



## THE BATTLE OF HARLAW



**24<sup>th</sup> July, 1411**

**by**

**David C. Leslie**

**(Baron of Leslie 1979 – 2003)**

It would be remiss of me to discuss the Battle of Harlaw without first providing as an introduction the personalities, politics and circumstances which ultimately resulted in the Family of Leslie becoming involved and entwined in the events leading up to and concluding in the 'bloody' Battle of Harlaw in the summer of 1411.

### Personalities :-

In order that the reader fully understands the Leslie personalities involved and their connection to the Battle of Harlaw it is necessary to begin the introductions of the Leslie family members beginning with the 6<sup>th</sup> Leslie of Leslie, Sir Andrew Leslie, almost a century before the Battle.

Sometime after 1312 almost 100 years before the Battle of Harlaw, Sir Andrew Leslie, 6<sup>th</sup> of that Ilk (of Leslie) married Mary Aberneathy, one of the daughters and co-heiress of Sir Alexander Aberneathy, Lord of Aberneathy. The marriage to Mary was one of the most important in the history of the Family of Leslie as it brought the Barony of Ballinbreich and large tracts of land in the south of Scotland into Leslie ownership.

By his marriage to Mary Aberneathy, Sir Andrew de Leslie had the following issue :-

- (1) Andrew, who succeeded as 7<sup>th</sup> of that Ilk.
- (2) Norman, who became a noted courtier and ambassador.
- (3) George, ancestor of the Earls of Rothes.
- (4) Walter, who through marriage became the Earl of Ross.
- (5) George, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron of Balquhain. (It was not uncommon to have two children similarly named in one family. Infant and child mortality was commonplace up until the 20<sup>th</sup> century)
- (6) Margaret, married David de Abercrombie.

The son of Sir Andrew de Leslie, 6<sup>th</sup> of that Ilk, Walter, later the Earl of Ross and the second son, Andrew, of George, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron of Balquhain would both have a major influence and involvement in the happenings of the Battle and eventually in a lesser related matter his grandson, Sir David de Leslie, 9<sup>th</sup> of that Ilk, of whom more hereafter.

Walter de Leslie, 4<sup>th</sup> son of Sir Andrew de Leslie, 6<sup>th</sup> of that Ilk and Mary Aberneathy. Walter as a younger son in a Noble Scottish Family had few 'career' options in the 14<sup>th</sup> century and these were generally the Church or the Military. Walter selected the later and embarked for Europe where at that time the kings of various countries were always on the look out for suitable people of noble blood and military training to appoint as Officers in their armies. Walter fitted in to this category and had a distinguished military career, even being mentioned in dispatches to the King of Scotland, David the Second.

Eventually, Walter returned to Scotland and his home and by favour of King David married circa 1365, Eufamia, eldest daughter and heiress of William, 6<sup>th</sup> Earl of Ross.

On the death of William, 6<sup>th</sup> Earl of Ross circa 1372, and having no male heirs, Eufamia as eldest daughter succeeded to the Earldom as Countess of Ross, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter dated 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1370, and her husband,

Walter Leslie became the 7<sup>th</sup> Earl of Ross by his wife's right.

As is customary in Scotland old titles can pass down either the male or female line and this has happened in case of our own Leslie Family history by way of the title Countess of Rothes.

By his marriage to Eufamia, 7<sup>th</sup> Countess of Ross, Walter had issue :-

- (1) Alexander Leslie, who succeeded as 8<sup>th</sup> Earl of Ross at the death of his mother.
- (2) Lady Margaret Leslie, married Donald Lord of the Isles.
- (3) Lady Mary Leslie, married Sir David Hamilton.

Walter Leslie, 7<sup>th</sup> Earl of Ross by marriage, died on the 18<sup>th</sup> August, 1381.

About 1394, Eufamia, 7<sup>th</sup> Countess of Ross died and was succeeded by her son, Alexander Leslie, 8<sup>th</sup> Earl of Ross. Alexander married Lady Isabel Stewart, daughter of Robert, Duke of Albany, Regent of Scotland, and by her had an only child :

- (1) Euphemia, who succeeded him as 9<sup>th</sup> Countess of Ross.

Alexander Leslie, 8<sup>th</sup> Earl of Ross, died before 1411 and was succeeded by his daughter Euphemia, 9<sup>th</sup> Countess of Ross. Her mother Lady Isabel Stewart later re-married Walter, Lord Halyburton of Dirleton.

Sadly, Euphemia being under age at her accession, and being, it is said, of a weakly constitution, small, and deformed, was induced by her maternal grandfather, Robert, Duke of Albany, Regent of Scotland and her Ward, to resign her rights to the Earldom in favour of her maternal uncle, John Stewart, Earl of Buchan. Thereupon Robert, Duke of Albany, in his capacity as the Regent prepared new charters granting Euphemia a small part of the Earldom of Ross with the majority of the estate passing to John Stewart, Earl of Buchan, his son.

As will be explained later, this single action would ultimately lead to and culminate in the Battle of Harlaw, on 24<sup>th</sup> July, 1411.

To add insult to injury, Robert, Duke of Albany, then induced his Ward Euphemia to take the veil and become a nun, at which point John Stewart, Earl of Buchan took possession of her estates and assumed the title of Earl of Ross.

This situation was to continue until John's death at the Battle of Verneuil in Normandy in 1424 when the lands of the Earldom of Ross fell to the Crown while the title of Countess of Ross returned to Lady Margaret Leslie wife of Donald, Lord of the Isles and by marriage Earl of Ross.

Sir George Leslie, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron of Balquhain, 5<sup>th</sup> son of Sir Andrew de Leslie, 6<sup>th</sup> of that ilk and Mary Aberneathy. George as the youngest son must have been very fortunate indeed to be granted land Charters by his father and the title of Baron considering the route that his elder brother had to take as a soldier of fortune in Europe. He married Elizabeth Keith, daughter of the Baron of Inverugie and by her had a son, Hamelin, who succeeded him as 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron of Balquhain.

Sir Hamelin Leslie, 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron of Balquhain, son of Sir George Leslie, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron of Balquhain and Elizabeth Keith, succeeded his father in 1351. Hamelin married Ann Maxwell daughter of Lord Maxwell of Carlaverock. By her he had issue :-

- (1) Andrew, who succeeded as 3<sup>rd</sup> Baron of Balquhain.
- (2) A Daughter, who married the Laird of Badathsche.

Sir Hamelin Leslie died in 1378.

Sir Andrew Leslie, 3<sup>rd</sup> Baron of Balquhain, son of Sir Hamelin Leslie, 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron of Balquhain and Ann Maxwell, succeeded his father in 1378. Sir Andrew, to put it politely, was a turbulent Baron, nicknamed 'Red Andrew the Robber Baron, with very loose morals and in today's terms would be described as 'more than a bit of a lad.' He had numerous progeny of natural children, from whom many Leslies are descended. The story goes that Sir Andrew had at least 70-80 illegitimate children and that his wife Ann was a very forgiving, caring person. In hard times when food and money were in short supply in the surrounding area, she would load up a cart with food and ale and distribute these provisions to the families who were bringing up her husbands illegitimate children. Sir Andrew was to lose 6 legitimate sons and reputedly about 30 illegitimate sons at the Battle of Harlaw.

At some unknown date, Ann Maxwell must have died and Sir Andrew re-married for it is recorded that he married Isabel Mortimer daughter of Bernard Mortimer of Craigievar and had by her :-

- (1) William, his successor.
- (2) Alexander, married to Margaret Leslie, daughter of Sir David de Leslie, 9<sup>th</sup> of the Ilk, from whom she received the Barony of Leslie in the Garioch, from which her husband derived the style and title of Leslie of Leslie, or of the Ilk.
- (3) A Daughter, married to Glaster of Glack.
- (4) A Daughter, married to Munroe of Foulis.
- (5) A Daughter. Married to Raynold Cheyne of Straloch.

Sir Andrew's past and his feud with the Forbes family was finally to catch up with him and after a skirmish with a force sent against him under the leadership of the Sheriff of Angus, Sir Andrew was slain along with many of his vassals.

Sir David de Leslie, 9<sup>th</sup> of that Ilk, son of Sir Norman de Leslie, 8<sup>th</sup> of that Ilk and grandson of Sir Andrew de Leslie, 7<sup>th</sup> of that Ilk.

Sir David had as a young man set of to join the Crusaders in their attempt to regain the holy land in Palestine from the Turks. In his absence his father Norman had died in 1391, pre-deceasing his father Andrew. As David had been absent for a considerable number of years, Andrew did not know if his grandson was alive or dead and so to protect the lineage of the Leslie name, titles and land, had in the absence of grandson, entailed (willed) the Leslie titles and estates to Sir George Leslie of Rothies.

Sir Andrew de Leslie, 7<sup>th</sup> of that Ilk, died about 1398.

About two or three years later Sir David returned to Scotland and succeeded as 9<sup>th</sup> of that Ilk. This is confirmed by an inquest held before the Sheriff of Fyfe and a jury when David was declared to be the next heir of entail of his grandfather and recovered all the Leslie titles and estates from the Rothies branch of the family. A Charter was granted confirming this and was witnessed by a number of the nobility. The seal of the Duke of Albany dates this Charter between 1406 and 1420, during which time he was Regent of Scotland.

Provost Robert Davidson, little is known of Robert Davidson prior to 1408 when he was elected Provost of Aberdeen a city of around 3,000 souls. He was reputed to be a member of, or

have connections with the Weavers Trade, entrepreneur, publican and privateer.

As a privateer he was in 'cahoots' with Alexander Stewart, Earl of Mar, Davidson providing the ships and Mar the men-at-arms. Provost Davidson may have had a number of children but his daughter Margaret Davidson married Sir David Leslie, 9<sup>th</sup> of that Ilk, around 1432.

Robert Stewart, created 1<sup>st</sup> Duke of Albany in 1398, third son of King Robert II, Earl of Menteith by marriage, Earl of Fife, Earl of Buchan both by entail and became the Regent of Scotland when his nephew, the 12 year old James and heir to the Scottish throne was captured by the English in 1406 and held for ransom. As Regent and virtually King, it was not in the Duke's interest, financially or otherwise, to organise the speedy payment of James's ransom and so the young boy languished in England until 1424, a total of 18 years.

During his time as Regent, Robert 'feathered his own nest' and greatly increased his families titles and fortunes in most cases by illegal and underhand ways. This continued until his death in 1420 when he was succeeded, by his son Murdoch, 2<sup>nd</sup> Duke of Albany. Murdoch continued in his father's ways until James returned to Scotland when he had him executed in 1425. It is certain Murdoch's father would have met the same fate had he lived.

James Stewart, 3<sup>rd</sup> son of King Robert III succeeded as James the 1<sup>st</sup> in 1406, however he was not actually crowned until 1424 after his returned to Scotland in 1423. This only occurred when Sir David Leslie, 9<sup>th</sup> of that Ilk, offered himself as one of the Scottish noblemen sent into England as hostages for the ransom of James. Sir David was to remain a hostage for his King for 9 years.

Alexander Stewart, son of Alexander Stewart, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Buchan, 'Wolf of Baddenoch' and Margaret Atheyne. As a result of his marriage to Isobel Douglas, Countess of Mar, Alexander was styled 12<sup>th</sup> Earl of Mar and would later lead the government troops at the behest of his grandfather Robert Stewart, Regent, at Harlaw.

#### Politics and Circumstances :-

At the close of the 14<sup>th</sup> century and beginning of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, including the Battle of Harlaw, up to the return of James I, Scotland was in a state

akin to anarchy with many of the local Earls and Barons ruling their lands with 'tolerated lawlessness' which have been likened by many historians as the 'bandits' of that era.

The Stewarts (the spelling Stuart did not come into use until around the Jacobite rebellion when they sought protection in France) were in the ascension, having mainly through good marriages achieved great wealth and position in Scotland and on the demise of the Bruce dynasty had succeeded to the throne through marriage of a Stewart to a sister of Robert the Bruce.

During this same period a great distrust had built up between the lowland and highland peoples of Scotland due to one or more of a number of factors among which were the difference of language spoken by the two halves of the country; the kingly manner in which the Lords of the Highlands and Isles ruled their lands and people; and the fact that they took no cognisance of or recognised the King of the Scots.

We can be sure however, that the people of the Lowlands feared the Highland Clans and their constant raids and 'rustling' of their livestock, rape of their women and the raising of their properties. All the above was finally compounded when Donald signed an alliance with Henry IV of England in 1406 and again in 1408.

Although the dispute over the title and Earldom of Ross is considered to be the main cause of the Battle of Harlaw, a number of historians see the alliance between Donald of the Isles and Henry IV as the underlying reason for the battle with both parties planning to progress co-ordinated hostilities against the Lowlands of Scotland. In the aforementioned hypothesis the plan was obviously abandoned after Harlaw.

Finally with the death of Alexander Leslie, 8<sup>th</sup> Earl of Ross, at an early age circa 1410 and the inability of his young daughter to retain possession of the Earldom of Ross from Robert Stewart, Regent and Duke of Albany, who would use any means to satiate his appetite for land and titles to strengthen his family's grip on Scotland.

Despite the possibility of other underlying reasons for Donald of the Isles to attack the Lowlands of Scotland, the denial of the Earldom of Ross from his wife, Lady Margaret Leslie, who should have inherited the Earldom as Countess of Ross after her niece Euphemia took the veil, gave Donald a

legitimate excuse to launch an attack on the south and the Regent of Scotland Robert Stewart.

#### Prelude to The Battle :-

It would have taken time for Donald of the Isles to assemble his Clansmen and allied Clans at Ardtornish Castle on the Sound of Mull into a force of almost 10,000 Highlanders and because of the political situation at the time I surmise that the Regent of Scotland, Robert Stewart, would probably have had a network of spies watching every move of the Lord of the Isles.

The undisciplined Highlanders carried only light arms generally a 'targe' (small circular shield) along with either a sword, axe or short stabbing knife but with no body armour. This would allow them to cover vast distances, moving from place to place extremely quickly.

Because of the time needed to assemble such a large force, the Regent of Scotland, would have had some advanced warning of the impending attack for it is known that Alexander Stewart, Earl of Mar, held a meeting with many of the local nobility, including Leslies, and his partner in crime, Provost Davidson, at his seat of Kildrummy Castle in December of 1410 to prepare for the attack.

At this time Sir Andrew Leslie would have been appointed to lead the cavalry. The government army which would comprise of gentry of Aberdeenshire, Buchan, Angus and the Mearns (Kincardineshire) along with Leslies, Irvings, Maules, Morays, Straitons, Stirlings, Lovels along with a contingent of Aberdeen burghers under Provost Davidson. The Earl of Mar's army would have been well equipped with the knights carrying hand and a half swords and been clad in open-faced bascinet helmets with chain mail-reinforced doublet under plate armour. The men at arms, all trained soldiers carried spears, maces and battle axes. These men would not have been as heavily armoured as the knights and gentry.

It should also be noted that a large contingent of the Earl's army came from the Mearns and Angus areas of Scotland as there was considerable concern that if Donald succeeded in his attempt to sack Aberdeen, he would press home his success and attack the southern lowlands of Scotland.

The Earl of Mar's well armed disciplined force totalled in the region of 2,000 men.

Once Donald had assembled his force he first invaded the Earldom of Ross, and having met no serious opposition moved towards Dingwall, the seat of the Earls of Ross. At Dingwall, Donald was opposed by a large body of men of the Clan Mackay under the leadership of Angus-Dow (Angus Dubh or Angus Duff) who was captured and his brother Rory-Gald was killed along with 'the greater part of his men.' Donald then captured Dingwall Castle.

Donald proceeded to Inverness where he re-assembled his army summoning all the fighting men in Boyne and Enzie (northern Banffshire between the Rivers Deveron and Spey) to join his army. He then swept through Moray meeting little or no resistance. He then turned southeast, following roughly the route of the modern A96 road, although the main route from Aberdeen to Inverness ran at that time on the north side of the River Urie. Donald's men committed 'great excesses' in Strathbogie and the Garioch, which formed part of Alexander Stewart's, Earldom of Mar. As previously mentioned Alexander was related to Robert Stewart, Regent of Scotland, who had been directly involved in depriving Donald's wife Margaret Leslie and indirectly himself of the Earldom of Ross.

Finally the Highland horde came to Bennachie, the last hill of the Grampians before the coastal plain between Inverurie and Aberdeen. Donald had on many occasions threatened to sack and burn Aberdeen and was now within 20 miles of achieving and implementing his threat. The date was 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 1411.

Donald set up camp just north of Inverurie, on higher ground about 1 mile northwest of the bridge over the River Rurie, not far from the site of the present day Harlaw House.

The Earl of Mar, having had about 6 months to prepare for the attack, had assembled his force at Inverurie, a strategic town on the Inverness/Aberdeen road. The force gathered at a place called the Staners, an open field on the south side of the Bass of Inverurie, an area at the junction of the rivers Urie and Don, a well protected site which could be easily defended.

On the morning of 24<sup>th</sup> July, 1411, Mar and his army, marched north to engage the Highland horde. The scene was now set for one of the 'bloodiest' battles to be fought in Scotland if not in Britain.

### The Battle of Harlaw, 24<sup>th</sup> July, 1411 :-

According to the *Scotichronicon*, the two armies joined battle on the day of the feast of St James – 24<sup>th</sup> July, 1411. The same source puts Donald's army at 10,000 comprising of Islanders, Highlanders and men of Ross who clearly recognised Donald as the rightful Earl of Ross through his marriage to Margaret Leslie. The Highland army were lightly armed but were renowned for their en-masse speed of attack.

Tradition suggests that the Earl of Mar's force numbered less than 2,000 although it was probably several thousand, with a significant number of well armed knights and local gentry backed by well equipped men-at-arms.

The tombstone, shown on the right, of Sir Gilbert de Greenlaw, who died at Harlaw and is buried in the Churchyard of Kinkell Church, gives an indication of how Mar's knights were equipped.



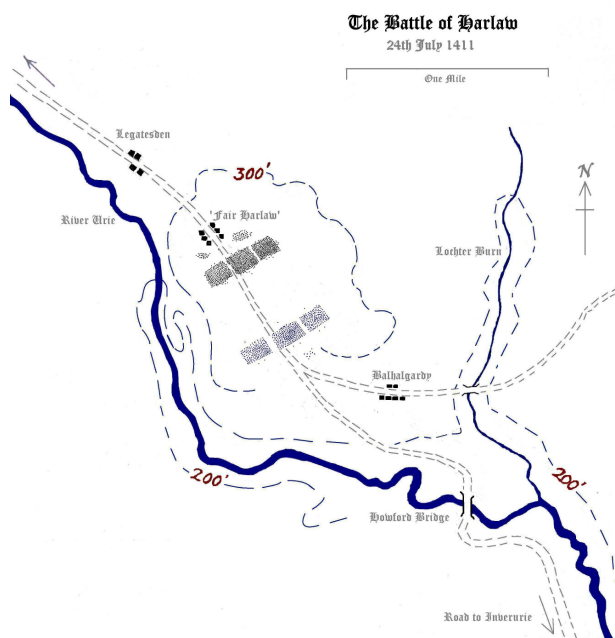
Armour displayed in Aberdeen Town House is reputed to have belonged to Provost Robert Davidson who also died at the battle along with many of the burgesses whom he led.

On encountering the Highlanders, Mar marshalled his force into battle formation, with the main body of the army behind a small advance guard of men-at-arms under the command of Sir James Scrymgeour (Constable of Dundee and hereditary standard-bearer of Scotland) and Sir Alexander Ogilvie of Auchterhouse (Sheriff of Angus). It is understood that he split the remainder of his army into three, with the knights, led by Sir Andrew Leslie of Balquhain, as cavalry reserve and the men-at-arms arranged in schiltrons (a battle formation which had been successfully used by Robert the Bruce of Scotland against the English at the Battle of Bannockburn, almost one hundred years before). A schiltron was a close-packed company of spearmen which looked to all intent



and purpose like a 'bristly' hedgehog. No record is made to the presence of any archers.

On being confronted by Mar's force, Donald deployed his men in the traditional cuneiform or wedge shape (this form of attack was generally used by Highlanders and was known as the 'flying wedge' because the men were lightly armed and moved incredibly quickly). At the head of the wedge were Hector Roy MacLean, (also known as Red Hector of the Battles) commanding the right wing and commanding the left wing was the Chief of Clan Mackintosh.



The Highlanders at first launched themselves at Scrymgeour's men-at-arms, but failed initially to make much impression on the small advancing armoured column, many of the Highlanders were slain in this first attack.

However, for every wave of Highlanders which were repulsed, their superior numbers brought fresh men to replace them. Scrymgeour and his men were finally drive back, along with the schiltrons behind them, reputedly as the ballad relates, 'three acres breadth and mair.' Finally, Scrymgeour was completely swamped by the sheer number of Highlanders. Despite killing significant numbers of the Highland army, Sir James Scrymgeour, Sir Alexander Ogilvie and his son along with many of their men died. However, the main body of the schiltrons of Mar's army held firm.

Meanwhile, Sir Andrew Leslie led his cavalry of knights into the main body of Donald's Highlanders with similar results. The Highlanders

brought down the knight's horses by weight of numbers and finished off the riders with their dirks. By nightfall, and at that time of year, only a month after the longest day, the night is only twilight, the ballads and poetry report that some 600 of Mar's men were dead including 6 sons of Sir Andrew Leslie, Sir Robert Maule, Sir Thomas Moray, William Abernethy, Alexander Straiton of Lauriston, James Lovel, Provost Robert Davidson, Alexander Stirling and Sir Alexander Irvine of Drum. It is said that Sir Alexander Irvine and Hector MacLean duelled until both were dead.

Donald of the Isles lost 1000 men a much smaller proportion of his total force but included both of his seconds-in-command. Many families on both sides not only lost their Clan Chief but every male in their house.

Too tired and weary to withdraw, Mar's remaining force camped on the battlefield. If one could imagine swinging a lumberjack's axe against wood for a whole day with only short intermittent rests, this is how tired Mar's men would have been. The physical exertion required by the opposing armies necessitated that the men would fight, pull back and re-engage again, over and over. As twilight descended on the field, Donald of the Isles and his men withdrew leaving the weakened government force under Mar expecting the horde to return the next morning to resume the battle and probably overwhelm them.

When dawn came, and as already mentioned at that time of year not many hours after midnight, the weary government army found that Donald and his force had completely withdrawn from Harlaw and were on their way back to Ross and ultimately the Isles.

The battle itself was however inconclusive, neither side being able to claim complete victory although Mar's force could claim to have won the day by the very fact that Donald of the Isles had retreated despite having about 9,000 of his force intact against the remaining 1,400 of Mar's army. Logically, had Donald pressed on with the battle, the sheer number of Highlanders would have finally and totally swamped Mar's smaller force.

The battle was later to be named in history as 'Reid (red) Harlaw' because of the slaughter of 1,600 men during the fighting.

Mar feared Donald had merely fallen back to rest and reinforce his men so his grandfather the Duke of Albany, Regent of Scotland raised an army and

marched to Dingwall in the Autumn of 1411, seizing the Castle and regaining control of the Earldom of Ross.

In the summer of 1412, Albany followed up with a three pronged attack on Donald's possessions forcing Donald to surrender his claim on Ross and become a vassal of the Scottish Crown. The treaty was signed at Polgilbe/Polgillip (Loch Gilp), and inlet of Loch Fyne in Argyll.

#### Post Battle :-

Although the Battle of Harlaw was inconclusive Donald's retreat from the field demonstrated how a well armed and disciplined smaller force could stop a much larger poorly armed undisciplined force.

The outcome was to ensure the safety of the lowlands from the Highlanders for a considerable number of years and it was not until the 1715 and 1745 Jacobite insurrection that large numbers of Highlanders made their way south again.

In the ensuing years after the battle a number of cairns and standing stones were erected in honour of those who had fallen that day in 1411. Mar himself commissioned the building of the Chapel of Garioch, not too distant from the battlefield, to enable regular mass to be said for the dead.

In honour of the 6 dead sons of Sir Andrew Leslie and all other Leslies killed during the battle a cross was erected as a memorial at or near the site of their deaths. That place was later to be known as 'Leslie Cross' although the cross itself is no longer there and my researches to date have not uncovered the exact location.

The City of Aberdeen in 1911, to commemorate the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the battle, erected a substantial stone monument to Provost Davidson and the burgesses of Aberdeen who had died.

#### Conclusion :-

Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Council have agreed that some form of Commemoration should take place on 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2011 to recognise the 600<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the importance of the Battle of Harlaw to Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire and to the whole of Scotland. Arrangements are at present in hand but are at an early stage

In discussions with various parties involved with these arrangements, it has been suggested that Clan Leslie may wish to re-erect the 'Leslie

Cross' on the original site (if this can be established), but if not it may be possible to erect a



*Harlaw Memorial*

suitably worded plaque on the main monument with the approval of Aberdeen City Council the owners of the Monument.

I will leave any decision on any proposal to erect some form of memorial to the Leslies who perished at the battle, to the individual members of Clan Leslie and their generosity.

#### Dedication:-

I have dedicated this article to Marc Thomson the son of my good friend and fellow member of the Aberdeen Shoemaker's Incorporation Albert Thomson.

Marc, a Staff Sergeant, is a serving member of the British Armed Forces and has seen active duty in many areas of the world. He has recently returned from Afghanistan and will be able to relate to the horrors of the battlefield both past and present.

#### Authorities Consulted

The Historical Records of the Family of Leslie, Colonel Charles Leslie, K.H., 26<sup>th</sup> Baron of Balquhain.

Burke's Peerage.

Wikipedia Encyclopedia.

Inverurie and the Earldom of Garioch.

My thanks to Albert Thomson who has been an inspiration and font of information on the Battle of Harlaw and who himself is preparing a booklet on

the subject to commemorate the 600<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle. To Fiona Cruickshank nee Maitland and her mother and family who have farmed the site since well before the date of the battle, for information provided. ++++ To Colonel Charles Leslie KH, 26<sup>th</sup> Baron of Balquhain, and his diligence in the preparation of the "Historical Records of the Family of Leslie" and finally to all those authors of reference books and articles on the subject of Harlaw without whom I would have been unable to even begin such an undertaking. Photographs of Harlaw Memorial, tombstone at Kinkell churchyard, map of the battle lines and other decoration as appropriate.

### References

A complete list of references can be obtained from the author of this article if required.

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*The above article was prepared by David Carnegie Leslie, Baron of Leslie Castle 1979 - 2003 and he has asked me to distribute it to the members of Clan Leslie Society of Australia and New Zealand, as donations are required to erect a "Leslie Cross" in time for the 600<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Harlaw, where so many Leslies's fell. I believe that the original "Leslie Cross" was erected in or about The Chapel of Garioch and that it will be appropriate if the new "Leslie Cross" is situated there*

**DONATIONS.** *I will start the quest with a donation of \$100 and I would hope that other members will follow with whatever amount that they can afford.*

**AUSTRALIA.** *Please send a cheque made payable to **Clan Leslie Society of Australia and New Zealand** to Mr J B Leslie, 43 Rosedale Road, Gordon, NSW 2072. Australia. Please do **not** send it direct to our Bank Account so I can identify your donation and issue a receipt for it.*

**NEW ZEALAND.** *Please send a cheque made payable to **Ruth M Leslie**, 1/76 Wallace Road, Mangere Bridge, Manukau City, New Zealand. Her email address is [clickimin@ihug.co.nz](mailto:clickimin@ihug.co.nz) I will issue a receipt but I will need to close off the acceptance of donations on the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2010, enabling me to get a Bank Draft and send it to David Leslie*

*Accepting donations this way will save a lot of Bank Fees and increase the amount that we can send for the "Leslie Cross".*

*There will be a presentation on Sunday 24 July 2010 and other features if sufficient Leslies are interested and attend the functions.*

*I will be putting an acknowledgment in the Grip Fast Down Under Newsletter, of the names of all those who make any sort of donation.*

*I understand that the original Cross may have been a white simple wooden structure with rounded fingers at the cross and the top with a suitable inscription.*

*Barrie Leslie, Gordon. NSW.*

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<b>Commissioner Clan Leslie Aust &amp; NZ</b>	<b>James Barrie Leslie</b> 43 Rosedale Road. Gordon. NSW. 2072. Aust	61-2-9418-2262
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