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**DOWN
UNDER**

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

Vol. 7 No 1, Jan, Feb, March 2012

NOMINATIONS FOR POSITIONS ON THE EXECUTIVE OF CLANZ.

After my call for nominations for the Executive Positions on CLANZ in the October, November, December Newsletter, I have to advise that I received one nomination for Chieftain/Convenor of CLANZ from George Presly Leslie of Cornubia, in Queensland and one nomination from William John O'Driscoll of Clifton Springs, Victoria for the position of Webmaster & IT Manager of CLANZ. Therefore as there was only one nomination for each of these positions, I congratulate George and John on their appointments.

I will remain as Commissioner of Clan Leslie, Australia and New Zealand and am thankful for the help that George and John will be able to provide to me, in administering CLANZ. The other positions as State Representatives will remain unchanged. I hope that CLANZ members will give as much assistance as possible to George and John. I hope that Mal Leslie of Queensland will be able to continue to assist in the collection of the annual fees, which are of such importance, as they enable us to collect, collate and record all details of the Leslie Clan and their Septs in Australia and New Zealand, which would otherwise be lost.

I would point out that the position of Chieftain/Convenor is totally separate from the position of Commissioner, as the Commissioner is the personal representative of the Clan Chief and the Clan Chief takes precedence over any decisions of CLANZ. I have already spoken to both George and John and they each have ideas on improving the running of CLANZ. I look forward to working with them to improve CLANZ. I have already had extensive talks with John O'Driscoll about updating the CLANZ Website and I am sure that members will be very pleased with the result. I have also discussed with George Leslie his appointment as Chieftain/Convenor of CLANZ. I consider his input and innovations will be well received.

Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW



Cpl James Barrie Leslie.
No 344671. RNZAMC.

Although I now undertake certain welfare work for New Zealand Veterans who now live in Australia, the members of CLANZ may be interested in my enlistment whilst in the New Zealand Army.

I was selected through the Compulsory Military Training Draft scheme in 1956 to serve in the New Zealand Army. Originally I was selected to serve in the Infantry, but when I got to Papakura Military Camp, just south of Auckland, I was told that I should be in Burnham Military Camp in Christchurch, in the South Island; so onto a train to Wellington and then a ship across Cook Strait to Lyttleton. This was in June 1956 and from the relative warmth of Auckland to a freezing Christchurch was rather a shock. The term of Basic Training was for 14 weeks and I must say that I enjoyed it and excelled. I was rated as a Marksman with the Bren gun and the 303 Lee Enfield rifle and a lowly 2nd class with the Sten gun. This rating was, for a member of the Medical Corp rather

unusual, as I had been transferred to the 1st Field Hygiene Section. I had an accident in Basic Training, injuring my back and knees. I am now having trouble with my back and will have to undergo an extensive back fusion, after which reconstruction surgery will be required on my knees.



My Medal Government finally issued this year the New Zealand Defence Service Medal for the CMT and Territorial Service.

Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.

ROSE ARBUTHNOT-LESLIE SCOTTISH ACTRESS AND DAUGHTER OF A SCOTTISH LAIRD.

Rose Eleanor Arbuthnot-Leslie was born in Aberdeen on the 9th February 1987, 2nd daughter of Candida and Sebastian Leslie, Laird of Warthill House, Aberdeenshire. She attended Millfield School (Somerset) and then studied for 3 years at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art where she graduated with a BA Honours Degree.



Rose Leslie.

Rose made her debut in the 2009 TV film “New Town” and won the Scottish BAFTA Award for the Best Acting Performance –New Talent Award. She then appeared in Nell Leyshon’s play “Bedlam” in September and October 2010.



Rose, as Gwen in “Downton Abbey”

Rose’s career started in 2008 with the TV documentary “Banged Up Abroad” where she played the character of Kim, then in 2009 she appeared as Rhian in “New Town”, and in 2010 she appeared in 7 episodes of “Downton Abbey” as the house maid, Gwen. In 2011 she appeared in the TV Series “Case Histories” as Laura Wyre and in 2011 she has been cast as the wildling, Ygitte, in the second season of the fantasy series “Game of Thrones”.

I have a particular interest in the Leslies of Warthill, as a grand-daughter of James Leslie 4th Laird of Warthill and his wife Beatrix Abercrombie, Elizabeth Garden, married my 6 times great grandfather, James Leslie of Bruckles, on the 5 February 1663. I have been able to document all their children, except the youngest son, Alexander Leslie, who in the early 1700s is noted as “Went to Maryland” and I have not been able to find him. In our new updated website, I hope to have a listing of Leslie family genealogy with over 10,000 entries, of all the Leslie families. When I was staying at Warthill House in 2001, I met Candy and Sebastian’s three lively and intelligent daughters, and Portia, the youngest was particularly enchanting.

I wish Rose a brilliant career in her chosen profession and it will be most interesting to watch her progress in the future.

Barrie Leslie, Gordon, NSW.

JOHN LESLIE 6TH EARL OF ROTHES

Born about 1597 in Fife, died 23 August 1641 Richmond-on-Thames, Surrey England. John Leslie was one of the main leaders of the Covenanters. Born in Leslie, Fife, he was the only son of James Leslie, Master of Rothes (died 1607) and Katherine Drummond, his second wife. In 1621 he was served heir to his grandfather, Andrew Leslie, 5th Earl of Rothes, who died in 1611.



John Leslie 6th Earl of Rothes.

Rothes was one of the commissioners at the Parliament of 1621 who voted against the five articles of Perth. In 1626 he was sent to London, along with other commissioners, to petition against the Act of Revocation of 12 October 1625, by which church property in the hands of laymen reverted to the crown. At first the king spoke against the petition as too high a strain from petitioners and subjects, but ultimately commissioners were appointed by which a compromise was reached. At the opening of Parliament on the visit of Charles to Scotland in 1633, Rothes bore the sceptre, but then he resolutely opposed the king's ecclesiastical policy. He denounced the act which joined an acknowledgment of the royal prerogative with an acknowledgment of the king's authority to determine the apparel of the judges, magistrates, and the clergy, as an encroachment on the ecclesiastical prerogatives of the kirk. The king, however, refused to have the bill divided.

A majority of the votes declared in its favour, and Rothes attempt to challenge the correctness of the numbers was overruled by Charles. At the closing of Parliament on 20 June 1633, William Cunningham, 9th Earl of Glencairn took the place of Rothes in bearing the sceptre, and Charles was at his chilliest with Rothes and his friends.



Anna Erskine, with daughters Mary & Margaret

Rothes headed the opposition to the proposed introduction of the *Book of Common Prayer* into the services of the kirk in 1638, and was active against episcopacy. Early in 1639 he addressed a circular letter to the noblemen and gentlemen who had been neutrals, urging them to take a stand on behalf of the liberties of the kirk. Along with John Campbell, 1st Earl of Loudoun and John Elphinstone, 2nd Lord Balmerino he undertook the revision of the new version of the covenant drawn up by Johnstone of Warriston and Alexander Henderson. He was one of the deputation who met the Marquis of Hamilton, the king's commissioner to the assembly, on his arrival to the assembly; and when the assembly was dissolved by the commissioner he presented a protest against its dissociation. In case of the rejection of the king's demands, Hamilton had threatened that Charles would march north to Scotland, and Rothes joined his kinsman Alexander Leslie in preparing for armed resistance. Leslie drilled Rothes dependents and followers in Fife, while Rothes advised on the purchase of arms and accoutrements in Holland, and the recall of experienced Scottish officers serving in foreign countries. On 22 March Rothes

and other nobles, with one thousand musketeers, went to the palace of Lord-treasurer Traquair at Dalkeith, seized much ammunition and arms, and brought the royal ensigns of the kingdom (the crown, sword and sceptre) to Edinburgh Castle. On 7 April the King issued a proclamation excepting leaders of the covenanters, including Rothes, from pardon.



The 6th Earl of Rothes, By Thomas Rodd, The Elder

Rothes accompanied the army of General David Leslie in June to Dunse Lew, and was one of the Commissioners appointed to treat with the king. When the king's declaration was read by the herald on 24 June at Edinburgh, Rothes and other covenanting noblemen gave notice that they adhered to the assembly of Glasgow, but the herald refused to accept their protestation. The covenanters were slow to disband their forces, and their leaders were again summoned to confer with King Charles at Berwick. Rothes was the principal spokesman of the opposition, and the king denounced him angrily. At the Parliament held in Edinburgh in the following September Rothes was chosen a lord of the articles. Rothes and the covenanting noblemen sent a letter to the king of France, asking his aid against England, but it was intercepted in April, and was sent to the king. The Scots anticipated Charles's war plans by invading England, and on 27 August 1640 Rothes, in command of a regiment, and as one of the

committee of the estates, accompanied Leslie's army across the River Tweed; according to Gilbert Burnet, the Scots were encouraged by a message sent by Viscount Savile 1st Earl of Sussex, for three people: Rothes, the Earl of Argyll, and Johnstone of Warrington. After the occupation of Newcastle, Rothes was one of the Commissioners sent to London in November to conclude the negotiations after the Treaty of Ripon, and after the pacification it was arranged that he remain in England at the court of Charles. There he hoped to obtain office in the royal household, and to marry Christian Cavendish, Countess of Devonshire. In August 1641 he was a factor in the plans Charles had to venture into Scotland, expecting his help. But he died quickly of consumption, at Richmond, Surrey, on 23 August. He was buried at Leslie, Fife, on 31 November 1641.

Barrie Leslie, Gordon, NSW.

WEBMASTER & IT MANAGER OF CLANZ

A little background on John O'Driscoll <http://johnodriscoll.com.au/> : John is retired aged 64, having previously managed his own consulting business specialising in human resources, although most of his work was in the area of industrial relations in the construction industry. On one assignment with a manufacturing company, he was asked to stay on in the role of Project Manager for the installation of a \$30M computer system which he undertook through to a very successful completion. For the last 15 years John has been



John O'Driscoll

involved in tracing his family history; his mother is a Leslie and was born in Kirkwall, Orkney Islands, Scotland. John has also set up his own personal website. John has a wide range of views for the future of the CLANZ website, but really wants to know what the Clan members want, so feedback will be most welcome. Items which have been discussed to date include: the addition of a "News Room" where all the newsletters will be available, there will be a guest book, a Clan news alert page, and a links page to other sites of interest. Another addition planned is

a "Members Room", an area restricted to CLANZ members, which will include a Bulletin Board where members can discuss issues such as genealogy, clan history, clan activities etc.

As well, there will be access to the Leslie family tree, compiled by Barrie Leslie, which has well over 9,000 entries and goes back as far as about the year 400 in one case. Some of these changes will have already been implemented so please give feedback to John at this address:-

john@johnodriscoll.com.au

CLAN LESLIE DNA PROJECT.

I would urge all male Leslie's to take the DNA test as this will not only tell them who they are related to with other Leslie's who have taken the test, but also provide a database for later generations.

At the moment we have 24 results listed, but it shows that I have two other members who are closely linked through the I2b1 Group, although I cannot tell at the moment, where our link is.

You can look at the site by going to:-

www.worldfamilies.net/surnames/leslie/

You can do a short test of 37 Markers or you can do as I have done and get 67 Markers

THE BASIC SCIENCE.

Because males carry the yDNA of their surname ancestors, we can test them as representatives of their ANCESTORS. Each man gets his yDNA from his father, who got it from his father as far back as you wish to go. The yDNA test is used for testing males only, but females can participate if they can convince a male relative to participate.

This test is only useful in testing the male participant's fathers, fathers, father's line. As this line is associated with surnames in western society, it is easy to visualize and to track through genealogy. All men who share the same "common ancestor" will essentially carry the same yDNA.

Over time there are "mutations" which occur during replication of the Y chromosome DNA but all male descendants of the man carrying the changed yDNA also carry the changed yDNA. Such a mutation is believed to have occurred in Ireland around 40,000 years ago when a single ancestor whose genes mutated to over absorb iron from what was then a very poor iron diet and today results in millions of people of Celtic descent developing Hereditary Hemochromatosis and the iron in their body reaches toxic levels. This is called "The Celtic Curse" Do a **Google** search.

Barrie Leslie, Gordon, NSW.

NEW CHIEFTAIN/CONVENOR OF CLANZ

GEORGE PRESLY LESLIE.

Born 14 June 1940 at Ferryhill Place, Aberdeen and brought up in The Hardgate Aberdeen. He still has strong memories of the bombing raids, the blackout blinds, coal shortages and food rationing in general. In 1950 the family (Father, Mother and his younger brother Eric) migrated to Australia.

His parents bought and sold mixed businesses and as such his schooling included Roseville Primary, North Sydney Boys Technical High, Sydney Boys Technical High, Homebush Boys High and Perth Boys High WA.



George Presly Leslie.

His first job was in a Woolworths store in Perth. This was the old-fashioned counter style variety store, as Woolworths had not become involved in food at that stage. The family then returned to the East and settled in the Parramatta area and he was apprenticed to Bob Carson a butcher in Parramatta. He then followed a career in sales and marketing until the early nineties, then changed over to transport and operated his own refrigerated van and prime mover and travelled anywhere from Cairns to Perth. This was sold and he then drove for other transport companies, mainly local Brisbane work. His immediate goal was to retire and visit his surviving relations, and also attend the Edinburgh Tattoo and the Braemar Highland Gathering. He has now decided that he can help Clan Leslie Society of Australia and New Zealand to further the work of finding and recording the history of the Leslie's and Septs in the antipodes.

George Leslie can be reached on:-

gpleslie@optusnet.com.au

As far as results of the DNA markers are concerned, if the person who has Kit Number 184654 contacts me, we may be able to work out where our family lines cross. There are three of us who have the Haplogroup **I2b1** which indicates that we have a Nordic or North European ancestry. You can contact me on lesliejb@ozemail.com.au

Barrie Leslie, Gordon, NSW.

THE ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE.

It would be appreciated if members of CLANZ could send your annual subscription when you receive this newsletter:- The fees are.

AUSTRALIA:- \$25-00AU sent to Mr M W Leslie, 117/303 Spring St, Kearney's Spring, Queensland 4350. **Cheque payable to Clan Leslie Society of Australia and New Zealand.**

NEW ZEALAND:- \$29-00NZ sent to Ms R M Leslie, 1/76 Wallace Rd, Mangere Bridge, Auckland City, 2022, New Zealand. **Cheque made payable to R M Leslie.**

Direct payments can be made to our Westpac Bank Account, **Clan Leslie Society of Australia and New Zealand. BSB 032-000. Account 30-6938**

Your early payment will be much appreciated as it enables us to locate and record the activities of the Leslie Clan in the Antipodes. There is a separate invoice sent with this newsletter. Please make sure that you quote your name or your Post Code.

Thank you.

Barrie Leslie, Gordon. NSW.

DEATH OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER OF CLAN KEITH.

On the 14th October I had to attend the funeral of an old dear friend of mine, Jean Marshall who was



The High Commissioner for Australia and New Zealand. It was such a shock. She had a severe stroke spent several days at The San Hospital in Wahroonga Sydney, was sent home where she died a few days later.

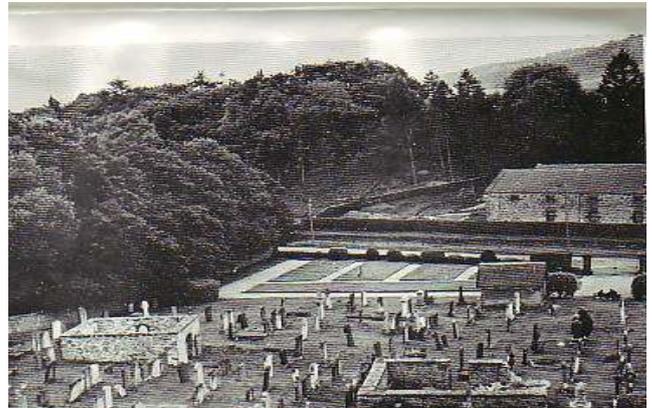
Her funeral was held at the St Albans Anglican Church at Lindfield in Sydney, and it was attended by many of the Scottish dignitaries. It was such a shock as that is something that you do not think about, You just go ahead and do what has to be done. She will be sadly missed.

Her death followed the death of Max Fraser-Byass, Commissioner for Clan Fraser, just a few months age and that was a great shock as well. You never know when it is going to be your turn.

Barrie Leslie, Gordon, NSW.

ROTHES CHURCHYARD.

The Rothes Church of St Lawrence and Cemetery was built about 1555 to replace the old Church at Chapel Hill and it was where members of the Rothes family were buried. *Photograph C 1950s*



The Leslie Aisle is on the left side of the photograph and the unroofed Leslie crypt can clearly be seen in the bottom left of the photograph. In the middle of the photograph can be seen the levelled area where the Church of St Lawrence used to stand and in the top of the photograph is the Glen Rothes Distillery and the fumes waft across the road to where the Leslies can still enjoy them. It is a shame that the old Leslie crypt is tumbling down and very noticeable in the crypt is the wall where the Rev William Leslie 4th of Balnakeith. Baronet, who married Margaret Sinclair, daughter of Sir James Sinclair of Mey, was buried in 1839 and surmounted by the skull and crossbones, not of pirates, but of death.

Barrie Leslie, Gordon, NSW.

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM OUR CLAN CHIEF

It is almost Christmas and this year it seems to be a time for some special “thank you’s”.



I was lucky enough to be at the Harlaw Commemoration in July and I made sure that those of you who contributed to the new Leslie Cross were properly acknowledged and thanked. I know that many of you

would have liked to have been there, but Harlaw is a long long distance to travel.

Although Leslies were a pivotal part of that day’s events, 600 years ago, the legend of the day belongs to the Irvines of Drum and the Macleans of Duart, whose champions fought to the death on the field. An interesting account can be found on the Clan Chiefs’ website:-

<http://www.clanchiefs.org/category/article/>

Meanwhile, another huge thank you goes to Barrie Leslie, the indomitable Commissioner for Clan Leslie in Australia and New Zealand. For as long as I have known about the Society, Barrie has been running things down under – under the burden of adversity and bad health. I will raise a glass to Barrie this Christmas and hope for an excellent outcome to the forthcoming surgeries and his continued support for the “cause”. I am very delighted that Barrie has been able to get George Leslie to help him in running the Society down under and am particularly happy that John O’Driscoll has agreed to help refresh the website and get some new ideas underway.

Thank you all for your support and for keeping the flag and candle lit - you are a long way from Scotland, but I know, you are as passionate about its future and proud of its past as we who live here.

Best Wishes and a happy Christmas to you, your family and friends.

*Alex Leslie.
Chief of Clan Leslie.*

THE HARLAW MONUMENT

COMMEMORATING THE BATTLE 14TH JULY 1411

The Project to complete the Monument, which was erected on the 24 July 1911, by the Aberdeen City Council to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Battle of Harlaw was really started by a letter from Charles Burnett, Ross Herald of Arms, with a letter in February 2010.

He suggested that the monument be completed by decorating the blank panels with the arms that were originally intended to be included on the monument. They were The City of Aberdeen, Leslie, Mar, Forbes, Irvine, Keith, Leith, Ogilvy, Scrymgeour, MacDonald, Maclean and Macintosh. Six panels were chosen to be installed on the monument. They were The City of Aberdeen, Mar, Davidson, Maclean of Duart, Irvine of Drum and Donald of the Isles. The Monument was designed by Dr William Kelly of Aberdeen.



The Harlaw Monument with Bennachie in background, before Panels attached.



The six panels before attachment



Earl of Mar & Donald of the Isles



Provost Davidson and the Earl of Mar



The Harlaw Monument with Panels attached and Bennachie in the background.

Barrie Leslie, Gordon, NSW.

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Previous issues of Grip Fast Down Under:-
Soon will be able to be viewed on our website. Meanwhile go to
www.electricscotland.com/familytree/newsletters/leslie/index.htm

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