains that crossed the Allegheny Mountains, carrying supplies and provisions to the troops stationed at Fort Pitt.

Very likely this experience led the Leslies to move once again, this time settling in western Pennsylvania in the 1790s. The earliest record located thus far that places the Leslies in western Pennsylvania is the 1791 tax list for Pitt Township, Allegheny County, where George and James Leslie were both taxed as property owners. In 1795 William Leslie appears on the tax lists along with George and James, owning 100 acres of land and two cows. The brothers James, George and William, with their father George Sr., all lived on "lands lying north and west of the Ohio and Allegheny River," which would place them in what became Deer Township, Allegheny County. Pittsburgh and the lands lying south of the city were fairly well settled by the 1770s, but the lands above the Allegheny River remained Indian territory until a much later date. As late as the year 1797, Indians raided settlers' cabins north of the river, killing and capturing the occupants. The Leslies were one of a small handful of pioneers willing to brave the dangers of settling on land still claimed by the Indians.

Sometime before the year 1825, William Leslie began a career as a school teacher. Local history places the log schoolhouse in what is now the town of Tarentum and which was then the site of several mills erected by Felix Negley at the mouth of Bull Creek. William was teaching in Indiana Township in 1833 when he filed for his pension. Perhaps William had received schooling at the academy founded by the New London Prebyterian Church in Chester County. If his pension application is any indicator of William's capabilities, he was exceptionally articulate in a day and age when most people could not even write their own names.



CONTACTS



CHIEF OF CLAN LESLIE

The Hon. Alexander John Leslie

**8 Buckingham Terrace. Edinburgh. EH4
3AA. Scotland**

alex@disruptiveviews.com

**Commissioner/Chieftain Clan Leslie Aust &
NZ**

Malcolm W Leslie D.Ua.

0418 986 876

**117/303 Spring Street, Kearney's Spring,
Qld. 4350. Aust** malncol@icr.com.au

Patron of CLANZ

Ms Kathleen Moore D.Ua.

kathleenceltic@hotmail.com /
www.kathleenprocter-moore.com

Membership Secretary

Malcolm W Leslie

0418 986 876 (see above)

Treasurer

Colleen Leslie 0438 148 760

**117/303 Spring Street, Kearney's Spring,
Qld. 4350. Aust**

colnmal@icr.com.au

Newsletter

Newsletter Editor or committee required

Webmaster & I T Manager

John O'Driscoll 61-3-5253 1254

71 Dandarriga Drive. Clifton Springs. Vic. Aust

john@johnodriscoll.com.au

New Zealand Representative

William (Bill) Leslie 64-9-431-2251

Valima Farm 226 Settlement Road

R.D. 2 Kaiwaka New Zealand

gripfastleslie@gmail.com

Queensland Representative

Malcolm W Leslie 0418 986 876

See Chieftain above.

NSW Representative

Elaine Wood 02-94985068

41 Kooloona Cres, West Pymble NSW 2073

South Australia Representative

Audry M Fry

61-8-8331-9688

37 Ormond Grove, Toorak Gardens,

South Australia 5065. Australia.

Western Australia Representative

Terry Keith Leslie

61-8-8956-7646

**Ngaanyatjarra Lands School. Blackstone Cam-
pus**

P.M.B. 99 via Alice Springs 0872. NT

tezzles_50@yahoo.com.au

WEBSITE for CLANZ.

<http://www.clanleslie.org>

Note: We also have a group page on Facebook

Previous issues of Grip Fast Down Under:-

Can be viewed on our website. You can also see
them on, [www.electricscotland.com/familytree/
newsletters/leslie/index.htm](http://www.electricscotland.com/familytree/newsletters/leslie/index.htm)

Clan Leslie Society International

Chieftain

Thomas (Tom) Leslie Huxtable,

**118 S. Coach House Rd. Wichita. KS 67235.
USA.**

tshux@cox.net

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