

grip fast

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



DOWN UNDER

Vol. 8 No 3,

Oct, Nov, Dec 2012

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEFTAIN

Hi! Clansmen and your Ladies, another quarter slips by. I have not gotten over last Xmas and here is the next one staring me in the face. Well what do



you all think of our politicians and their recent pay rise. I agree with those who say that you only get what you pay for. I am sure that the older members amongst us are finding that what they thought was a tidy sum or superannuation, put aside for

George Leslie their later years has diminished in value due to inflation and the poor financial situation of many countries around the world. Anyhow I am not sure that I would want to trade places with any of them as they are never going to please everyone. I was at a luncheon with a few friends the other day and one of the discussions got around to being the dominance of Woolworths and Coles. While I agree that they should not have been allowed to become so dominant in many marketing areas that they have, However we have to accept some of the blame, after all we continue to support them. It's a bit like a dog chasing its tail, we buy the cheaper goods to make the money last out and these are often imported, so we indirectly become part of the reason for job losses and at the end of the day are we any better off?. I would like to invite some of our members to contribute to Grip Fast Down Under, after all it is your newsletter. Some tales of long ago, or an old recipe from that bottom drawer, anyone got one for Stovies?. We need some input from our various State Representatives, let's know what is happening in your neck of the woods. I understand that you can't be everywhere or man a Clan tent at all the Gatherings, but just a short story about the event. Have your say and make a difference.

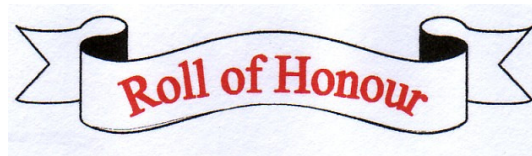
I have just packed everything away after attending a Pipe Band competition, hosted by the Brisbane Boys College, on Sunday 22nd July 2012. This was the first competition that they had organized and all went smoothly. They had 9 bands competing as

well as a Drum Majors competition. The Director of the school band, Mt Steven Stanley had a tent and table erected for us when we arrived. For security and ease of manning, I shared this with Clan Thom[p]son. I will continue this arrangement until we have Clan members who can share the duties with me. Brisbane Boys College had their official photographer there, so watch out in the next newsletter for some photographs from this event.

Good health and best wishes.

Yours Aye

George Leslie
Chieftain/Convenor.



JOHN IRELAND LESLIE.

Born, 1st March 1902. Died, 3rd Sept 1970.

John Leslie was a man of his time. He was not a soldier, politician, inventor or anything special. What makes him interesting is his role in the history of Yeoval, in New South Wales.

He was born in Gilgai, NSW, the youngest child of James and Agnes Eva Leslie of Inverell and was named after his mothers father, Henry Ireland Marsh. His Leslie family came from Ireland.

He had many interests and was a member of the Inverell Choral Society and also sang and appeared in reviews. He was also very interested in playing the bagpipe. Most probably part of his Leslie family history. He was also a keen footballer and took part in many other sports.

He became an apprentice to Mr B M Wade in Inverell and worked in many towns in New South Wales, including Dubbo and in 1928 he moved to

Yeoval, NSW for the construction of the Yeoval Post Office.



John Leslie circa 1925.

In 1930 he married Marie Miller, whom he met in Yeoval and also became an independent building contractor. John Leslie seemed to have a knack for acquiring building contracts and was responsible for planning and building many of the buildings in Yeoval. He was responsible for acquiring the Yeoval War Memorial Hall, which at that time was in Dubbo, NSW and re-erecting it in Yeoval.



Yeoval War Memorial Hall and Honour Boards.

John Leslie and Marie Miller had two daughters, Elaine, born 1931 and Beryl born 1933. Elaine is a long serving member of CLANZ.

During World War 11, John owned a timber property of almost 7000 hectares, which was named "Berela"

After the end of the war, John had to come down to Sydney to appeal for the right to have a timber mill in Yeoval.



John Leslie in Sydney circa 1947

John sold the sawmill and was very active in town matters, especially the Show Committee. He died in the Orange Base Hospital 3rd September 1970, after a short illness and was cremated at Orange in New South Wales. John Leslie was known as "Jack" to many people.

Many thanks to Elaine Wood for the information on her father.

JOHN LESLIE

BISHOP OF ROSS

John Leslie was born on the 29th Sept 1527 in Morayshire Scotland and died at the Monastery of St Augustine near Brussels on the 31 May 1596.

He was the son of Gavin Leslie, an eminent lawyer, and Judge Official of the Diocese of Moray. A dispensation of legitimation was granted to him on the 19th July 1538, enabling him, despite the defect of his birth to receive holy orders. His father Gavin Leslie was the brother of sir Beroald Leslie whose daughter married John Leslie of

Aikenway, who was granted the lands of Bridge of Spey on his marriage. This makes John Leslie Bishop of Ross, my 1st cousin, 11 times removed



*John Leslie Bishop of Ross
Courtesy Sebastian Leslie of Warthill, the above
painting is in the stairwell at Warthill House.*

John Leslie, Bishop of Ross was descended from Andrew Leslie 3rd Baron of Balquhain.

John Leslie was educated at the University of Aberdeen, Paris and Poitiers and showed early signs of his academic genius. He taught canon law at King's College Aberdeen, and took his degree as Doctor of Laws. In 1558 he received holy orders and was appointed official of the diocese of Aberdeen.

At this time the doctrines of the reformation were spreading throughout Scotland, and the Rev Dr John Leslie was detained in Edinburgh, and ordered not to preach again.

With the troubles increasing in Scotland, it was thought necessary to invite Queen Mary home from France. John Leslie was sent to Paris, by the Earls of Huntly and Athole to bring her back to Scotland, and he became her trusted advisor, holding judicial office, a privy councillorship and from 1566 the Bishopric of Ross.

When Queen Mary was forced to abdicate, John Leslie remained loyal to her. He defended her at the enquiry convened on the 4th Oct 1568 at York and was her accredited representative at Queen Elizabeth's court.

John Leslie was engaged in many schemes to return Mary to the throne, one of which was to depose Elizabeth in 1571 with the help of Spanish troops, and another to marry Mary to the catholic, Thomas Howard, 4th Duke of Norfolk. Norfolk was executed for treason, and Leslie was imprisoned in the Tower of London. In 1573 John Leslie was released and ordered from England

He went to the Netherlands where he tried without success to obtain help for Mary. While in Rome to see the Pope in 1578, he published, in Latin, his history of Scotland titled, "De Origine Moribus et Rebus Gestis Scotorum".

When the news of the execution of Queen Mary on the 8th Feb 1587 reached Brussels where John Leslie was then residing, he was filled with horror and retired to the Monastery of St Augustine in Brussels, where he carried out his devotions until he died in 1596.

Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.

DEATH IN NEW ZEALAND

Not many people are aware that a Leslie dynasty ended in New Zealand.

The Barons of Balquhain are descended from Sir George Leslie, fifth son of Sir Andrew Leslie and his wife Mary Abernethy, whose arms are quartered with those of her husband, and make the distinctive arms of most Leslie families. The three buckles of Leslie, with the lion rampant gules, surmounted with a ribbon sable, for Abernethy.



Ruins of Balquhain Castle

Sir George was granted the lands of Balquhain in 1340, and the ancient castle of Balquhain was built about that time.

Among the Leslie families descended from the Barons of Balquhain are the Leslie's of The Counts of Germany, Pitcaple, Kincaigie, Baronets of Wardis, Warthill, New Leslie and Crichtie. Tarbet & Glasslough in Ireland, Clisson in France and many others, and perhaps one of the most famous men in Scottish history, John Leslie, Bishop of Ross, confidant of Queen Mary, was born of the Leslie's of Cults.

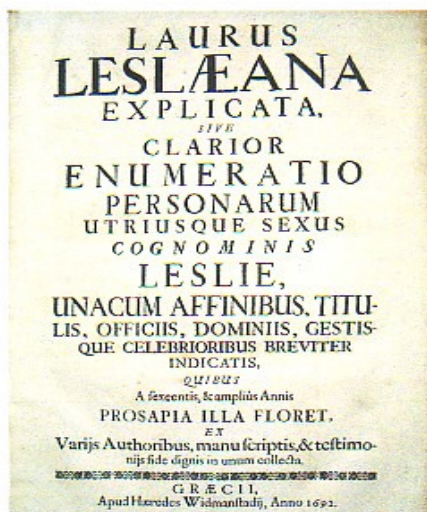
One of the most well known of the Barons of Balquhain was the 26th Baron, Colonel Charles Leslie K.H, who wrote the book, Historical Records of the Family of Leslie, which is a reference for all Leslie researchers. Col Charles Leslie's GG grandson was Alastair Patrick Leslie, who was born in Sussex England.

He was in the Fleet Air Arm, but was invalided out after an accident. He migrated to New Zealand and after service in World War 11 he settled in Rotorua NZ and died there in 1989, leaving no male heir, and thus this ancient branch of the Leslie family came to an end.

Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.

LAURUS LESLÆANA EXPLICATA

Hopefully most of you will have heard of the Laurus Leslæana Explicata, which is the first known written history of the Leslie family and Col Charles Leslie, who published the "Historical Records of the Family of Leslie" in 1869, borrowed heavily from it. It does contain many errors, but it is a significant part of our family history and is used by family historians to learn more about their branch of the Leslie family. A past member, Flora Leslie Spencer, who is now deceased gave me a typed English translation of the original Latin history that was written by the Rev William Leslie of the Balquhain family, in Gratz, Austria, in 1692, but unfortunately it had suffered over the years and many pages were ripped and had parts missing.



Latin front page of the Laurus Explicata

This English translation is the only one that we know about and Flora told me that it was made in 1893 by her mother, from a handwritten document that was given to Flora's grandmother by a Dr Pooler. I have been doing research on Dr Pooler and apparently his mother, Angelica Leslie was a grand daughter of Charles Powell Leslie MP, of the Glaslough family of Castle Leslie in Ireland. Ian, the 21st Earl of Rothes was very excited about the news of this translation, as he had been looking to getting his original Latin copy translated, but the cost was too great.

THE
LESLIE
LAUREL
EXHIBITED
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 .
GRAECIUM¹,
At the house of Hæredes of Widmanstadium, in the year 1692.

The title page of the finished Laurus Leslæana

I commissioned someone to retype the manuscript for me and to leave blank spaces for the missing information. The Earl of Rothes had been sending me digital copies of the original Latin document and I contacted Dr Ian Plant of the Dept of Ancient History at Macquarie University in Sydney, for help in filling in the gaps in the English translation. It was a long and painstaking job but the final results made it all worthwhile.

Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.

CONGRATULATIONS

CAMERON LESLIE

Our heartfelt congratulations to Cameron for his efforts at the London Paralympic Games.



Cameron Leslie

Cameron smashed his own world record time in the 150 metre individual medley by almost 5 seconds. His time was 2:25:98 and left his opposition well behind with Martin Sanchez of Mexico winning the silver medal with a time of 2:39:55.



Courtesy, "Getty Images".

Cameron Leslie

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, Cameron was born 17th January 1990 and has said that after his swimming career, he is interested in getting back into wheelchair rugby.

Barrie Leslie, Gordon, NSW.

STORIES FROM OLD KAIWAKA NEW ZEALAND.

THE TRAVELLING WOMEN OF YESTERYEAR.

While considering the problems that beset our female forebears, we must consider some of the indignities suffered on the decision to move from one side of the world to the other, knowing friends and family may never be seen again. Most came in ships as steerage class passengers, a sort of super economy and while food was supplied, each family had to cook their own meals, bake their own bread, all in the galley that also served the crew and so cooking went on 24 hours a day as meals were prepared. During a storm this job could not be undertaken and so little eating was done.

In the earliest ships there were no cabins, people were allotted spaces in the hold, under the deck, with blankets hung on ropes, giving them privacy with no hot or cold running water and every family had a bucket for a toilet. Ships toilets were always in the bow of the ship and were wooden seats above a hole in the side of the ship, the front always used as ships always sailed with the wind from the stern (behind) and it was soon learnt that anything thrown from the back of the ship was received back in the face and so every morning the males trudged to the front of the ship, to empty the buckets. In a later article I will mention how both my great grandmothers came to the district by boat. Great Grandmother Ann Leslie by cutter to Mangawai and 8 months pregnant, Grace Watson to Port Albert, both journeys taking a couple of days in ships that had no toilets at all, so how did they cope?. Males had no problem in going to the bow when the need arose. Every family of course had a chamber pot, but the ladies also had a more refined version. A narrow one with a lid that was invented in the 1700s for ladies to use in church during long 2 to 3 hour sermons.



A yellow ceramic Bourdaloue

This invention was known as the Bourdaloue and soon became popular in England as a Carriage pot, hanging from the back of the travelling coach and ladies who were caught short, would call for a loo stop and being unable to clamber fences, take to the scrub in the mud with their voluminous skirts with acres of petticoats. Would congregate around the rear of the coach and use the carriage pot, or loo, a word still in common use. Some of these contrivances came to New Zealand, a few ceramic, but most as cheap tin or leather and so did not last long. What is strange about the Bourdaloue is that ladies always used it while standing up, something that I will elaborate on, except to say that female astronauts and Antarctic field workers, still use a similar device, as their suits only have a zip the same as the males, being used in both cases while standing up. Lets face practicality, we couldn't send a giant C17 Globemaster down to the Antarctic to rescue someone with a frostbitten bottom. With tin or other metal chamberpots in continuous use, in early New Zealand, another word evolved due to the musical qualities while being used and that word is "tinkle".



A copper chamber pot or "tinkle"

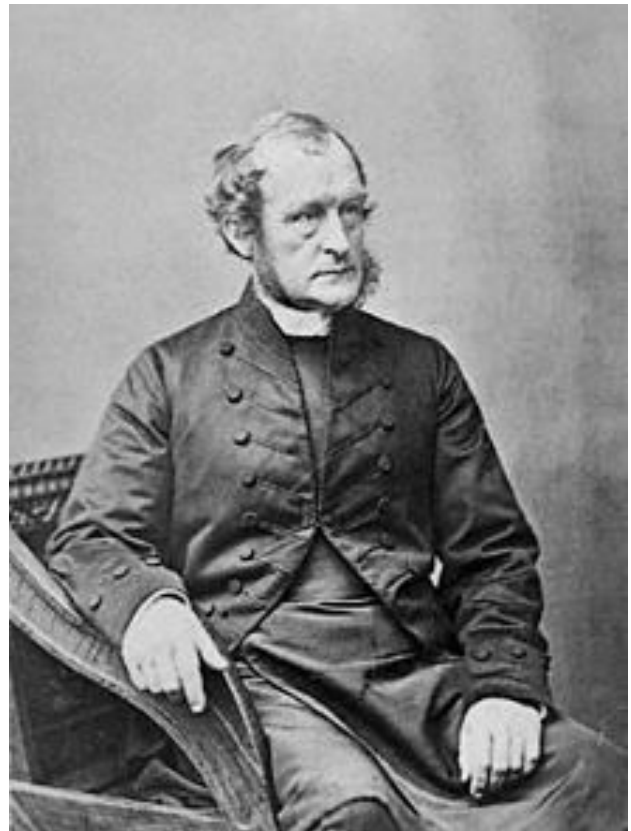
I can still remember being told to do "tinkles" before I went to bed and so to the use of plastic potty's has taken away the attainment of some of our children's musical talent. Anyway, with the young not knowing the proper use of the Bourdaloue, some still grace our tables as sauce or gravy boats, or jam holders. It took the Antique Road Show to show me that the lovely old toothbrush dish that I have, may not have been made for toothbrush's.

Bill Leslie, Kaiwaka, New Zealand.

ANOTHER STORY FROM OLD KAIWAKA.

WOMENS WORK IS NEVER DONE.

It is told that the women work hard, often besides their husbands doing manual work, without any rancour or complaint, something that I very much doubt. I bet they gave the males hell!!!!. Starting off in a tent with a mattress on the ground, stuffed with fern meant the family po, couldn't be hidden under the bed and so the first building erected would be the privy. Grandfather wrote in his book "The Gael Fares Forth" how as a child he could remember Bishop Selwyn, frequently visiting his parents from 1860 On and you couldn't ask the Bishop to use the chamber pot and so a good well kept privy was one of the first must haves.



Bishop George Augustus Selwyn.

Newspapers were rare in Kaiwaka in 1859, as was any paper, dock leaves were just as rare and toilet didn't reach New Zealand until the 1880s, while toilet rolls came along after 1910, so the leaves of the Rangiora tree would soon be denuded. Tents were often erected near a spring and so a well was a must with a building for cooking and boiling water, drains had to be dug around the tent and cooking area and a garden formed to grow

seasonal vegetables. A good supply of dry firewood had to be found and winter firewood, cut to dry. All before any thoughts of a house being built. Another must to do first was a clothes line. My Leslie great grands were farmer/fishermen and so used to smoking, drying and salting fish, salting mutton, pork and beef, growing wheat and oats, spinning wool and knitting all clothing. If trends from home were followed, the first animal to be bought would be a cow, as a cow supplied milk and a calf for winter slaughter. It often pulled a plough to plant a garden and a small cart to gather firewood. In the Shetlands a cow was more pampered and often better fed than the wife and children, such was their importance. A shelter would have been built for the animals and fowls, before a house, probably out of totara palings, all being done as trees were being sawn with a pit saw. Great grandfather came from an island that didn't grow trees, or rather the Vikings had deforested the land a 1000 years before and so the pit saw was one of his failings and again in "The Gael Fares Forth" grandfather tells, when very young, how the Rev Gittos called in and finding things not going well, sharpened and set the saw, rolled off the log being broken down, which was Kahikatea and selected a Totara log and then helped to saw it down the middle. He was a true father to his people.



A Pit Saw

All great grandma had to do was cook, bake bread, clean, was, sew, spin, knit, salt fish and meat, make candles, make butter and cheese, garden, walk to Kaiwaka or Mangawai for supplies, teach a child, give birth to another child, all in the confines of a tent for the first two years. As she was the one who could write, she also did all the paperwork and letters home, when they could get paper. All of this had to be done on six days of the week, as the

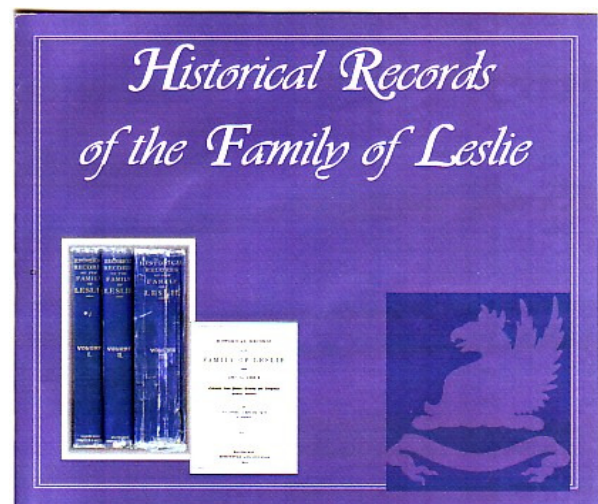
Sabbath was that important that my father, as a young grandson had to catch the rooster on a Saturday night, when staying with his grandparents and put him under a box as sex on the Sabbath was a no-no, even for the animals and fowls. To make sure all was right, an almanac or calendar was important so that prayers didn't get said on the wrong days, but as Christmas day wasn't even a Public holiday in 1860, they did not have the mass of information that we now get. Just think of the changes and imagine if all the sheep farmers had to take the rams away from the ewes every Saturday night and return them on Monday morning. However, it would also meant sheep farmers wives would get an undisturbed Sunday lie in.

Bill Leslie, Kaiwaka, New Zealand.

CDs of "HISTORICAL RECORDS OF THE FAMILY OF LESLIE".

I feel that it is time to re-issue this information.

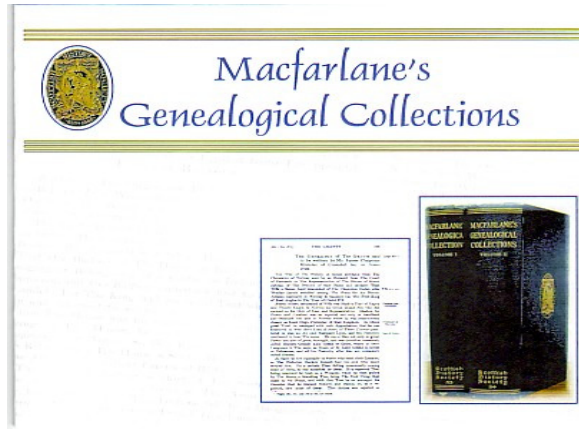
Several years ago I arranged for a CD to be made of "The Historical Records of the Family of Leslie" and also "Macfarlanes Genealogical Collections Concerning Families in Scotlan" there is a large collection on the Leslie family and also a report on the Earls of Rothes. Google search at www.archivecdbooks.com.au



"Historical Records of the Family of Leslie"
Col Charles Leslie 1862.

If you go to the International Section, Scottish Family History ref SCA002 They are for sale for \$39-50 Aust plus postage and are well worth

having in your library as the original books are now very scarce and expensive to purchase. "Macfarlanes Genealogical Collections concerning Families in Scotland" was compiled by Walter Macfarlane in 1750/51 and was edited by James Toshach Clarke, from original documents and has a large section on Leslie families and a separate section on the Earls of Rothes.



This CD is also available from the same company and is well worth having. It is available at a cost of \$39-50 Aust plus postage.

Col Charles Leslie took a lot of his information from this book for his "Historical Records of the Family of Leslie" as they pre-dated his book. The reference number is SCA001.

I can recommend both of these volumes. If you have trouble locating them or wish further information contact me on

lesliejb@ozemail.com.au

They are a worthwhile investment. If you have managed to trace your family back to the 1800s but cannot get any further back try these.

Barrie Leslie, Gordon, NSW.

MY HEALTH.

I went into hospital on the 4th March for an operation to fuse the L3, L4, L5 and S1 vertebrae in my back. Unfortunately, the surgeon said anything that could go wrong went wrong and I was on the table for more than 12 hours. After one month in the hospital and another month in the rehab hospital I came home but I am still in a lot of pain and I cannot sit at the computer for more than half an hour or so. At this stage the doctors are unsure what can be done to help me. I shall just have to wait and see what can be done.

Barrie Leslie, Gordon, NSW.

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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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