



### FROM THE CHIEFTAIN



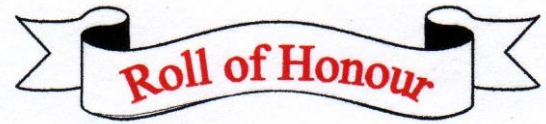
The word 'clan' actually derives from the Gaelic form 'Clann', meaning 'children' or 'stock'. However it's meaning in Scots can be a tribe or race or can represent a family unit. At the head

of the clan stands the Clan chief. The Clan was a symbol of unity and strength; it was also structured on egalitarian principles. Although the body of the clan were regarded as its kin there were natural divisions within it, which, although it rarely affected the individuals standing, nevertheless existed. Those members of the clan with blood ties were the 'Native Men'. They shared the Clan surname. Sometimes individuals or small family groups would come into the Clan who had no blood relation and were merely seeking protection or sanctuary. These were the 'Broken Men' of the Clan, sometimes a smaller neighbouring Clan, which had suffered some natural or man-made devastation and were unable to survive alone, or else simply individuals with no specific allegiance. As well as these there were the Septs, These were large and powerful families within a Clan. They did not share the native surname but in some cases their heads could be as powerful as the Chief himself. Smaller Clans could also bond together for protection, forming a larger confederation. The Clan Chattan, made up from several smaller member Clans was an example of this.

Our Society is based on the Clan, and our members can have the Leslie name in their family, or indeed, one of the Sept names. Just as the Clan provided unity and strength through it's encompassing of all these various aspects, so can our Society. I encourage all of our members to speak to relatives and friends with a view to getting them to join us in Clanship to help make our Society strong.

**Malcolm Leslie. D.Ua Chieftain. CLANZ.**

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**PRIVATE JAMES WILLIAM LESLIE.  
WX440483.  
2/48 Battalion. 2<sup>nd</sup> A.I.F.**



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P07702.002

James William Leslie, who was a steeldresser in civilian life and enlisted on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 1943 died of wounds received at Tarakan in Borneo on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1945, aged 23 and is buried in Tarakan, Borneo.

He was the son of John Malcolm Leslie and his wife Adelaide Rose Leslie and the loved husband

of Muriel Georgina Leslie of South Guildford Western Australia.



**Private James William Leslie's platoon in Tarakan, Borneo.**

*Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.*

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## **SINKING OF THE SS CLAN LESLIE**

**4<sup>TH</sup> November 1916**



*SS Clan Leslie.*

The company that would finally become The Clan Line, was founded in 1877 as C.W. Cayzer & Company, as a passenger service with routes between Britain and Bombay and in 1878 Captain William Irvine joined the company and the name was changed to Cayzer, Irvine & Company.

In 1881 a new partner joined the company and it became The Clan Line of Steamers with a head office at 109 Hope Street Glasgow. They expanded their service to South Africa and ultimately to the USA and Australia. Charles Cayzer himself retained ownership of the original six Clan Ships.

The SS Clan Leslie was built in 1902 by William Doxford & Sons, Pallion Sunderland on the River Wear in Northeast England and proceeded to carry

cargo to all of the routes that the company was servicing. SS Clan Leslie was operating in Australian waters and left Albany, Western Australia on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1909.

The British Government requisitioned a large number of the company ships during World War 1 and unfortunately on the 4<sup>th</sup> November 1916, while 370 kilometres (approx 200 miles) East of Malta, the SS Clan Leslie was torpedoed by a German submarine UB-45 commanded by Hans von Mellenthin, with the loss of three crew members.

*Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.*

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**This article is from a booklet about the Austrian Leslies. Written by Allen Lesley of Clan Leslie International and was published in "The Griffin" several years ago.**

### **WALTER, FOUNDER OF THE LESLIE AUSTRIAN BRANCH**

Walter Leslie was the second son of John, the Tenth Baron of Balquhain, by Jean Erskine, his third wife. Walter was, in fact, the fourth son of John, who had two sons by his first wife, Elizabeth Grant. Walter's father, the Baron, was for many years the Sheriff-Principal of Aberdeen. The Baron lived in splendid magnificence, an extravagance which resulted in the encumbering of the Balquhain estates. The Baron never rode out without an escort or retinue of at least twenty mounted gentlemen. As the fourth son, there was little chance of Walter inheriting his father's depleted estates. Moreover, this was the period of the little ice age which had such devastating effects upon the climate and economy of Scotland.



*Count Walter Leslie*

For many years the grain crops failed to ripen, or were extremely poor. It was difficult to sustain life, even for the affluent. The governing bodies of local communities and the churches bought flour and other staples from abroad, or wherever obtainable, for distribution to the public. In other words, there was little attraction for the sons, except for the first born, of the landed gentry or of others for that matter, to remain at home.

Consequently, many of the young men were literally compelled to seek their fortunes in the military service of the various nations on the Continent

Thus it was that Walter, as a very young man, having entered the Dutch Army, soon found himself in the Imperial service under Emperor Ferdinand II, fighting in the Thirty Years War. In fact, there were Leslies, all related, in high positions in practically every country in Europe during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. There were Field Marshalls and Generals, many at the same time, in the armies of Scotland, Austria, Sweden and Russia. There were also innumerable relatives and clansmen of the same name serving as officers of various rank scattered among the different armies of Europe. In February of 1634 Walter, then a Colonel, was serving under Wallenstein, the Supreme Commander of the Austrian Imperial army, as one of the Captains of his Guard. In that capacity, Walter was very much in the confidence of Wallenstein and discovered his treasonable design to betray the Emperor. Wallenstein was in correspondence with the Swedes and was moving the Imperial forces toward Eger in Bohemia to hand them over to the Swedes. Having made this discovery, Walter had to choose between duty and loyalty to the Emperor, or loyalty to Wallenstein and treason. Although Wallenstein had been his benefactor, Walter chose to be loyal to the Emperor. As a result, Walter was duty bound to take Wallenstein prisoner. It was the intent of Walter and his fellow officers, Colonel George Gordon, a Scot, and Colonel Walter Butler, an Irishman, to deliver up Wallenstein to the Emperor as a prisoner. Events however, happened too quickly. Fully aware of Wallenstein's plan to surrender his troops at Eger and to abandon the defence of the mountain passes forming the gateways to the Empire, the rapid approach of Bernard, the Duke of Weimar, to

consummate the plan, compelled Walter and his fellow officers, having already slain the chief members of his staff, to put Wallenstein to death in order to save the Imperial forces and secure the defence of the passes and thus it was done on February 25, 1634. In this day and age of Instant communication we cannot appreciate the momentous decision that befell these three men. They were on the scene, they had to act, they alone had the decision to make. Imagine the hushed and excited conversations. The plans made and discarded. Then as events rapidly developed, the ultimate course of action decided upon, a choice that required instant action. As men of principle and character, they had the courage to act. For these courageous acts of fidelity, the Emperor, Ferdinand II, in addition to expressions of Imperial favour, made Walter a Captain of his own Body Guard, the Colonel of a Regiment and the Governor of a Garrison. Walter performed well in his new capacities and was held in high esteem by the Emperor's son. In 1637 when the son succeeded his father as Emperor Ferdinand III, he made Walter a Count of the Holy Roman Empire, Lord of Neustadt in Austria, and Pittau in Bohemia. In due course, the Emperor also appointed Walter, Count Leslie, to the office of Imperial Chamberlain and Privy Councillor, and was made Lieutenant and Governor of Verazdin, Warden of the Borders of Slovenia and Sclavoni.



*Stari Grad Castle. Croatia*

The value of Walter's service to the Emperor can only be measured by the honours and appointments conferred upon him. Thus when he was made a Field Marshall, in addition to all the other honours, we know that he was held in the highest esteem by the Emperor. It was at this time that Walter was granted the castle or fortress at Ptuj in Slovenia, which



from its hill-top position dominates a broad section of the Orava River valley.



*Ptuj Castle with Leslie Crest*

Originally a Bishop's palace, the Hapsburgs acquired it in 1622. Upon acquisition by Walter, it was completely altered and strengthened as a fortress. The residence portion was extended by the construction of additions to the north and south west wings to form a courtyard, the effect of which was enhanced by the construction of beautiful arcaded corridors facing the courtyard in the Venetian style. On the walls, interposed between the arched columns, are handsomely carved coats of arms of the Leslie's, the Dietrichstein's, his wife's family, and as Governor of this South Eastern portion of the Austrian Empire, over the main portal of the entrance to the courtyard is a beautifully carved coat-of-arms of the Leslie's, including crest and motto, in what appears to be pure white granite. For having been carved more than three hundred years ago, it is in perfect condition. In the original section of the residence is a charming and richly decorated chapel. The new north wing contains a very impressive "Knights' Hall." When more peaceful times permitted, after the final defeat of the Turks, the Leslie's made further alterations to the castle to make it more livable. It was their's in hereditary right. Walter, Count Leslie, at the age of thirty-one, assumed the dignities and obligations of the honours and offices conferred upon him with the consummate skill of a born statesman. Three years later, or in 1640, he married Princess Anne Francesca de Dietrichstein,

daughter of Maximilian, Prince de Dietrichstein, the Prime Minister of the Empire and Grand Chamberlain to the Emperor. Unfortunately Walter and his wife Anne were not blessed with any children.



*Nove Mesto Nad Metuji Castle. Bohemia*

Such being the case, Walter, Count Leslie, requested his brother Alexander, the fourteenth Baron of Balquhain, to permit him to adopt his eldest son James as his son and heir. This was agreed to and young James came under the wing of his uncle in 1655, at about age nineteen. In preparing his nephew to receive his titles and honours, Walter saw to it that James was given a finished education, for the completion of which he was sent on a trip through Germany, Poland, France, Spain and Italy. The formal aspects of his education completed, young James entered the Imperial Military service in which he subsequently distinguished himself and was accorded the highest of honours. No sooner had the Thirty Years War ended in 1648, than the Turks began their persistent push westward in the expansion of the Ottoman Empire. Walter, Count Leslie, as Military Governor of South Eastern Austria, and as Field Marshall, was charged with the defence of the territory. The Turks endeavoured to break through the Imperial defences at St. Gotthard a small town on the River Raba at the Austro-Hungarian Border. They were defeated, thereby ending the threat of an attack on Vienna, about 125 miles to the north. As a result of this victory over the Turks in 1664, they made no serious attempt to reach Vienna for nearly twenty years. Following the victory over the Turks, Emperor Leopold I, sent Walter, Count Leslie, as the Imperial Ambassador Extraordinary and

Plenipotentiary, to negotiate the terms for a lasting peace with the Sublime Ports of Turkey. It was just prior to this commission that the Emperor made Walter a Knight of the Golden Fleece.



Count Leslie arranged everything relating to this mission on the most magnificent scale. He obviously had a flair for the dramatic. It was said that his retinue was the most splendid that ever went from Europe to Constantinople. They proceeded in great state down the Danube in gay barges past Budapest to Belgrade, where they landed. The party then proceeded overland in a great convoy or train of state coaches. The horses used would have been sufficient for several regiments of cavalry. Some two hundred wagons were required just to carry baggage and supplies. The entrance into Constantinople bore all the characteristics of a triumphal march. It was so brilliant that the Grand Signor himself, Sultan Mahomet Hau, the Fourth, watched the cortege from a window as it entered the Seraglio. Upon receiving Count Leslie the Grand Signor said that in all his life never had

he seen such an Impressive display of Imperial power. There is an etching of Walter, Count Leslie, at the Heeresgeschichtliches Museum in Vienna, showing him in his official robes as the Imperial Emissary wearing the emblem of a Knight of the Golden Fleece. Walter, Count Leslie, succeeded in negotiating a lasting peace which was only broken after nearly twenty years by the Turks. Not long after his return to Vienna from his trip to Constantinople Walter, Count Leslie, died on March 4, 1667, at the age of sixty-one. He was buried with great pomp in the Leslie Chapel (St. Anna's) in the Scotch Benedictine Abbey at Vienna. Today, the Abbey is known as the Schottenkirche. It is located on the Schottengasse at Freyung. The Leslie Chapel is the first one on the right as you enter the nave of the church. At the top of the arch of the chapel are the shields or wappen depicting the arms of the Leslie's and the Dietrichstein's. The same coat-of-arms appear over Saint Barbara's Chapel which is located directly opposite Saint Anna's, indicating that other members of the same two families are buried there.

**Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.**

### CONGRATULATIONS TO CHIEF ALEX LESLIE & MIRANDA GRANT.





I, on behalf of CLANZ would like to congratulate Chief of Clan Leslie, Alex, who announced his engagement, on the 5<sup>th</sup> March to Miranda Grant of Edinburgh and they attended The Grandfather Mountain Highland Games held 10<sup>th</sup> July to 13<sup>th</sup> July 2014 at Linville North Carolina USA.



*Miranda & Alex, courtesy Mike Lacey*



*Chief Alex Leslie with Tom Huxtable Chieftain of Clan Leslie Society International*

Alex and Miranda are to be married on the 12<sup>th</sup> September 2014 at a small family wedding and I believe that they will have a larger reception on the 26<sup>th</sup> September 2014.



*Miranda with Edinburgh Castle in background.*



*Chief Alex with Linda Ferguson Flowers and her son Adam at Grandfather Mountain*

*Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.*



**The Clan Leslie Charitable Trust**  
A "First in Fife for GAHC & Clan Leslie Charitable Trust.

In April 2010, whilst working on the pilot for GAHC, a large cache of papers were donated anonymously to the GAHC Founder, Linda

Ballingall. The papers, had been discovered during the demolition of centuries-old outhouses on the Rothes Estate, in the 1950's and for the next 60yrs, had lain untouched in an attic.

The centuries old papers, of which there were 500 pieces, proved to be highly significant as they referred to the Duke of Rothes and his ancestral home; the 'Palace of Leslie' in Leslie, Fife. The papers dated from 1624 to late 1700s, contained information on the day- to- day running of the estate eg: the apothecary's prescriptions for the Countess's various minor ailments. Purchases made by the Duke. Legal papers and the plans and costs for a large water wheel to pump water into the mills. Of significance and interest to locals will be the ledgers giving the names of the local families who worked on the building of the great house, the lady's maids, pages, cooks and servants. The names of the estate farm workers and their families. All in all they reveal a window into the lives of the aristocracy and those of a servant in the 17th & 18th century within Fife. In September 2010, Alastair Leslie, 1st cousin to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Rothes and a Trustee of the Clan Leslie Charitable Trust met with Linda to view the papers and in February 2011, the Leslie family invited Linda and local historian Bill Fiet to view some of the many Rothes artefacts which included portraits, swords, jewellery etc. During the visit Linda suggested that the Trust, who have looked for many years for a suitable premise from which to display the family collection, consider GlenRothes & Area Heritage Centre as a site for a permanent display. Pointing out that The Kingdom Shopping Centre was built on land once belonging to the Rothes Estate, was close to Leslie House, the ancestral family seat - making it an ideal and most suitable choice. Further meetings resulted in an agreement between Clan Leslie Charitable Trust and GAHC for the GlenRothes hub to be the first and only venue from which to view the Rothes family artefacts, paintings, furniture, swords and charters. One charter being the creation of the first and only Dukedom of Rothes in 1680. The 'Rothes Papers' are presently with conservationists at Dundee University for restoration. Once this has been done, copies will be available for public viewing at GAHC, whilst the originals will be stored by the Clan Leslie Charitable Trust.

Go to:- [www.glenrothesheritage.co.uk](http://www.glenrothesheritage.co.uk) for further information on the GlenRothes Heritage Centre.

*Many thanks to GlenRothes & Area Heritage Centre for permission to feature this article and The Hon Alex Leslie. Master of Rothes. Chief Clan Leslie.*

*Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.*

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## WEDDING OF

**The Hon Alexander John Leslie. Master of Rothes and Miranda Grant of the Grants of Glenmoriston.**

**12 September 2014 at Prestonfield House  
Edinburgh. Scotland.**



*Miranda & Alex*





*John Grant and Alex Leslie.*



*Alex & Miranda, Robin & Lady Jean MacKenzie  
(Alex's Aunt), Rosemary & Alastair Leslie.*



*Miranda and Alex in Florence.*

*Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.*

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

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