



## **FROM THE CHIEFTAIN**



The “Leslies of Laggan” Special Edition of GFDU made excellent reading, and I would like to thank Commissioner Barrie for his efforts in

getting this out to members. It is always interesting to read about various sections of our Clan, and this article shows how research and passion for family can provide us with a deeper knowledge of where we came from.

There has been quite a bit written over the years about Clan Leslie and I would encourage all members of the Society to read as much as they can, to discover why we should be proud of our history and achievements.

Perhaps the best reference is “Grip Fast: The Leslie in History” (ISBN 0 85033 859 X) by Alexander Leslie Klieforth. The author of this book was instrumental in the formation of Clan Leslie Society International, and his research was very thorough. As well as being very informative, this book is a “damn good read”.

Clan Leslie Society International in America has available on CD, reprints of articles from “The Griffin”, their historical journal. This CD contains masses of information about the history of the Clan, and makes for fascinating reading.

I also have a copy of a locally published history of the town of Warwick, in Queensland, entitled “Linger Longer” (ISBN 0 9598115 3 2) by Rev. Father J McKey. The first chapters of this book deal with the early settlement of the Darling Downs, with particular reference to Patrick Leslie and his brothers.

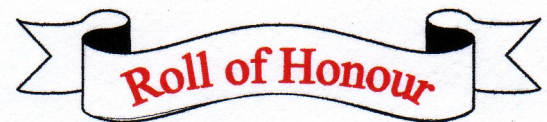
Of great interest is the “The Laurus Leslæna Compendium”, as seen in the “Leslies of Laggan” Special Edition of GFDU. Our Commissioner, Barrie, was very involved in this project, along with CLSI historian Tim Leslie. I hope that this will become available to us all in the near future.

There is a lot of material out there, if you wish to expand your knowledge of the Clan and its history.

My hope is that we all learn as much as we can, and continue to pass it on for future generations so that our Society continues to prosper.

As you saw in the last newsletter, Commissioner Barrie is having health problems, and we are in urgent need of someone to take on the job of producing GFDU four times a year. Please contact Barrie or myself if you can assist.

**Yours Aye, Malcolm W Leslie. Chieftain.**



**WARRANT OFFICER  
RAYMOND WILLIAM GIBSON LESLIE.**



Warrant Officer, Raymond William Gibson Leslie.  
NZ 415702. 489 Squadron RNZAF.



Ray was born at Christchurch New Zealand, 25<sup>th</sup> July 1920, only son of Richard Sheridan & Catherine (nee Gibson) Leslie. He received his secondary education at Canterbury College School of Art, Christchurch and gained the Senior Free Place. After leaving school, he played cricket for the Riccarton Cricket Club.

He was employed in the family Service Station, at Riccarton as a mechanic, when he applied for enlistment in aircrew on the 27<sup>th</sup> June 1940.

Ray was enlisted at the Initial Training Wing, Levin on the 19<sup>th</sup> October 1941 and proceeded to No 1 Elementary Flying Training School at Taieri and was then posted to No 1 Service Flying Training School at Wigram, where on the 24<sup>th</sup> April he was awarded his Flying Badge and promoted to Sergeant and then on the 10<sup>th</sup> May 1942 he embarked for the United Kingdom. He undertook several advanced flying courses at Rissington, Gloucestershire, Montrose Scotland, Leconfield Yorkshire, Cranwell Lincolnshire as well as several other locations. On the 14<sup>th</sup> March 1944 he was posted to East Fortune Scotland, where he crewed up and flew Beaufort and Beaufighter aircraft. In the meantime he had been promoted to Warrant Officer.

He took part in 38 anti-shipping missions from France to Norway and on the 27<sup>th</sup> October 1944 the Squadron moved to Dallachy Morayshire Scotland, on the Fochabers to Spey Bay Road.



*The Dallachy Strike Wing Memorial to British and Commonwealth Airman killed in action.*

This move was in association with No 144 Squadron R.A.F. No 404 Squadron R.C.A.F. No 455 Squadron R.A.A.F and No 489 Squadron R.N.Z.A.F. These Squadrons were called "The Beaufighter Strike Wing, Dallachy" and they had an important role in stopping the Germans from

using their coastal shipping to supply their troops in Norway and Heligoland.

The New Zealand 489 Squadron was equipped with torpedoes and the Australian 455 Squadron was equipped with anti-shipping rockets.

On the night of the 28<sup>th</sup> January 1945, Ray Leslie took off, at 7.07pm on a rover patrol, searching for three German "Narvik Class" destroyers, which were sheltering in Boml fiord, just south of Bergen Norway. The "Narvik Class" destroyers were regarded as the "Graf Spee" of destroyers as they were so large and heavily armed. After the end of the war, it was determined that Ray Leslie and his navigator, Flying Officer Neville Heffernan had crashed their Beaufighter on Foeuroy Island, Bolm Fiord and the occupying German forces had recovered their bodies and had buried them in Mollendahl Cemetery, Bergen, Norway.



*Headstone of W/O Raymond Leslie in Mollendahl Cemetery, Bergen, Norway.*

Ray Leslie had amassed the large total flying time of 1061 flying hours and was awarded the 1939-45



Star, the Atlantic Star, the Defence Medal, the War Medal 1939-45 and the New Zealand War Medal.



*The New Zealand 489 Squadron Plaque from the Dallachy Strike Force Memorial.*

You ask how I know so much about Ray Leslie? He was my cousin and I wear his medals with pride every ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day.



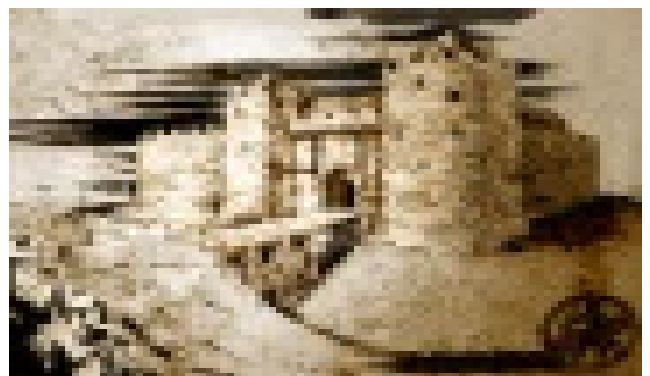
*Barrie Leslie, Gordon. NSW.*

## THE BURNING OF ROTHES CASTLE.

PART I By Sir Thomas Innes of Learney Carrick Pursuivant. 1931

The picturesque old fortress, whose ruins overshadow the Burgh of Rothes, is a prominent

object in the lower valley of the Spey. In olden times it was the seat of the Leslie's, Earls of Rothes, whose permanent residences were, however at Ballinbriech and Fyfehill, in Fife, which they re-named "Leslie", after the old barony in the Garioch. The Castle of Rothes was therefore committed to a series of Captains, in whose custody it remained until the estate was sold about 1700, to Captain John Grant of Elchies and some years later it passed to the Earls of Seafield. The old tower, whose broken walls still crown the height, is apparently built on the site of an earlier castle, where Edward I, rested on his northern campaign. The present ruined condition of the edifice is stated to be due to villagers having burnt it, "*about two hundred years ago*", says the editor of Shaws History of Moray, 1882, *because it became a refuge for tramps and thieves*". He adds that the stones were taken to build several houses in the village. This seems likely enough, but the present village and Burgh of Rothes were not founded until the early eighteenth century, so its inhabitants could not be responsible for burning the stately pile, which overhung the young Burgh, for its destruction actually occurred in the preceding century. Whatever may have been the motive, the pretext that it "*became a refuge for tramps and thieves*", seems peculiar, but a document in the Register of Deeds confirms the tradition that the burning was deliberate and prior to 1662, whilst the incendiary was a certain John Innes in Conrack, who had to make amends to the Earl in the following terms.



*Artists impression of Rothes Castle.*

## THE BURNING OF ROTHES CASTLE

PART II by Sir Thomas Innes of Learney, 1931.

*At Leslie, 17 March 1662, Obligation, John Innes in Conrack to "John" Earle of Rothes for £5750.*

*"Whereas the Right Noble Earle of Rothes is highly irritated for burning the house of Rothes, Therefore I, John Innes in Conrack, to testify my submission and*

*repentance for the samen, condescending to put ane "blank" in the said noble Earle his hand, for fulfilling thereof doe by thir presents grant me to be justlie restand awand to the Right Noble and Potent Earle, Johne Earle of Rothes, the sowme of ffyve thousand seven hundreth and fiftie pundis money at Whitsunday next to come.*

*Witnesses; Johne Malcolm of Balbedie,  
Harie Mackie, servant to the Earle of Rothes.*

The Earl in question was he who was eventually, in 1680, created Duke of Rothes, and whose career subsequent to the Restoration was notorious. John Innes in Conrack was the eldest son of William Innes of Tombreakie in Glenlivet Chamberlain to the Countess of Sutherland, but nothing definite is so far known, concerning the ancestor of this Gudeman of Tombreakie, to whom the Maquis of Huntly gave a wadset of that estate, 22 May 1626, for 3600 Merks. There is a tradition that the Tombreakie family were descended from the Innes of Invermarkie, as maternally, they undoubtedly were, through Conrack's marriage with Sir Robert Innes of Balveny's grand-daughter, but William Innes of Tombreakie was not, as was suggested by some of his descendants last century.

Unfortunately we do not know the terms of the "blank" which Conrack gave the Earl "in sign of repentance" and no doubt to save his neck from the consequences of his wilful fire raising, but the sum of £5750, for which Conrack gives bond in 1662, seems only the balance of a greater sum which had been contained in the "blank" and one deduces that Conrack was finding difficulty in implementing the obligation.

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## **“FATAL RIVALRY”**

### **After the Anniversary – an afterword, on James IV by George Goodwin**

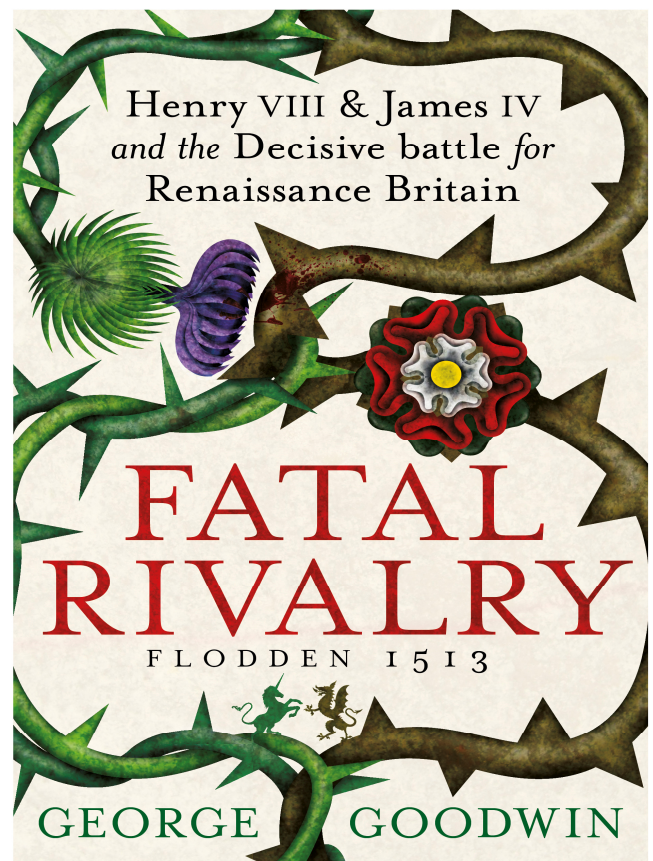
In the last issue of *Grip Fast Down Under*, Clan Chief Alex Leslie wrote a stirring article on the Battle of Flodden and on the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary service at St Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh. The great anniversary bandwagon now moves on towards the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bannockburn in June 2014, but before it gets there it is worth another look at Flodden and James IV.

Nobody can deny that the battle was a catastrophic defeat, but it is tragic that Flodden has completely



*George Goodwin, author of “Fatal Rivalry”*

obscured, in the manner of a total eclipse, James IV's reputation as a ruler. Scotland did not fall apart after Flodden: the Council met just a week later and baby James V was crowned within a fortnight. It is a tribute to James IV that the administration he left behind was able to function during James V's minority – in spite of the political faction fighting that began in 1514.



*Front Cover of “Fatal Rivalry”*



One can go much further. There is a strong argument to say that James IV was the first King of Scots who should really be called King of Scotland, as he was the first to dominate what is now Scotland's geographical entirety.

He created a completely new form of naval warfare to smash the power of the Lords of the Isles and brought nobility from all over Scotland into his councils.

*Thanks to George Goodwin for this article about his book "Fatal Rivalry"*

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## Morning Bulletin Rockhampton, Qld.

**Saturday 3 September 1938**

### QUEENSLAND PIONEERS

#### PATRICK LESLIE

(By JOHN E. BENNETT.)

In 1940, Queensland will celebrate the centenary of Patrick Leslie's settlement on the Darling Downs. Leslie had been persuaded to come out to Australia from England by an uncle Mr Davidson, a banker, whose son later owned Canning Downs and who owned "Cassilis", a property on the upper Hunter River in New South Wales.



*Patrick Leslie*

*From a Miniature at Warhill House.*

In 1840 the brothers, Leslie. Patrick and Walter, accompanied by Dr Dobie and a ticket of leave man, Murphy, started from Sydney in search of land along the Clarence River, but could not find a

road through to that district. After two days of trying they decided that Patrick Leslie and Murphy should go ahead and that Walter should go back while Dr Dobie should camp. Accordingly, Patrick Leslie and Murphy, the lifer, went northwards across into Moreton Bay settlement.



*Walter Leslie*

*From a Miniature at Warhill House.*

Twice they were attacked by the blacks and each time Murphy showed such gallantry in standing by his employer that, upon their return to Sydney, Patrick Leslie obtained a free pardon for him. In the meantime, Walter had organised a party comprising 22 men, 10 saddle horses, bullock teams, drays and horses and was moving north with 5700 sheep. Patrick met him at Dobie's camp and gave such glowing accounts of everything, that the brothers and Murphy pushed on ahead of the stock and selected Toolburra, in country which Nemiah Bartley has described thus: "The upper Condamine and its boggy affluents watered this splendid country where experienced station hands asked £100 to £150 a year and their food as the lowest price at which in 1840 they would work for the "boss" and face the plentiful wild blacks as well."

Tinker Campbell admired the country just as much, but did not view with perfect equanimity the acquisition by the Leslies of "enough to form a principality." He says in his book on early settlement, "Messrs Leslie were extremely modest, only claiming the whole heads of the Condamine from Toolburra upwards, some fourteen creeks, I believe" After the station had been established and brother George Leslie installed at Canning Downs, Patrick returned to Sydney, meeting on the road

Hodgson and Elliot, also headed for the Clarence. His enthusiasm persuaded them to follow in his train and takeup Eaton Vale. Despite his earlier encounters with the blacks, Leslie managed to live peaceably beside them. An account by a very old lady whose memory stretched back very many years has it thus: "Leslie had been warned by Mr Dalrymple that it was best to treat blacks with tact and understanding. Old Derby was King of the Downs country when Leslie arrived. Patrick Leslie christened him Blucher and his people were always known as the Blucher tribe. Whenever Leslie slaughtered cattle for the station use, King Derby and his tribe always received a share and consequently they were never known to kill any of the Leslie's stock."



*George Leslie.*

*From a Miniature at Warhill House.*

In 1847 he was requested by the Government to lay out the town of Warwick, after selecting a site. When the land was put up to auction, an old timer called out. "Mr Leslie, you were the first man here, why don't you buy the first block." Leslie laughingly agreed and purchased the first piece of land ever sold in Warwick. One of the great difficulties of settlement, was the irregular arrival of food supplies. Brisbane, or rather Moreton Bay, as a penal settlement, was taboo as far as the settlers were concerned.

When however, permission was obtained to get supplies sent by ship up to the Bremer, the difficulty of negotiating the range arose. This difficulty was solved by the reckless Hodgson who took a dray out and simply drove over the edge of the range down to the creeks below. When Gorman brought a team through from the other

direction and found a track their troubles were greatly reduced. Patrick Leslie was essentially a farmer and interested himself to no very great extent in the politics of the day, but he was very much concerned in the separation issue, in the course of which he conducted a most acrimonious, but brief, press correspondence with Dr James Dunmore Lang. At the height of the controversy a letter appeared over the signature of Leslie in which he purported to speak for himself and for many other "northern pastoralists" and in which he stated that Dr Lang was industriously trying to raise money to get sent home to England as the representative of the Queensland people to present a petition which Leslie claimed to be disloyal. Dr Lang, he said, certainly didn't represent Leslie nor the other squatters. The truth of the matter was that Lang wanted separation with free labour. Leslie's membership of the Separation Association meant that he was in favour of separation but, as a landowner, desired convict labour to continue.

Leslie's claim to have been the first man on the Darling Downs is challenged by Campbell as we have already seen, but, according to "Billy Gray," an old bullock driver of the period whose manuscript recollections are preserved, both must yield pride of place to Baker, an escaped convict, who was there even ahead of Cunningham. Baker escaped from Moreton Bay when Logan was Commandant and was discovered, starving in the Liverpool ranges by a native tribe, an old woman of which claimed him as the reincarnation of her departed son, Booralaba, whose name Baker took. It is, however, only a matter of conjecture that Baker was on the Downs, although he did lead Gorman up the range by a path the blacks used. Be that as it may, Leslie's high place amongst the pioneers still stands.

***From an Article in The Morning Bulletin  
Rockhampton Qld. 1938  
Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.***

The miniatures in this story were not part of the story in the newspaper article, but from the collection supplied by Jane de Falbe, which are in our website, see [www.clanleslie.org](http://www.clanleslie.org)

## OUTSTANDING MEMBERSHIP DUES

Have you paid your CLANZ Membership Dues for the year starting 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014. If you have not, it would be appreciated if you could send your:-

**AUSTRALIAN** payments to:- Malcolm W Leslie.  
117 / 303 Spring Street, Kearney's Spring.  
Queensland 4350. Australian members **\$25-00.AU**  
Australian members can pay by Direct Debit to:-  
Westpac Bank BSB 032-000 Account 30-6938  
Clan Leslie Society of Australia & New Zealand.

**NEW ZEALAND** payments to:- William Leslie.  
Valima Farm. 226 Settlement Road R.D.2.  
Kaiwaka. 0573. New Zealand **\$29-00NZ**

Please renew your membership as we need all the help that we can get to find and preserve Clan Leslie heritage in Australia and New Zealand.

*Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.*

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## LAURUS LESLEANA EXPLICATA.

For several months Tim Leslie, historian of Clan Leslie Society International and I have been working on an English translation of the Laurus Lesleana, which I had completed several years ago and from a Latin copy of the Laurus Lesleana which Ian 21<sup>st</sup> Earl of Rothes had sent me.

Tim and I have made a Compendium of the Laurus Lesleana which comprises the English translation, an English index, a copy of additional notes from the Warthill House copy of the Laurus Lesleana. Corrections in the 1869 Historical Records of the Family of Leslie, by Col Chrles Leslie and a full copy of the Latin version of the Laurus Lesleana, also Tim added to the English translation, illustrated letters of the first letter in each paragraph, which has made a huge improvement in the appearance of the English translation.

A CD of the complete Laurus Lealeana Compendium is available from Clan Leslie Society International for the price of **Ten dollars US**, including postage and I would recommend to all members to purchase this

Compendium, as it is the only English translation of the Laurus Lesleana Explicata that I have heard about.

*The*

# LESLIE LAUREL EXHIBIT

*OR*

*A VERY CLEAR  
ENUMERATION  
OF THE PERSONAGES  
OF BOTH SEXES  
WITH THE SURNAME*

# LESLIE

*ALONG WITH RELATIVES  
BY MARRIAGE, TITLES,  
OFFICES, DOMINIONS, AND  
MORE FAMOUS ACHIEVEMENTS  
BRIEFLY  
MENTIONED,*

*By which  
for six hundred years and more*

*THAT LINEAGE FLOURISHES,*

*Gathered together from Various Authorities,  
manuscripts, and testimonies worthy of confidence .*



*GRÆCTOM,*

*At the house of Haeredes of Widmanstadium, in the year 1692*

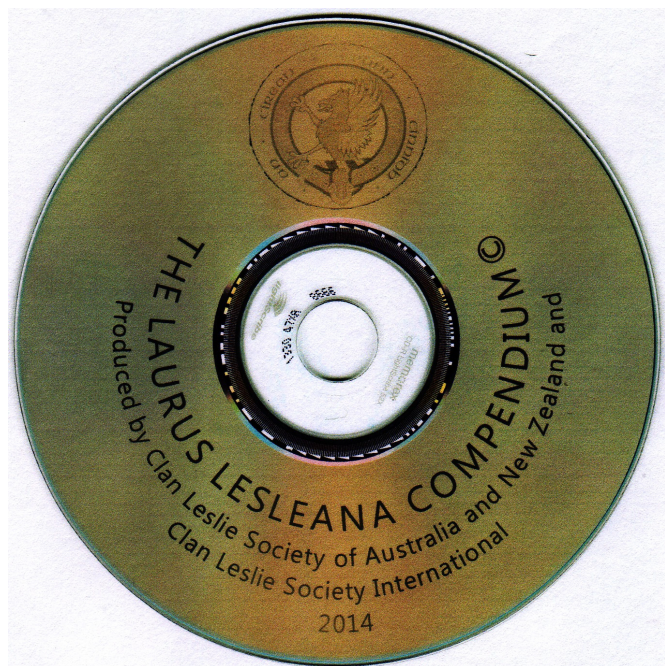
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<sup>1</sup> Graz



The Laurus Lesleana Explicata, which was written in 1692, is the earliest written history of the Leslie Clan.

It can be purchased by PayPal, from Linda Flowers of Clan Leslie Society International for **\$10-00US** at:-  
[lflowers1954@yahoo.com](mailto:lflowers1954@yahoo.com)



*Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.*

## MY HEALTH.

I have to advise that I have had to be admitted to hospital twice since the 6<sup>th</sup> February 2014, for problems with the melanoma that I had on my left foot. At the moment the prognosis is not clear, but I have been told that I have to be admitted once more for follow up attention.

I am disappointed that no one has offered any help with the newsletter and I am not sure how long I will be able to continue with the newsletter. Please consider helping as it is very rewarding. I can assist you getting started with the preparation with the newsletter.

*Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.*

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

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 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)

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