



THE EARL OF ROTHES

I finally got away for my trip to Scotland in July. I stopped off in Hongkong for a day and flew out for London just hours before the airport was closed for three days by a typhoon. A very close shave indeed.

My friend Roger Leslie from Middlesex, met me at Heathrow airport. I had a good look around London and saw all the sights that you are supposed to see, and took all the photographs that you are supposed to take. We then drove down to Salisbury to meet Ian, The Earl of Rothes and his lovely wife Marigold.

They made us very welcome and showed us over their estate. We then had lunch and talked about what could be done to raise the profile of Clan Leslie in Australia and New Zealand.



The Earl of Rothes, his wife Marigold and Barrie Leslie

After lunch we were shown copies of "The Laurus Leslaeana Explicata", which was published in Gratz Austria in 1692, by William Aloysius Leslie, who was born at Balquhain in 1614. This was the first written history of the Leslie family and it was a real privilege to see and handle it. Unfortunately there is not a single copy of this manuscript in Australia and I suggested that it might be a good idea to make a photocopy of the Laurus Leslaeana Explicata before it gets too fragile to handle and make it available for scholars to study in Australia. It could be lodged in either the State libraries, or kept by an Officer of Clan Leslie Society.

Two copies of the Laurus are also held at "Warhill" by the current Laird, Sebastian Leslie.

Roger and I then drove back to London for our flight to Aberdeen, but on the way back, we were caught in a tropical downpour, which then seemed to set the stage for the rest of my trip in England and Scotland.

Barrie Leslie Gordon NSW.

APPOINTMENT AS CLAN LESLIE COMMISSIONER

I am pleased and proud to announce that on the 16th July 2001, The Earl of Rothes appointed me, James Barrie Leslie, his Commissioner for Australia and New Zealand.

This position is a personal appointment, held at the pleasure of The Earl of Rothes, Chief of Clan Leslie, or his successor.

If any members of Clan Leslie Society would like any matters brought to the attention of our Clan Chief, I would be happy to contact the Earl of Rothes for you and present any thoughts that you may want to pass on.

Barrie Leslie Gordon NSW.

KIRKING OF THE TARTAN

As part of Scottish Week Celebrations, a Kirking of the Tartan was held at St Andrews Anglican Cathedral at George Street Sydney on Sunday 12th August 2001. After the church service, the Clans assembled in Sydney Square for a March up George Street to Liverpool Street and then down to Darling Harbour where a great concert was held. I was there to represent Clan Leslie and Bob Cameron and his wife Bet, from Leura also came along and joined in the celebrations.

I would recommend that Clan Leslie Society members mark this date in their diary for next year, as it is a fantastic outing and you can meet the other members of Clan Leslie Society, as well as meeting members of other Clans.

Barrie Leslie Gordon NSW

[2] OLDEN TIMES DEFINITIONS.

Following on from an article in Grip Fast, several months ago, are some definitions of olden day terms, still in common usage.

Good night! Sleep tight.

There was a time when beds consisted of a rough frame, with the “mattress” being suspended on ropes, which were crossed from side to side and pulled tight. This rope tended to sag after a while, making for a bad nights sleep. However once the rope was pulled tight again, one could be sure of a better opportunity to have a “good Night” as you “slept tight”.

A Threshold.

Floors on your humble cottage were usually just hard packed earth. This surface could get very dirty and also, wet and muddy, so were strewn with rushes, which were known as “threshes”. The threshes were continually added to, so that over a period of time they started to spill out of one’s doorway, so a board was placed across the opening to “hold the threshes”.

Lea Hess Sunbury Victoria.

MORNING TEA at LESLIE CASTLE

Before I left on my Scotland trip, I had arranged to meet fellow CLS member Elaine Wood at Leslie Castle on Thursday 12th July. Of course as I left Elgin to get down to Leslie Castle by 10-30am, it was pouring with rain. As Roger and I were passing through Inverurie, the rain stopped.

As we drove up the drive to Leslie Castle we could see that Elaine had got there before us. We parked our car and Leslie came out to meet us and explained that David was showing Elaine and her family, the Castle. We went inside the Castle and found Elaine with her two children, Michael Wood and Beverly Lun, as well as her sister, Beryl Tremain, from Yeoval in New South Wales.

David and Leslie showed us all around the Castle and showed us what was left of the original Leslie Castle and pointed out where the Forbes family of Leslie had rebuilt the Castle in 1661. Incidentally I am descended from the Forbes family of Leslie who rebuilt the

Castle. After we had a good look around the Castle, and taken lots of photographs, Leslie produced a marvellous meal, which we enjoyed very much.



From L to R, Elaine, Michael, Beryl, Leslie, David, Barrie and Roger. Beverly took the photograph

Over our meal David and Leslie told us that now that Leslie Castle was sold, they were going to build a residence on the side boundary of Leslie Castle and had finally received permission to build it. We had a good look at the plans and they should be in harmony with the Castle.



David and Leslie Leslie, at Leslie Castle

I would like to thank David and Leslie for taking the time to show us all around the Castle. David told me that he had sent a stone from Leslie Castle to Australia for the bicentennial celebrations in 1988 and could I find out what had been done with it, and could I send him a photograph.

I am happy to say that it was built into a Celtic stone Cairn, in Rawson Park, Mosman, Sydney, along with stones from every parish in Scotland. Rawson Park is off Bradleys Head Road in Mosman, and I have sent a collection of photographs to David.

Barrie Leslie Gordon NSW

[3] **BURKES LANDED GENTRY**

Burkes Landed Gentry now have a website available to search. Go to:-

www.burkes-landed-gentry.com

“Burkes” has been published since 1830 and now for the first time this prestigious genealogical guide to families in Great Britain and Ireland is available on the internet.

The new 19th edition of Burkes Landed Gentry will be published in seven regional volumes. The first, Scotland, is now online and the six remaining regions will be added in due course.

The six regions to come are:-

The Republic of Ireland & the province of Ulster
Principality of Wales
Cornwall, the West and Wessex
Yorkshire, Lancashire and the North
Mercia, the Midlands & East Anglia
London, Kent & the South East.

The book, Burkes Landed Gentry in Scotland is now available online, but I would point out that this book is about the Landed Gentry of Scotland as it is today.

Barrie Leslie Gordon NSW.

SCOTS ORIGINS

Scots origins:- www.origins.net now has the 1881 Scottish census online. Unlike the 1891 census, the 1881 census of nearly 4 million people, shows the full transcript from the source document, not merely the index data. This means that Scots Origins users will have more information at hand when they are searching the census, and more fields will be searchable. A major difference from the 1891 census index, is the facility to be able to view the records for all the members of the same household

Barrie Leslie Gordon NSW.

AIKENWAY CASTLE

Aikenway Castle was the home of George Leslie of Drumbarrow, 1st Laird of Aikenway and he was a son of George Leslie 1st Earl of Rothes and was my 10th G Grandfather. The Castle was on the opposite side of the River Spey to Rothes and was on a prominent position overlooking the river. He received a feu of the lands from Gavin Leslie, Rector of Rothes on 10th August 1530, and was home to the Leslie's of Aikenway for four

generations, until it reverted to the Rothes family, 14th July 1699.

Needless to say it was pouring with rain as Roger and I with his cousin Heather left Elgin and drove to Craigellachie. We then drove for what seemed forever until we got to the ruins of Aikenway Castle. All that was left was one small wall and the stones of the Castle had been used to build a large house on the site, which itself was now a ruin.



The Last Wall of Aikenway Castle.

George Leslie 1st Laird of Aikenway was born in Fifeshire about 1470 and when a young man, was made Captain of Rothes by his father and took up residence there. At Elgin on the 29th June 1509 he witnessed a charter as *George Lesley, Captain of Rothes*. He married Ann Grant, daughter of Duncan Grant of Mullahard and had three sons William 2nd Laird of Aikenway, the second son was John Leslie of Bridge of Spey who was my 9th G Grandfather.

Barrie Leslie Gordon NSW

FOR THE GENEALOGIST

Below are listed some words, which are frequently to be found in genealogical records and hopefully will make the reading of such records much easier for you.

@rent – annual rent

Assedation – a lease

Assize – a trial presented before a jury

Baillie – an officer appointed by a Baron

Be – by

Burgess – a person who is free to transact business in a Burgh

Caution – [pronounced kay'shun] a security or bail posted for another

[4] Chancery – the office which deals with the Service of Heirs and it's recording

Compear – to present oneself

Conjunct fie [fee] – property to be shared jointly with another

Curator – one appointed to manage the affairs of a minor or legally incapable person

Davach – an old land measurement, the area which is not known today

Depone – testify on oath

Dispone – convey land or property

Excambion-um – exchange of property

Fear, fiar, feer – one who owns property in fee simple; sometimes used for heir apparent

Feu – a feudal holding of land held of a superior to whom payment was made by military service, money or 'kind' grain or stock

Hamesucken – committing an assault upon a person in his own home

Heir Apparent, apparand – apparent heir to an estate, successor

Horn – to blow a horn 3 times at one's door and proclaim him a rebel

Infefment – the symbolic act of transference of which consisted of the baillie placing earth and stone into the hands of the grantee or procurator, grain in the case of a mill

Inquest – a selected group of men who meet to inquire into the right of inheritance

Inquisition – the record of an inquest

Lawborrowis – security given that one will not harm another

March – border

Muckle, meikle – much, or large, or the larger of two properties of the same name

Oxgang, oxgate – one eighth of a plowgate

Perambulation – an assize which met to walk around and establish the marches of a property

Pleuch, plough gate – usually 104 acres

Precept Sasine – a document which authorizes the act of sasine; precept of clare constat is one in which the grantee is clearly recognized

Procurator – one who is appointed to act for another

Pupil – male child under 14 years; female child under 12 years

Quhilk – which ; "qu" has the sound of "w"

Reddendum – the stated payment due to be rendered on a property

Renunciation – surrender of a lease or inheritance

Retour – the decision sent by an inquest to

Chancery usually declaring a successor; a record of the same

Sasine – a written grant of property; or the act which conveys the property by infefment which was set by law to contain at least five persons; baillie, grantee or procurator notary public and at least two witnesses, the act to be done only during daylight hours' etc

Service – the procedure in which heritable lands are given to an heir;

Sunny side – the part of the land facing south

Shadow [or shady side] side – the part of the land facing north

Superior – an overlord who feued land to a vassal for certain services

Tack, tak – a lease or holding by tenancy

Teind Sheaves – a tenth part of the produce of a property given to the church, but since the reformation given to the landowner

Thir – these

Till – to

Tutor – guardian of a pupil

Umquhile – late or deceased

Wadset, wodset – a mortgage, or the act of mortgaging

Many thanks to my cousin and friend, Donald "Mac" Mackintosh of South Carolina USA, who died 19th December 1999, for clarifying many of the above terms. I hope that these explanations are of help to you during your search for your family

Barrie Leslie Gordon NSW

A GREAT CHRISTMAS PRESENT

If anyone is looking for a Christmas present to give to a Leslie, may I suggest, the following

Grip Fast: The Leslies in History

by **Alexander Leslie Klieforth** or

The Griffin Reprints.

From The Leslie Trust.

No 1. The Clan Society, Leslie History Heraldry

No 2. Some Leslie Places & Family Branches

No 3. A Leslie Miscellany

No 4. The Diaspora America

These are reprints of items that have appeared in *The Griffin* over the last twenty one years and make very interesting reading.

[5] Any interested persons can contact me for prices and order forms. As they come from the United Kingdom, and to save on postage costs, they would need to come by surface mail, although time is now running out and they most probably would have to be sent airmail. I have all of these publications and if any one wants to see them, they can be viewed at my home.

Barrie Leslie Gordon NSW

NEWSTEAD HOUSE. BRISBANE

I was invited to Newstead House Brisbane, on the 26th July 2001, to give an address to The Friends of Newstead House, about Patrick Leslie, 2nd son of the 10th Laird of Warhill, and was I pleased to see several members of Clan Leslie Society there. Patrick rediscovered, and with his brothers George and Walter, in 1840, settled the Darling Downs, in what is now Queensland.

On the 9th April 1845 he purchased, in his fathers name, the 34 acre site on Breakfast Creek for the sum of Fifteen Pounds. On this site he built a house that he called "Newstead House" and grew vegetables and fruit for the citizens of Brisbane.



Newstead House in 1853, with thanks to The Friends of Newstead & Dixon Galleries, State Library of NSW

The address was called, "Patrick Leslie. The New Zealand Years" and started after Patrick sold his interests in Australia and returned to England. He then migrated to New Zealand with his family and arrived in Auckland on the 20th October 1868. He purchased land in the Waikato and proceeded to establish a very productive farm and sheep stud.

As noted in a previous article on Patrick Leslie, he was not a well man and sold his farm in New Zealand and returned to Sydney, where he died at Milsons Point on the 12th September 1881.

Newstead House was sold in 1847 by Patrick's father, William, to Captain John C Wickham, who had married Anna Macarthur, the sister of Patrick's wife Catherine. Captain Wickham was appointed the Police Magistrate in Moreton Bay [Brisbane] by the NSW Governor Gipps.



Barrie Leslie, giving the address on Patrick Leslie

Captain Wickham's wife, Anna died in Sydney on the 23rd June 1852 and after five years he remarried. Captain Wickham sold Newstead House in October 1862 and died at Biarritz in the south of France on the 6th January 1864.

Barrie Leslie. Gordon. NSW.

SCOTLAND AUSTRALIA CAIRN.

This Cairn was built at Rawson Park Mosman Sydney, by Duncan Mathieson from Wester Ross, a distinguished craftsman who was sent to Sydney to build the Memorial Cairn, being Scotlands gift to the people of Australia on the occasion of the 1988 Bicentenary Celebrations.

[Refer to article, Morning Tea at Leslie Castle]

The Cairn sits at the highest point of Rawson Park and at night is floodlit, thereby creating a landmark which is visible to passing ships. Stones were collected by Sunday school children and some by Church Ministers, of whom one climbed to the top of the Cairngorms to collect a suitable stone. Stones from four Cathedrals are also included and some are engraved with the name of the area in which they were collected. All in all, there are 1750 stones from every parish in Scotland, including one sent from Leslie Castle in Aberdeenshire.

In the Highlands, Cairns, both large and small have always been built to commemorate great events or tragedies, or a memorial to someone.

[6] This Cairn was built to commemorate the arrival of the First Fleet in Australia in 1788. Captain Arthur Philip was Captain of the “Sirius” flagship of the fleet, but in his absence the Sirius was commanded by Captain John Hunter, who was born in Leith, near Edinburgh.

“Here Frai A’The Airts, Stane Haud The Gither Thru Wind And Rain Minders O’Scotland That Aince Was Hame”.

These Words are engraved on the plaque at the Cairn.



Scotland Australia Cairn at Rawson Park Mosman.

The stone placed on the top of the Cairn, originates from Ulva, birthplace of Lachlan Macquarie, 5th Governor of Australia and is engraved with a Celtic Cross and Lachlan Macquarie’s personal motto.

An T-Arm Breac Dearg. *The Red Tartan Army*

Nearby, stands a large Celtic Cross which was erected over the grave of F/O Keith Anderson who crashed in the Australian desert while searching for his friend and colleague, Charles Kinsford Smith, and died of thirst.

A time capsule was buried deep beneath sandstone foundations of the Cairn on the 30th November 1989 and is filled with both Australian and Scottish memorabilia. The Official Dedication Ceremony was hosted by Mosman Council and The Scottish Australian Heritage Council and was held on the 30th November 1989, in the presence of the Chief of Clan Campbell, The Duke of Argyll and Sir Iain Noble. Bart, Chairman of The Scotland Australia Bicentennial Cairn Committee.

For further information go to:-

www.mosman.nsw.gov.au/community/cairn.htm

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