THE LESLIES ARE MAKING HISTORY

The Clan Leslie with the help of the Clan Leslie Society International, the Clan Leslie Society of Australia and New Zealand and some key Leslie’s and friends have accomplished something that no other Clan has been able to do, The Clan Leslie will be installing a striking monument to replace the Leslie’s Cross of 1411 and there will be a Dedication Ceremony and a Clan Leslie Dinner to celebrate the 600th anniversary of the Battle of Harlaw. Those attending the Clan Leslie Dinner and taking the Leslie Tours will have a chance of a lifetime, to be immersed in Leslie history.

This family tree, published by Colonel Charles Leslie, 26th Baron of Balquhain, in Vol 1 of his “Historical Records of the Family of Leslie” published in 1869, is not as detailed as those we are used to seeing on Ancestry.com, but it clearly shows the relationship of Sir Andrew Leslie, 3rd Baron of Balquhain who lived from 1399 to 1412 to Bartholomew.

Bartholomew came to Scotland 1067 died 1121.
Malcolm got Charter 1165
Norman got Charter 1224
Norino got Charter 1245
Sir Norman got Fyfkill (Fife) 1262
Sir Andrew married Mary Abernathy got Ballinbreich 1314

The family tree chart shows how the Balquhain Leslies descended from Bartholomew and will help you to keep your Sir Andrew Leslies straight. The Charts to which Col Leslie refers for Malcolm, Norman and Norino are those confirming the ownership of the Leslie lands and the position as Constable of Inverurie. Sir Norman was the first to carry the surname of Leslie and he was granted Fythkill, which is now in Fife.

Norman’s son, Sir Andrew, brought the Abernathy and Carney families into the Leslie family. Sir Andrew was one of the great Scottish Barons who signed the “Declaration of Arrochar” in 1320, in which the Scottish Barons declared, to the Pope, their right to be free of English rule and asked that King Robert Bruce, be released from excommunication.

The fifth son of Sir Andrew and Mary Abernathy was George Leslie who was given the estate of Balquhain in the Garioch by his father, He became the first Baron of Balquhain and was succeeded by his son Hamelin. Sir George was buried in 1351 in the Churchyard of Logydurno. Sir Hamelin and his wife, Ann Maxwell had a son Andrew who became the third Baron of Balquhain in 1378. Sir Andrew and his sons were at the centre of the feuds with the Forbes and he occupied the old fortress at the peak of Bennachie, when the Earl of Mar pursued him. He kept the fort as a place of security.

Colonel Leslie states that in 1411, Sir Andrew was the Master of Horse for the Earl of Mar and one of his chief commanders at the Battle of Harlaw. In this desperate action he lost six sons, in commemoration of whom a cross was erected on the field of battle and called Leslie’s Cross. In another feud with the Forbes, Sir Andrew again withdrew to his fortress on Bennachie and with his friends and vassals came down from his stronghold and gave battle to his opponents on January 22nd 1429 at Braco, about two miles from Bennachie. Sir Andrew was slain. Sir William Leslie succeeded his father as the fourth Baron of Balquhain.

Several Clans, as well as the Provost and Baillies of Aberdeen were involved with the Leslies in the historic Battle of Harlaw on July 24 1411. The
battle took place on the north side of the River Urie, between Bennachie and Inverurie. It was a bloody conflict between Donald, Lord of the Isles and Alexander Stewart, Earl of Mar supported by local families and the Provost and Baillies of Aberdeen. The Tour of the Leslie historical sites will include the sites of The Chapel of the Garioch, the remains of the Castle of Balquhain, the Harlaw Monument, the Hill of Bennachie from Balquhain Castle and the stained glass windows in St Johns Church Fetternear Castle as well as the Leslie Castles of Leslie, Warthill and Lickleyhead. Those participating in the tour will get a chance to immerse themselves in Leslie history by visiting these sites and talking to Leslies who have lived their lives with these Leslie monuments. The full list of historical sites to be visited is shown on the detailed sheet. The tour will include transportation to all the sights and events listed. As those of you who have signed up for the Leslie tours know, this is a unique opportunity to live and learn Leslie history and to participate in making Leslie history by attending the dedication of the ruby red Leslie’s Cross, commemorating the Leslies who fought in that battle, which changed the course of Scottish history.

William Leslie  william.leslie@sympatico.ca

(Many thanks to Clan Leslie Society International for permission to reproduce the above article and the following in Grip Fast Down Under) “Barrie Leslie”

LESLIE TOURS – TRANSPORTATION AND COSTS, SUNDAY TO THURSDAY.

The following arrangements are being made for the Leslie Tours. The costs are based on the number of people who have indicated that they are going on the Tours, including Sunday to Thursday. The cost per person has been worked out at approximately £70 but this is dependant on the numbers being maintained. If the numbers of people were to increase, the cost per person would be appropriately decreased.

The Sunday Clan Leslie Dinner is £30 per person. This is the cost from the caterer and is also a break even event. No part of the funds raised for the Harlaw Monument and Dedication Ceremony will be used for these events.

Therefore for £100 or less, visitors will get the Clan Leslie Dinner and bus transportation to all the Leslie sites. Everyone will be responsible for buying his or her own lunch at all the interesting lunch stops.

Sunday 24th July 2011, afternoon:- All guests to be dropped off at the Battle of Harlaw site at 1-45pm or shortly before.

Pick up guests from Warthill House, continue to Lickleyhead Castle, Premnay.Auchleven, pick up guests, proceed to Harlaw Memorial.

At 3-00pm pick up guests from Harlaw Memorial and proceed to The Chapel of Garioch Church, service at Chapel commences at 3-45pm, all guests to be there before this time – 3-35pm latest.

All guests to be picked up from The Chapel of Garioch Village Hall between 5-30pm – 6-00pm and returned to B&B, Lickleyhead Castle and Warthill House in that order

Sunday 24th July, 2011. All Day:- All guests to be dropped off at Warthill House at 7-45pm or shortly before. Pick up guests from B&B, proceed to Lickleyhead Castle and proceed to Warthill House. At 11-00 – 11-30pm pick up guests from Warthill House and return to Lickleyhead Castle and B&B.

Monday 25th July 2011. All Day:- Pick up guests from B&B, proceed to Lickleyhead Castle, pick up guests and proceed to Warthill House for 9-00am. At 9-45am return to Lickleyhead Castle. At 11-45am proceed to Leslie Castle. At 12-30pm travel to Inverurie for 1-00pm lunch at Bennachie Lodge. 1-30pm travel to Fetternear Palace arriving about 2-00pm, 30 minute stop over for photo shoot, proceed to St John’s Chapel for 2-45pm walk to old (St Ninians) Chapel at 3-45pm, travel to Balquhain Castle, leave at 4-45pm, short visit to Chapel of Garioch and return guests to B&B, Lickleyhead Castle and Warthill House.

Tuesday 26th July 2011 Late Afternoon:- Timings and exact locations in Aberdeen to be provided. Pick up guests at Warthill House, Lickleyhead Castle and B&B and proceed to Aberdeen for dinner and evening show. Collect at 10-30pm - 11-00pm and return to accommodation.

Wednesday 27th July 2011 Morning:- Pick up guests from Warthill House, Lickleyhead Castle and B&B at 9-00am for Aberdeen. Timings and exact locations to be provided. Collect about 9-00pm – 9-30pm and return to accommodation.

Thursday 28th July 2011 Morning:- Pick up guests from Warthill House, Lickleyhead Castle and B&B at 9-30am and proceed to East Aquhorthies Stone Circle, travel to Kemnay, the Acorn Centre for early lunch at about 11-15am. Leave Kemnay at 12-30pm for Essons Car Park at
Bennachie and drop off guests. Pick up later (time to be confirmed) and drop off guests at B&B, Lickleyhead Castle and Warhill House. Please note that there may be minor changes in timing due to detailed planning, also the City of Aberdeen has not yet been able to confirm the times and prices of their events, which we plan to attend. We will inform all those who have committed to these events, of any changes.

David Leslie from Leslie.

A QUESTION OF DRESS FOR THE CLAN DINNER.

Since many of the people attending this year's events associated with the Battle of Harlaw, commencing 24th July 2011 will be travelling from overseas, the question of dress code has been raised. Travelling, as most will be by air, with restricted baggage weight allowances, this will make it difficult to carry additional clothes, especially heavy kilts etc.

When we organised the 1995 Clan Leslie Gathering, here at Leslie, all we asked was that those attending wear something with a touch of Leslie tartan. The touch of tartan could be anything from a piece of Leslie ribbon upwards and we do not wish to insist on formal attire, although some of the more local Leslies will no doubt feel disposed to wear their kilts and trews.

The only thing I would not wish to see in either the Church or the Dinner is people dressed in jeans. I do not think the above dress code requires carrying additional baggage.

I look forward to meeting all those who will be attending the Harlaw events. Good wishes to you all and a safe journey to Scotland in July.

David Leslie from Leslie.

YOU CAN STILL MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND THESE HISTORIC EVENTS.

We would be happy to add anyone who would like to attend these historical events. You will be immersed in Leslie history in the heart of early Leslie lands and castles and meet the Chief of the Clan and Leslie Barons and Lairds. Please let me know. It is not too late.

William Leslie; william.leslie@sympatico.ca

TIME CAPSULE.

We are asking for your suggestions for items to be included in the Time Capsule which will be installed as part of the Leslie’s Cross. The Order of Service booklet includes all the names of the donors as well as the Dedication service and it will be printed on a special material to prevent its deterioration in the capsule. One of the things we thought of including was a set of 2011 UK coins. Electronic and photographic material is difficult and expensive to include.

David Leslie from Leslie.

CLARIFICATION OF FUNDING FOR THE CLAN LESLIE DINNER.

There have been one or two questions about the funding for the Clan Leslie Dinner. The funds raised for the Leslie’s Cross will be used only for the monument itself and the Time Capsule and some small expenses related to the Dedication Ceremony. If there are any funds left over, we will get back to the donors to suggest an appropriate use for these funds. The costs of the Clan Leslie dinner will be paid entirely by those attending; the cost is £30 and includes dinner and wine. The expense for the Leslie Tours involves hiring a bus to transport those who are participating in the tours from Sunday to Thursday and will be paid entirely by the people taking the tours.

William Leslie; william.leslie@sympatico.ca

Bennachie from Harlaw field
A MESSAGE FROM OUR CLAN CHIEF

Pride and ……. Well actually just pride.
I have loved Australia for a long time. I spent 18 months exploring almost every corner of it when I was 18 and 19 and I nearly stayed forever. I also nearly moved back to live there, a few years ago. My love affair with New Zealand started later, much later and involved an intense two weeks, being dragged up and down – and across – some of the wilder rivers of the South Island.

Sometime later I appeared in Court in Wellington, but that is another story.

Apart from the recent world news of floods and cyclones, the Australians and the New Zealanders with the mine disaster at Greymouth and the Christchurch earthquake have re-appeared at the forefront of my mind as people who are part of something extraordinary.

The Battle of Harlaw was almost 600 years ago. It was important in that it halted Donald, Lord of the Isles in his quest to impose Highlanders over the Lowlanders. It is also important to us because Sir Andrew Leslie was the Earl of Mar’s Master of Horse and that many leslies lost their lives on 24th July 1411.

But here we are, in 2011, with all that far, far away – static, captured only in books – in the mists of ancient history and someone, a leslie thinks that a monument should be made and erected in memory of the Leslies that fell – and asks if Leslies would like to donate to something towards this idea and the idea catches on…

I find that I have fallen in love with Australia and New Zealand all over again. I was absolutely bowled over by the generosity of everyone around the world who has and will make the 600th anniversary of the Battle of Harlaw a really memorable and meaningful one.

Thank you – I am proud to be a Leslie today.

Alex Leslie, Clan Chief.

A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION FROM MATTHEW LESLIE

Dear Leslie’s,

I am trying to track down my family tree, but I need your help to find more information.

I know my father – Frederick John Leslie and my grandfather – Frederick Stanley Leslie.

I know that my great grandfather – Ivanhoe John Huia Leslie was born on 20th December 1910 in Auckland New Zealand and I also know that my great great grandfather – Frederick Leslie was born in 1867 in London England and he married Julia Pike – born in Sydney Australia 24th December 1876.

This is as far back that I can trace, does anyone know any information about this family. The
family name might also include a second name – Bicknell (Leslie – Bicknell).

If you know any information I would like to hear from you. My email is matthew.les@gmail.com

Kind regards; Matthew Leslie.

CEUD MILE FAILTE *

Graham Robert Leslie. Nth Turramurra. NSW.  
Susan Elizabeth Harman Clarence Pt. Tasmania  
Matthew Frederick Leslie. Rosehill. NSW.  
Margaret Joyce Bell. Rosebud West. Victoria.

*100,000 welcomes to our new members

“Bundanoon is Brigadoon” is on at Bundanoon on Saturday 2nd April 2011 in the Southern Highlands of New South Wales. This is one of the largest Scottish Gatherings in Australia and Clan Leslie Society of Australia and New Zealand have a tent display booked in the Clans area. I hope that you will be able to meet us there and enjoy the Scottish hospitality.  
The Street Parade starts at 9-00am.

Barrie Leslie.

Martin Haworth Leslie, grandson of the 18th Countess of Rothes, named on the gates at the Turramurra Memorial Park, Sydney. NSW.

OUTSTANDING MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS FOR 2011.

Have you forgotten to renew your membership of CLANZ for 2011. This was due on the 1st January 2011 and it would be appreciated if you would send a cheque for $25 AU or $29NZ to Mal Leslie or Ruth Leslie, see list on last page or Direct Deposit to our Westpac Bank Account:-  
Clan Leslie Society of Australia and New Zealand BSB 032-000 Account 30-6938. Many thanks.

Barrie Leslie.

Pte John Alexander Leslie NZ Infantry 299890
John Alexander Leslie was the son of John Brown and Catherine Teresa Leslie of Ashburton Canterbury New Zealand and stepson of Mr W C Evans of Timaru New Zealand. He was killed on the 24th December 1943 and his Memorial reference is on Panel 15 at the Cassino Memorial Cemetery at Cassino in Italy.

Lance/Corp William Frederick Leslie
NZ Rifle Brigade No 24/214

William Frederick Leslie was the son of Charles and Jessie Leslie, Limestone Island Whangarei North Auckland New Zealand and was killed in action at the age of 30 on the 4th February 1918 and is buried at the Polygon Wood Cemetery. His address at the time he enlisted was Kaihu Dargaville Auckland New Zealand.

If anyone knows the families of these two soldiers, I would be pleased to hear from them. Barrie Leslie.

THE SCOTTISH RADICALS

Save the date; Sunday 11th September 2011 to Commemorate the events of 8th September 1820.

Time and Place; To be advised in Sydney.

A commemoration ceremony is held every year in Glasgow on the Sunday closet to the 8th September at the Sighthill Memorial, to the Scottish Radicals.

On 8th September 1820, John Baird and Andrew Hardie were hung and beheaded at Stirling Castle.

John Baird, Andrew Hardie and James Clelland were found guilty and sentenced to death. Clelland’s sentence was commuted to life and the
other 18 men who were sentenced to life or 14 years were transported to New South Wales. They left Sheerness on the 2nd voyage of the “Speke” on the 22nd December and arrived in Port Jackson (Sydney) on Friday 18th May 1821 and so their new lives began.

Further reading; “The Scottish Insurrection of 1820”, by Peter Beresford Ellis and Seumas Maca’Ghobhaiin, 1970

If you are a descendant or are related to a descendant or know the story of a descendant please contact:-
Nea MacCulloch email: neam@bigpond.com or phone 0408 990 413
Glenda Mason email glendamason@y7mail.com or phone (02) 9823 9450

THIS INFORMATION IS FOR OUR IRISH DESCENT MEMBERS

Griffith’s Valuation, 1848-1864

Griffith’s Valuation, indexed with images in this database, is one of Ireland’s premier genealogical resources, referencing approximately one million individuals who occupied property in Ireland between 1848 and 1864. Griffith’s Valuation, or Primary Valuation of Ireland, was executed under the direction of Sir Richard Griffith to provide a basis for determining taxes. This involved establishing the value of all privately held lands and buildings in both rural and urban areas in order to figure a rental rate for each unit of property. The resulting survey was arranged by barony and civil parish, with an index to townlands appearing in each volume. The original volumes of the survey are held in the National Archives, Dublin, and Public Record Office, Belfast.

Griffith’s Valuation is an invaluable reference for family historians with ancestors in Ireland in part because no census material from the nineteenth century has survived. In effect, because it is the only detailed guide to where in Ireland people lived in the mid-nineteenth century and what property they owned or leased, Griffith’s Valuation serves as a census substitute for the years before, during, and after the Great Famine. Griffith’s Valuation is also a valuable record of social and economic data and includes map reference numbers that can help researchers identify and perhaps locate property on Ordnance Survey maps created before the valuations took place.

Few other records can be used to identify an Irish ancestor's exact place of origin, and only Griffith's Valuation links an individual to a specific townland and civil parish. This is extremely important, since the first step in Irish genealogical research is to identify an ancestor's townland and civil parish, which can lead you to ecclesiastical parish records of births and marriages.

Records in this database are indexed by:
Name of occupier. Name of lessee. County of residence
Barony of residence. Parish of residence. Township of residence

In addition, pages from the Valuation may include street, subdivision, and ordinance survey page numbers, as well as a description of property, acreage, and valuation.

Search Tips for Names:
Surnames are the most obvious keys for any researcher and you should note that many variants exist for practically every Irish surname. For instance, "O'Neill" may be listed as "ONEill" or "O Neill." Because a surname could be transcribed a number of different ways, you should search for your ancestors under more than one spelling. Names with the prefix "Mc" or "Mac" should also be searched in the same manner. An Irish surname may also change over time and from generation to generation. For this reason, if you were searching for the surname "Donald," you would want to search under "O'Donal" or "McDonald," "MacDonald," "M'Donald," etc. This is particularly important if your Irish ancestors later lived in the United States because in some cases surname prefixes were dropped at the time of immigration.

You may have difficulty locating some names for the following reasons:
- Some given names have been abbreviated. For example, "Robert" may appear as "Robt," and "Elizabeth" as "Eliz."
- Some given names are misspelled, contain typos, or may be spelled unusually.
- Some given and middle names are truncated. Specifically, this happens when the name, including the spaces between the given name, middle name, and last name, is longer than twenty-three characters. For example,
Tithe Applotment Books, 1823-1837

Historical Background:
The Tithe Applotment Books record the results of a unique land survey taken to determine the amount of tax payable by landholders to the Church of Ireland, the established church until 1869. They are known as the Tithe Applotment Books because the results of this land survey were originally compiled in nearly 2,000 hand-written books. This data set represents a virtual census for pre-Famine Ireland. Since it covers all of Ireland it is immensely important in terms of constructing, not just an image of a particular family line, but of wider social conditions in the country.

In the original enumeration, each landholder was recorded along with details such as townland, size of holding, land quality and types of crops. The amount of tithe payable by each landholder was based on all of these factors and calculated by a formula using the average price of wheat and oats from 1816-23. Most parishes had at least one tithe survey from 1820-38 while some had two or more. The results of each were carefully laid out in a large book prepared for the purpose, hence the title by which this archive is known to genealogists — the Tithe Applotment Books. Some parts of the country were exempt from paying tithe, among them glebe lands (land occupied by established clergymen), granges (land which in pre-Reformation times had belonged to a monastery) and all towns.

About this Database:
Information from the Tithe Books has been extracted and the names have been indexed in this data set. If you find an ancestor among the approximately 1 million entries listed, you will learn the following:
Name. County. Parish. Townland & Year of enumeration

About the Tithe Books:
The Tithe Applotment Books are not comprehensive and some parts of the country were not surveyed. It should not be assumed that these 'exceptions' from the tithe survey were due to parishes being overlooked since there are usually explanations as to why they were tithe-free. In some cases there are no tithe books because a certain parish did not exist, or was part of another parish, at the time of the survey. There were also some parishes outside parochial jurisdiction, such as the above-mentioned granges, while glebe lands and all towns were also exempt.

Good luck; Barrie Leslie