

Volume 1, Issue 1, November 2008

CLAN LESLIE SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS UPDATE

This is the first issue of the Grip Fast Online, sent to members for whom we have an email address. The Chieftain and Council have been very concerned with the lack of communication with the membership and have approved an expanded service of publications to keep the members informed and allow more opportunities for members to share their stories and contribute to the work of the Clan Leslie Society International. Please use this online newsletter to give us your views and to share your Leslie (Abernathy, Carney, Moore, Lang, etc) stories. The plan is to keep this letter informal.

Grip Fast The Grip Fast is a quarterly periodical newsletter of the Clan Leslie Society International covering historical and current messages from leaders of the Clan and including other interesting news of the members of the Society, upcoming events and stories from members.

The new Publications Policy started with the **October** issue, which you have received by now. Issues are usually **January, April, July and October**.

Grip Fast Online This is the first email only issue.

Issues will normally be **November, December, February, March, June and August**. This schedule is to avoid two issues (quarterly and email) in the same month. However, if there are many stories to report or reminders from the Council or other current items that should not wait for the next quarterly Grip Fast, this schedule can be adjusted as necessary. Some important issues may be repeated in the following quarterly Grip Fast such as Council messages, reminders of upcoming events and other business which may or may not be repeated in the next quarterly Grip Fast.

The Journal The Journal is intended to be a record of official and unofficial gatherings and meetings of Clan Leslie groups, such as tent hosts at games, biennial CLSI gatherings and Leslie family gatherings. The main source of information is from reports from organizers of these events. A heavy use of photographs is preferable. The Journal will be published annually at the end of the summer when the reports of Games and Gatherings have been completed.

Note: It is extremely important that those hosting tents at games and family gatherings send pictures and short reports of these events to the Editor, William Leslie at william.leslie@sympatico.ca or post office mail to the address on the sheet of CLSI Officers. If requested, mailed photographs can be returned by mail to the sender.

The October issue of the Journal is in the mail to you.

Plan For The Griffin The Griffin is a more formal document recording Clan Leslie history and a major source is research of the many documents available from Scotland or from family histories of individual Leslie families. It is understood that Clan Leslie history includes that of the Septs: Abernathy, Carney, Moore, Lang etc.

At the moment we have only one Leslie story for the Griffin and raw material to write a second story. We will publish the Griffin when there are at least two stories available.

SECRETARY/REGISTRAR RETIRING

Dear Kinsmen,

I have been Secretary/Registrar and Database manager for 7 years now. During this time, I have seen many positive changes to the Society. The Council has instituted many changes to the Constitution and Bylaws that affect the way that things are done and we are always striving to improve. With this in mind, as I step down from my position as Secretary/Registrar, I would like to encourage each and every one of you to take an active role in the operation of this Society.

Whatever the reason was when you joined, you sought out a part of your heritage that is strong and vital and it is that which draws and binds us all together in one Clan. We need more of you to participate. Without your help, the Society cannot flourish; much like a flower without the sun and rain. New officers bring fresh ideas; these are the ideas that are fruit on a vine and this is what feeds and sustains the Society through the coming years.

In the coming months, officers from the Society will be asking you for help. Some new committees have been established to improve the way we do things, from the building of the newsletter to the establishment and operation of a Scholarship system and we will need volunteers to fill these committees. You will only need to supply a few moments of your time to make a lasting impact on the Society. When the time comes, please consider giving a few moments to benefit everyone in the Society. Other than your time the only other items you would need to participate would be your ideas and your computer.

In closing, I want to tell all of you what a huge honor it has been to serve as an officer in this Society. There are few things that are closer to my heart. I have worked alongside many wonderful and capable people and all of them give their time and ideas without complaint. We are very fortunate to have such people working to keep this Society strong. Thank you so much for the trust you have put in me for 7 years. I step down knowing that the Society is in very good hands and hope that there will be more of you endeavoring to become involved in the future.

Yours in kinship,

Leslie K. Seich

SALADO SCOTTISH GATHERING – NOV. 7-9



Pictured at Left:

Fred and Pat Trachier, Sue Downes, Reuben Leslie, David Leslie White, Lynne Leslie, Frank Wallace Leslie.

Frank and Lynne Leslie hosted the CLSI tent at the 47th annual Salado Scottish Gathering & Highland Games in Salado, Texas. This year the event moved from the historic Robertson Ranch to Pace Park on the banks of Salado Creek. The weather was beautiful with cool crisp mornings and warm sunny afternoons under a clear blue sky. Pace Park provided a much improved venue especially with a covered

pavilion for the Highland dance contests and shade under massive oak trees for many of the clan tents.

Some of the CLSI members who attended were Fred and Pat Trachier of Arlington Texas and Reuben Leslie and Sue Downes of Austin.

Salado is rich with Texas history. Main Street was formed by the Chisholm Trail and the Stage Coach Inn which still provides meals and rooms once provided services to Sam Houston, General George Custer and cattle barons such as Shanghai Pierce and Charles Goodnight. The town of Salado arose as part of the Robertson Colony, which was established when this area was still part of Mexico. Most of the colonists were of Scottish or Scots-Irish descent. More details and photos will be in the 2009-10 issue of the Journal

THE CLAN LESLIE LIBRARY



Pictured Left:
Dr. Graeme Morton, William Leslie, Lorne Bruce and Sue Leslie
With the first donations of a Griffin Collection, Grip Fast by Alec Klieforth the three volumes of the History of the Family of Leslie and a CD Disc with The Grip Fast Newsletter from 2004 to 2008.

The signing of the agreement to create the Clan Leslie Collection was signed at the University of Guelph in the archives Room on Friday, November 14.

The objective is to persuade Clan Leslie members (Abernathy, Carney, Moore, Lang, etc.) all over the world to contribute family research, books relevant to Leslie history, letters and other significant documents to this Library where they can be easily accessed and preserved forever. We have already made a great start. The CLSI will work towards digitizing documents so that they can be easily available to Clan members worldwide.

The McLaughlin Library at the University of Guelph contains one of the largest collections of Scottish materials outside of Scotland, including both printed materials on Scottish and Scottish-Canadian topics as well as a large amount of manuscript source material in the form of letters and business documents and clan documents.

Some of the oldest materials in the University of Guelph library archives are seven Scottish charters dating from 1491 to 1547. Legal documents (one bears the royal seal of King James V), they confirm the transfer of land and titles of nobility from one generation of a family to the next. The weathered ornate script on linen parchment is difficult to read, but the charters reveal much about Scotland's complex system of land ownership and privilege.

All special collections are available to researchers in the Wellington County Room. For preservation and security reasons, these materials do not circulate and there may be some restrictions on what can be viewed. Normally, faculty and students, visiting scholars, alumni, and the public can use these materials upon request.

The University of Guelph library is now participating with other Canadian research libraries in the Internet Archive project that is digitizing books printed before 1923 (i.e. books which are no longer in copyright). Many of these books are older, scarce, or rare items. Guelph is contributing many Scottish titles and these resources can be searched — freely — at the [Canadian Internet Archive](http://www.archive.org/details/melvillesearls02fras). For example, <http://www.archive.org/details/melvillesearls02fras>

The primary tool for identifying rare books, special and archival collections at the University of Guelph is the library's [TRELLIS online catalogue](#), shared with the Universities of Waterloo and Wilfred Laurier. For some archival or rare collections, individual items have been catalogued and entered in the system separately; other collections have a single record in TRELLIS with a link to a finding aid (Adobe Reader required) that has more detail.

For more details about the Scottish Collection, go to,

[http://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/resources/archival & special collections/the collections/digital collections/scottish/](http://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/resources/archival_%20special_collections/the_collections/digital_collections/scottish/)

CLAN LESLIE COLLECTION TO INCLUDE:

1. All annual financial reports of the CLSI.
2. All minutes of CLSI Council Meetings
3. A copy of each issue, past and future, of the Society's publications
4. A copy of all correspondence between the Society Commissioner and the Chief or acting Chief of Clan Leslie.
5. All correspondence between any officer of the Society and government agencies such as the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).
6. Copies of the CLSI Constitution and By-Laws and all revisions.
7. Reports of Committees
8. IRS Tax returns that are not required to be on hand. That is, INACTIVE Society tax returns more than seven (7) years old.
9. Genealogy Documents, Research and Family Stories from Clan Leslie Members worldwide.

If you have any documents, photographs or Leslie books that you would like to preserve for future study by students of Leslie History, let me know. William Leslie, william.leslie@sympatico.ca

LESLEY CASTLE

You might think this title refers to Leslie Castle in Leslie, Aberdeenshire, Scotland or perhaps castle Leslie in Monaghan, Ireland. No, it was a surprise to me that it is a little-known title of one of the famous British author Jane Austen's earliest works, written in 1791 when she was only sixteen. Margaret Lesley and her sister live in "our old mouldering castle which is situated two miles from Perth (Scotland) on a bold projecting rock, and commands an extensive view of the town and its extensive environs." The story, only 35 pages in length, is an early example of Austen's wit, satire, and humour (e.g. Lady Susan Lesley imagines herself being hoisted up the cliff to Castle Lesley on a rope). Jane Austen's brilliant commentary on the restricted social and romantic conventions of the late 18th century middle-class aristocracy is later perfected and exemplified in *Pride and Prejudice*, *Mansfield Park*, *Emma*, etc.

Sue Leslie, Orillia, Ontario

Copies of this book are available at ABE Books for less than \$5.

<http://www.abebooks.com/servlet/SearchResults?an=Jane+Austen&sts=t&tn=Lesley+Castle&x=53&y=10>

PUBLICATIONS WANTED

A brief review of our Society's publications held in a library reveal that we are missing many back issues. To bring the CLSI collection up to date with a complete series, and to preserve our history, we need the publications listed below. If you have issues that you no longer need, please send them to our Historian, Timothy Leslie, 3800 Horizon Place, Fort Worth, TX 76133. Tim will assemble the copies donated into order and forward them to our official repository. Even one or two issues will be helpful.

The Griffin, issues starting in 1985 to the last issue in 1995-96.

The Griffin Reprints, No. 1 thru No. 4

The *Journal*, starting with No.1, Autumn 1978 to No. 29, Spring 2005

The *Grip Fast* newsletter. All issues. None are currently archived.

David Leslie White clanleslie@earthlink.net

CLSI PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Publications Committee now consists of David Leslie White, Laura Messing, Elsie Montgomery and William Leslie. We are undertaking a big job, continuing the Grip Fast, adding the new Grip Fast Online, publishing the Journal and the Griffin. We still need help from you. We need your family history stories, we need your travel stories and we need your stories of family Gatherings, of attendance at Scottish Games and Festivals. You may have done some valuable research of your Leslie family; send us the story. Please send us what you can, if it needs rewriting, we will do it. Always send us pictures. Digital pictures can be emailed but if you mail a valuable old photo, it will be returned to you. From now on, all publications will be added to the Clan Leslie Library so that they can be preserved and studied by future generations of Leslies. Would the Regional Convenors and the Branch Presidents listed on the last sheet be interested in having a reserved space to update the whole Leslie Society on interesting activities in their areas?

If you have any ideas or comments, we would like to hear from you.

William Leslie, Editor, Publications

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CLAN LESLIE SOCIETY ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICERS				
2008 – 2009 CLAN LESLIE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL				
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Piper	Vacant			
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