



Volume 2, Issue 6, September 2009

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS FOR 2009	
We are so happy to welcome these new members to the Clan Leslie Society International	
<i>Leslie Eastwood Bray Portland, Oregon, USA</i>	<i>Kirsten Jane Cameron Burntisland, Fife, Scotland</i>
<i>Melesia Leslie – Rhodes Arma, Kansas, USA</i>	<i>Daniel Eugene Swartz Ewing, New Jersey, USA</i>
<i>Patrick Allen Walsh Rochester, New York, USA</i>	<i>Gale Elizabeth Walter Winnipeg, Ontario, Canada</i>
<i>Thomas Leslie Huxtable Wichita, Kansas, USA</i>	<i>Valda H.F. Leslie Didsbury, Alberta, Canada</i>
<i>Rodney Vern Leslie Corunna, Michigan, USA</i>	<i>Arthur Leslie Millville, New Jersey, USA</i>

BALQUHAIN CASTLE, ABERDEENSHIRE

Balquhain Castle is to the east of Bennachie, in the district of the Garioch, Aberdeenshire, about three miles to the northwest of Inverurie. It is also about one and a half miles directly across from the Harlaw monument, on the other side of the river Urie. Today, except for the east wall of what was once a huge keep or square tower, the castle is a complete ruin. George Leslie, 1st Baron of Balquhain, acquired several Baronies from his father in 1340, which he consolidated



into one Barony and called it Balquhain. The charter was granted by King David II.

It remained the principal residence of the Barons of Balquhain until 1690 when Patrick, Count Leslie, 15th Baron of Balquhain, decided to move to Fetternear House, which had come into the Leslie's possession in 1566. His son George, with his family continued to live at Balquhain until the death of his father in 1710, when he, the 16th Baron of Balquhain moved to Fetternear House.

You will remember that Colonel

Charles Leslie, 26th Baron, was the author of the “History of the Family of Leslie 1067 to 1868” that great three volume history of the Leslie family. Colonel Charles Leslie’s great great grandson, Alastair Patrick Leslie, was born in 1909 in Sussex, England. In 1957 Sir Alastair Leslie regained the title to the hearth stone and the nine foot square of land surrounding it by an exchange of deeds, restoring the castle to the Leslies, Barons of Balquhain. He became the 30th Baron of Balquhain.

He was in the Fleet Air Arm, but was invalided out after an accident. He immigrated to New Zealand and after service in World War II he settled in Rotorua and died there in 1987, leaving no male heir, and thus this ancient branch of the Leslie family came to an end.

This photograph provided by Tom Leslie in Scotland shows Sir Alastair Leslie with his daughter at his home in Rotorua. Sir Alastair’s family arms are shown in the carved stone in the wall beside him. His daughter sold the Barony of Balquhain to the present Baron.

William Leslie, william.leslie@sympatico.ca

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONER

I want to use the story above to illustrate some important facts for Leslies everywhere in the world. I have visited the Balquhain ruin three times, and walked among the fallen stones. It is said that most Leslies in the world can assume that their family history could be traced back through the Balquhain family of Leslies. Having spent many hours researching my own Leslie family to my great great great grandfather, John Leslie, who was a Crofter in Longside about 25 miles from this castle, I am content for now to believe that my Leslie ancestors were from Balquhain.

When I read about Balquhain, I imagine what it would have been like to be there in many of the exciting times in the history of this family. I have stood and looked at this ruined castle and imagined being there when Sir Andrew rode out with his many sons to stop the invading highlanders in July 1411. The history of this castle is my history; I want to know everything about it. If you are a Leslie, it is quite likely that this is part of your history, just as the stories of Bartholomew are part of your history. You should want to know everything you can about this history and you should want to tell your children and grandchildren about this legacy.

The second fact that is illustrated by the Balquhain story above is the preservation of our history. The photograph of Sir Alastair Leslie, 30th Baron of Balquhain was donated to the Clan Leslie Library. It is not known whether there are any other copies in existence but if this one was lost, it is likely that no others would replace it. The Society is preserving our history by safeguarding one-of-a-kind items like this rare photograph for future researchers who a hundred years from now will want to write about Leslie history. Do you have any Leslie treasures hidden in the attic?

Thirdly, the Clan Leslie Collection, the Leslie Library, will preserve our history. David Leslie White has been receiving old copies of the Journal, the Grip Fast and the Griffin from many of you and these are being sent to the Clan Leslie Library. In the process, Mr. Howard S. Topp of Williamsburg, President Emeritus, Williamsburg Scottish Festival, sent the last known copy of the 1984 Williamsburg Scottish Festival program of the Clan Leslie Gathering at Williamsburg, VA. The Clan Leslie was the Honored Clan and Lord and Lady Rothes were there as honoured guests. Mr. Topp, on hearing that we were collecting Leslie history, also sent a fantastic collection of photographs of the Earl, the Countess, Alec Leslie Klieforth and Bob Leslie. These one-of-a-kind materials are being packaged as one item, labeled 1984 Clan Leslie Gathering, and being sent to the Library.

To summarize, Bartholomew’s history, Rothes history, Balquhain history, is your history, learn about it and treasure it. You can contribute to preserving Leslie history by sending us your family stories and the old letters and photographs of your ancestors. What is of great importance is the correspondence from past officers of the ACLS and the CLSI when they were creating the Society we now enjoy.

William Leslie, william.leslie@sympatico.ca

2010 CLAN LESLIE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL GATHERING

My Dear Bothers and Sisters;

It is my pleasure to announce that the 2010 Clan Leslie Biennial Gathering will be held at the Rural Hill Festival and Loch Norman Highland Games on April 16, 17 and 18, 2010 in Huntersville (Charlotte), North Carolina. You will remember that the Clan Leslie will be the Honored Clan at the 2010 Festival.

I am happy to announce that our distinguished Clan Chief, the Honourable Alexander Leslie who represents our Scottish ancestors back to our founder will be attending the games. We should all be proud to attend this Gathering to share with our Chief the celebration of our Scottish heritage. As he has committed his time to show his support of Clan Leslie Society International by attending, we should all make the effort to come to meet him and take part in this celebration. I am calling on all members to try their best to attend the Rural Hill Festival and Loch Norman Games in 2010.

The planning is coming along well as there will be many activities to help us to enjoy our Scottish ancestry.

The Drury Hotel at 6920 Northlake Mall Drive, Charlotte, NC 28216 has been reserved for our members. You can contact them at 704-599-8882

<https://www.druryhotels.com/Reservations.aspx> to confirm your hotel reservations. Deluxe rooms will be \$65.00 a night and the two room suites will be \$104.99 a night. When you contact them please use the group code **2069424** for the group rates.

I am presently planning the reception, gate tickets, transportation, Dinner and CLSI meeting schedules. Please be patient with me as I will have the Package and membership pricing soon (negotiations ongoing).

I am also considering an early day golf package for those individuals who wish to come a day early (Thursday). The hotel we will be staying in has a beautiful shopping and dining area close by along with some of the most serene and majestic landscaping for tours and picnics. I suggest coming a day or two early just to visit our glorious communities and scenic highways.

I recommend that all those who plan to attend please make your hotel reservations as soon as possible so we can confirm and plan for the correct number of those attending.

I will have the Schedule of Events and Package pricing out to you soon. I look forward to seeing you there and lifting a toast in your honor!

Thank You and Many Blessings,

Paul Aulbach – 2010 CLSI Gathering Chairman

OCTOBER 18, 2009 LESLIE/LESSLIE FAMILY GATHERING AT NEELY'S CREEK



The David Franklin Leslie and William Samuel Lesslie families will have a reunion Sunday, October 18, 2009 at Neely's Creek ARP Church in the family life center. Neely's Creek Church is located at 974 Neely's Creek Road, Rock Hill, South Carolina, 29730. Bring a covered dish and join us for lunch at 1 PM.

Joe & Karen Faris farisjs@earthlink.net

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 14TH - SUNDAY 15TH

THE 48TH ANNUAL SALADO SCOTTISH CLAN GATHERING & HIGHLAND GAMES

Southwest Branch, Clan Leslie Society International, 7313 Old Mill Run, Fort Worth, TX 76133-7024

Dear CLSI Members:

The date for the 48th annual Salado Scottish Clan Gathering & Highland Games is approaching. This year the Gathering will again be located on "The Green" (a.k.a. Pace Park) east of Main Street on the banks of Salado Creek. Salado is located on Interstate 35, about 8 miles south of Belton and about 50 miles north of Austin. The dates are Saturday November 14th - Sunday 15th. This Gathering has grown over the years and attracts many visitors, vendors, pipe bands, dancers and athletes. Hours this year are 9 AM to 5 PM Saturday and 9 A.M to 3 P.M. Sunday, with a Tattoo on College Hill (amid the stone ruins of Salado College) at 5:30 PM and a Tartan Ceilidh at 8 PM in the Longhorn Room of the Stage Coach Inn.

The town of Salado has some excellent shopping opportunities in case you need to get some Christmas shopping done.

We will have the Clan Leslie Society International tent open on Saturday and Sunday. Our hosts this year will again be Frank and Lynne Leslie. Please drop in and visit for a bit and celebrate our shared heritage. If you can volunteer for an hour or so, your assistance will be appreciated! We can always use help greeting our visitors and telling them about our family and our society. We would like as many members there as possible. Photos will be taken for the next issue of the CLSI Journal.

If you plan to attend, I would appreciate an e-mail letting me know of your intentions. Hope to see you there! You just aren't invited, you are expected.

Yours aye,

David Leslie White

President, Southwest Branch, Clan Leslie Society International

TEL: 817-346-3333, E-mail: clanleslie@earthlink.net

FROM THE COUNCIL BY DAVID LESLIE WHITE, VICE-CHIEFTAIN

"The last CLSI Council meeting commenced in August 2008 and ended in mid-May, 2009. Below is a summary of significant decisions made and actions taken.

Clan Leslie Collection: The Council approved the establishment of the Clan Leslie Collection at the McLaughlin Library, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, Canada.

Library Liaison Officer: To establish a communication link with this library, the appointed position of Library Liaison Officer was established and recommended to the Chieftain that William Leslie be appointed.

CLSI Postcards: The Council approved the printing of CLSI postcards which were designed by Laura Messing. There are two types of postcards, one with the history of Bartholomew and another with that space blank for use to send a written message. These can be used as hand-outs at Scottish festivals, used to notify regional members of an event, or just like a regular postcard. These cards are available from Peter Leslie, our Quartermaster for \$5 for a packet of 25 postcards.

Posting the Newsletter Online: A decision was made to post back issues of our Grip Fast newsletter on Electric Scotland, a weekly online "publication."

Decreasing Membership Numbers: There was lengthy discussion regarding our decreasing membership numbers. Possible causes for the decrease were the lack of Convenors in Canada, the Pacific Southwest, the Pacific Northwest, and the Mountain regions. Other causes were the lack of communication between Council and Convenors, and Convenors and the members in that region; the lack of volunteers. One suggestion was to start using Facebook as a social networking site in an effort to stay in touch with members. A motion was made and passed that the Secretary/Registrar would promptly inform the applicable Region Convenor/Branch President of

the name and address of any new members in that region, and that this information would also be sent to the Publications Editor. Further, the Region Convenor/Branch President would send a note or letter of welcome to the new members and that the Publications Editor would publish the name in the newsletter. A new Guest Register form was created by Laura Messing and approved for use by the Council. The new form includes space for an email address.

Change in Bylaws: Our Bylaws stated that "Councilpersons shall be adult, lineal members of the Society in good standing, not holding any other office." At the time of our meeting, we had four Council members who held another office.

These were Samantha Leslie Gray, Chaplain; Laura Messing, Convenor, Central Region; Joan Leslie Eike, Genealogist; and David Leslie White, President, Southwest Branch. A motion was made and approved to delete the words "not holding any other office."

Annual Budget: A motion was made to establish an annual budget for our Society. This motion passed, a budget committee was established, and a budget for calendar year 2009 was made.

Leslie K. Seich Award: The Bennachie Award was made to Leslie K. Seich for her seven years of significant service to our Society as the Secretary/Registrar. Her selfless dedication and skills were of great benefit to our Society.

Facebook/MySpace Committee: Laura Messing agreed to chair the Facebook/MySpace Committee and to write an article for the newsletter on how our members can use these sites for communication.

New Convenor, Pacific Northwest: Steve Olling volunteered to be the Convenor for the Pacific Northwest, and with the concurrence of the Council, was so appointed by Chieftain Bob Bailey.

Clan Leslie Charitable Trust: A motion was made and approved to make our annual contribution to the Clan Leslie Charitable Trust in Scotland.

Medallions: The Council had approved the concept of providing the Society Chieftain, Vice Chieftain, Secretary/Registrar and Treasurer with medallions to denote their office. This practice is done by many clan organizations. The medallion would be passed on to the next holder of the office when their term comes to an end. Don Abernathy had several designs done by an artist, and the Council chose the design to be used. The medallions will have different ribbons, the Chieftain will have the Modern Red (Dress) Leslie tartan, the Vice-Chieftain the Modern Green (Hunting) tartan, and the other two officers get the Ancient Hunting tartan.

Commissioner: The Council noted that our previous Commissioner, Robert E. Leslie, had resigned, and there was a need to ask our Clan Leslie Chief, the Honourable Alexander Leslie, to appoint a new Commissioner for North America. After deliberation, the Council recommended that William Leslie of Orillia, Ontario, be appointed. Chieftain Bob Bailey forwarded William's name to the Clan Chief for his consideration.

Scholarship Committee: The Council approved the establishment of a Special Scholarship Committee to receive, collect, evaluate and award scholarships and/or grants to eligible members, to include Inceptors, in accordance with the policy and procedures established by the Council.

Loren D. Leslie: Loren D. Leslie of Lutsen, Minnesota, volunteered to serve on the Council. Chieftain Bob Bailey appointed him to the Council with their concurrence.

Adjourn: This Council meeting was adjourned on May 18, 2009.

David Leslie White, clanleslie@earthlink.net

THE LESLIE STANDARD



This is a long, narrow tapering flag, granted by the Lord Lyon only to those who have a “following”, such as Clan Chiefs, because it is a “Headquarters” flag used to mark the assembly point or Headquarters of the Clan or following, and does not necessarily denote the presence of the owner as his personal banner does. The colours are gold and blue. The Lord Lyon’s web site <http://www.lyon-court.com/lordlyon/375.html>

William Leslie

CLAN LESLIE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL IS NOW ON FACEBOOK

CLSI now has its own page on the popular networking site Facebook. Our page lists upcoming events and has listings of members hosting Clan Leslie tents at Scottish Festivals around the world. You don’t have to be a member of Facebook to view the page, simply cut and paste this link into your browser: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=155937880572>

If you would like to have a Leslie event posted on our page, please email your information to: **Laura Messing** at designinvasion@gmail.com

JOANNE DOUCETTE AND GEORGE LESLIE

Joanne Doucette lives in Leslieville in Toronto. She has spent years helping to improve her community and researching its history. Leslieville is now said to be the “toniest” place to live in Toronto and you can imagine what that is doing to real estate prices. Joanne also takes visitors on walking tours of the historical sights in this area. She has collected more information on George Leslie than anyone ever has and is writing a book on his history and his great impact on the development of Canada’s largest city. Joanne has also searched and found descendants of George Leslie who live near Toronto and they attended the Clan Leslie Tent at the Leslieville Festival earlier this year. Besides meeting her own objectives of bettering her own home community, Joanne is contributing to the great work of documenting Leslie history in Canada and recording the story of one of the most influential Leslie’s in Canadian history. She has kindly agreed to let us print George Leslie’s story. This is the first part.

William Leslie, william.leslie@sympatico.ca

GEORGE LESLIE: THE ROOTS PART I

By Joanne Doucette

In 1803 William Leslie was a Sutherland Fencible, in Ireland, helping to suppress an uprising. There he wed Esther Beattie who went with him back to Rogart, Scotland. The next year, their second son, George, was born. William Leslie fought at Waterloo in 1815, but died soon after. John Leslie, his cousin, married Esther Beatty.



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George grew up in a dark time. Since the Middle Ages, small farms had survived in the glens. People lived by a feudal system based on clan. They raised small black Highland cattle, but, by the 19th century, sheep returned far more profit to landlords.¹ Money trumped

ancient loyalties and landlords drove the crofters off the land. One Victorian declared, "Between the years 1811 and 1820, 15,000 inhabitants of this northern district were ejected from their snug inland farms..."² Another writer described it: "The inhabitants were literally burnt out... parts of the parishes of Golspie, Rogart, Farr, and the whole of Kildonan were in a blaze." An eyewitness recalled: "Little or no time was given for the removal of persons or property; the people striving to remove the sick and the helpless before the fire should reach them; next, struggling to save the most valuable of their effects. The cries of the women and children, the roaring of the affrighted cattle, hunted at the same time by the yelling dogs of the shepherds amid the smoke and fire, altogether presented a scene that completely baffles description -- it required to be seen to be believed."³

Though these Leslies were not "cleared", their way of life was in tatters. Even though young George escaped the economic impact of the Clearances, saved by his skill with plants, he was radicalized by the Sutherland Clearances. After he left school at sixteen, George apprenticed as a gardener on Lord Anchorfield's estate. He excelled and could have worked on large estates until he died, but he loathed the prevailing conservatism. When, in 1824, Esther and John Leslie decided to join her brother, John Beatty, in Upper Canada, George was glad to leave.

The Leslies farmed west of York (now Toronto), but George soon came to the city and its opportunities. George Leslie impressed York's upper crust, many successful Scots merchants, with testimonials and letters of introduction from the Old Country. Solicitor General Campbell said "that they were exceptionally good for one so young."⁴ In the early 1800s Canada offered opportunity for those who had skills and initiative; others need not apply. "A lounge, unless independent, has no business in Canada....Lawyers are not wanted..."⁵ Scots, with their reputation for hard work, often succeeded in Ontario. George Leslie worked for wealthy officials and merchants for several years and on the gardens of Upper Canada College, the Insane Asylum, Osgoode Hall, and Upper Canada's Parliament Buildings. Then George Leslie opened a seed and grocery store at Russell Abbey in downtown Toronto. His first nursery occupied the

¹ Groome, Francis Hindes, ed. *Ordnance Gazetteer of Scotland*. T. C. Jack, 1885, 256.

² Hugh Miller quoted in Blind, Mathilde, *The Heather on Fire*. Kessinger Publishing, 2004, 72.

³ MacKenzie, Alexander. *Mackenzie's Pamphlet*, 1881. Edited by Janet MacKay.

⁴ *Globe*, May 6, 1893

⁵ Smith, William Henry. *Smith's Canadian Gazetteer*, 250.

block bounded by King, Sherbourne, Front and Princes Streets. Early on he began specializing in trees:

*George Leslie, one of the earliest nurserymen in Toronto, organized a fruit exhibition in 1832, but a few specimens of apples, some wild plums, and some small fruit were all he could procure. He brought trees from New York, organized a nursery, and succeeded in interesting others in the subject.*⁶

In 1834 George Leslie helped found the Toronto Horticultural Society,⁷ Ontario's first horticultural society. When the Horticultural Society began holding annual exhibitions in 1841, George Leslie took part.

George Leslie was an entrepreneur, alert to opportunities to market trees and, throughout his life, anxious to try new technology. George Leslie's store may have had Toronto's first gas lights.

George Leslie married Caroline Davis, in 1835. She was the daughter of Calvin Davis, one of Toronto's first settlers. She died in 1851, at the time of a cholera epidemic in the city. They had four children: George, John Knox, Caroline and Esther. He later married Mahala (last name unknown).

From 1836 to 1837 workers straightened and planked the Kingston Road with thick pine boards. It became a toll road. Villages sprang up at the toll gates including a small settlement two miles east of Toronto.

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GEO. LESLIE & SON, LESLIE P. O., ONT



In 1844 George Leslie built a new seed store on the corner of Yonge and Colborne Streets. Soon after the City of Toronto purchased this property for \$5,000 to extend a street through it. George Leslie then leased 20 acres of rich, bottomland soil near the toll booth two miles east of Toronto on the Kingston Road. He selected his land carefully. It was west of the toll gate, near water, with good southern exposure and there was only one toll booth between his nursery and downtown Toronto. He needed backers in order to grow. George Ellwanger and Patrick Barry started their nursery in Rochester in 1840. This became the largest nursery in the world. George made a deal to represent them. This deal lasted six years.

By 1845 George Leslie's Toronto Nursery and Seed Store was in full operation on Kingston Road. He sold agricultural and horticultural books and tools as well as seeds and plants and offered a mail order business and delivery. From early on, George Leslie published a free catalogue of the plants available at their nursery. In his advertisements he claimed that his fruit trees were "adapted to our latitude" which is important because many trees imported from Britain could not survive the Canadian winter.⁸

Until 1846 the Leslies lived in Russell Abbey, an old frame house on at Russell Abbey Square.⁹ That year they moved near the nursery where a community called Leslieville was growing up.¹⁰ George Leslie went on to become one of the most respected and successful horticulturalists in Canada, with a 200 acre nursery.

⁶ *Canadian history* [No. 10 (June 1900)], 263

⁷ Woodward, Eileen, Custead, William W. *Early Canadian Gardening: An 1827 Nursery Catalogue*. McGill-Queen's Press - MQUP, 1998, 16.

⁸ *Globe*, Tuesday, April 1, 1845

⁹ *Globe*, Monday, June 26, 1893

¹⁰ Adam, G. Mercer, *History of Toronto and County of York*. C. Blackett Robinson, publisher, Toronto, 1885; Vol II, 196-7.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LADDIES AT A BURNS DINNER 2008 - DELLA LESLIE GRIFFITHS

A toast to the Laddies; all strong and brave,
the likes of which any Lassie would crave.

All dressed in their tartans, bonnie jackets and sporrans,
aside from their bony knees we might wish to see more of.

A toast to the Laddies; who make the home complete,
and help with wee chores like taking garbage to the street.

The lawn and the car requires their male expertise,
while the golf course it seems is their only release.

A toast to the Laddies; some speak and the world rocks,
then they require stroking and caring and help finding their socks.

They will say "What tie should I wear, this one or that,"
and then they say, "Oh no dear, you are not getting fat."

A toast to the Laddies; those lovers and friends,
they hold it together when life is at loose ends.

The lives we share are by no means trivial,
and when separated in most cases it is pivotal.

A toast to the Laddies; come Lassies stand, raise your glass,
to honor our male counterpart and helpmate en masse.

And I say to your husbands, your fathers and your brothers,
we salute and thank you, the likes of which there are no others.

Della Leslie Griffiths

BOOK REVIEW – SO THE WAR GOES ON by LOREN R. LESLIE

Loren R. Leslie of Lutsen, Minnesota, has written a book about his uncle Richard Souhrada titled *So the War Goes on*. This book is a well-crafted and poignant story of a Midwest farm boy's physical and psychological journey to becoming a fighter pilot in World War II. The title is derived from the tagline of some of the pilot's letters home to his mother, and the story is told through his surviving letters.

Loren discovered these letters somewhat by accident, and felt compelled to transcribe them into a book that would tell the story of his uncle. His affection and admiration of his uncle is obvious. Lt. Souhrada was a P-38 pilot in the Pacific theater.

Richard joined the Army a few weeks after Pearl Harbor. He was being trained as an airplane mechanic but had applied for pilot training. His letters to his mother and sister relate the numerous transfers from one location to another, the monotony of military life, and how life is sometimes just a "roll of the dice." He enters pilot training, manages to survive several accidents, including one landing when the wheels of his plane fail to be down. His progression from slow trainers to the fastest fighters (P-51 Mustangs, P-38 Lightnings) is interesting. Eventually he is deployed to the Pacific campaign.

You can order this book from Amazon.com www.amazon.com *So the War Goes on* by Loren R. Leslie, 2009, \$14.95. Or you can order from the Richard Bong Veterans Heritage Center in Superior, Wisconsin www.bvhcenter.org All proceeds will be made to this center where Richard Souhrada's letters are archived.

David Leslie White, clanleslie@earthlink.net

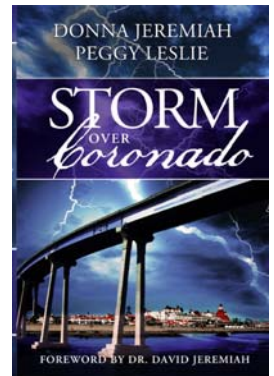
BOOK REVIEW - *STORM OVER CORONADO*, A MYSTERY NOVEL, by PEGGY LESLIE & DONNA JEREMIAH

With much suspense and build-up of characters' personalities and their reasons for revenge, the authors slowly lead up to the scene of the climax, the murder of millionaire, Braxton Cannington. The shocking drama takes place in the Oceanfront Ballroom of the huge and impressive Hotel del Coronado, an upscale hotel on Coronado Island, part of San Diego.

The deep religious faith of the authors is an important element in the book – in the lives of many of the characters and as part of the process of solving the mystery. I enjoyed trying to discover from the facts who might have murdered this wealthy man just as he was about to announce to the two hundred elegant guests his candidacy for Mayor of San Diego. The book had a special interest for me because William and I, when attending the Gathering of the Leslie Clan in San Diego in 1998, visited this hotel, an impressive historic landmark. Built in 1888, over the decades it has welcomed many famous visitors such as Charles Lindbergh, Thomas Edison, Marilyn Monroe and the Prince of Wales who met his wife here, the Coronado divorcee, Wallis Simpson.

If you like mysteries, you will be entertained by this book published in 2009 and co-authored by a member of our Leslie Clan, Peggy Leslie! Our copy, kindly autographed to William and myself by the authors, will become part of the Clan Leslie Library at the University of Guelph.

Sue Leslie



CLAN LESLIE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL – SCHOLARSHIPS

CLSI is offering scholarships to our members. We have two different types of scholarships. One is an academic scholarship valued at \$250. The deadline for the next scholarship is November 30 with the award of one scholarship being made on January 15. The second type of scholarship is for Scottish or Celtic Programs. The amount of this scholarship is \$200 and can be applied for any time. It will cover things such as bagpiping camp, dance, the arts, etc. The person applying for all scholarships must be a member or inceptor member of CLSI. For more information contact a member of the scholarship committee: **Paul Aulbach** pablosquarter@aol.com, **Becky Dobias** dobiasrsc@aol.com, or **Linda Flowers** lflowjingo@sbcglobal.net.

CASSOC MEETING IN TORONTO

L. Fred Leslie attended the April 29th Assembly Meeting in Toronto of the Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada as the Clan Leslie Society International representative. He reported that the CLSI was planning to participate in the Parade of Clans at the Gathering in Edinburgh in July and that the CLSI was planning a Clan Gathering in 2010.

He also noted that there is a monthly newsletter sent out to members on-line.

David Leslie White, clanleslie@earthlink.net

SCOTTISH LIFE MAGAZINE – CANDACE LESLIE BRYAN

Candace Leslie of Bryan Texas has another excellent article in the *Scottish Life* magazine. She has the lead article, titled "Edinburgh's New Town" in the Autumn 2009 edition that includes some first-rate color photographs.

David Leslie White, clanleslie@earthlink.net

BOOKS NEEDED FOR THE CLAN LESLIE COLLECTION

We still need back copies of the *Journal*, the *Griffin* and the *Grip Fast*. You can donate your books by sending them directly to the Clan Leslie Library Collection. Contact William Leslie, Library Liaison, at william.leslie@sympatico.ca for the form and address.

With the start of the Clan Leslie collection at the University of Guelph, there is a need to provide some books by or about Leslies, Abernathys, Cairneys, Laings and Moores. Below are some of the books desired:

The Leslies of Tarbert, County Kerry, and their Forebearers by Pierce Leslie Pielou, published 1935 by Brindleys LTD, 224 pages.

Lesley Leslie and Lesley Leslie Supplement and Vevins Notes, 1755 - by Ruth Leslie Cleveland, Published 1979 by the Inter-Collegiate Pres, 210 pages

The People of Leslie, Premnay and Oyne 1696, by W. Black. Published in 2001 by the Aberdeen & North-East Scotland Family History Society

Elephants Have Right of Way by Betty Leslie-Melville, published 1973 by Doubleday, 222 pages.

The Queen of Publishers Row: Mrs. Frank Leslie by Madeleine B. Stern, published 1965 by J. Messner, 192 pages

David Leslie White, Vice-Chieftain, CLSI clanleslie@earthlink.net

CLAN LESLIE WEB SITE <http://www.clanlesliesociety.org/>

See the latest photos from the 2009 Homecoming Gathering in Edinburgh.

Chat with other Leslies. Anybody who has anything to sell can now have it posted on the website.

CLAN LESLIE SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS UPDATE

The Grip Fast Online is sent to members for whom we have email addresses. It is 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, Bartholomew, Carney, Lang, Moore, etc) stories. The plan is to keep this letter informal.

Grip Fast. Issues are planned for **January, April, July and October.**

Grip Fast Online. Issues will usually be **February, March, May, June, August, September, November and December,**

The Journal. The Journal will be published annually at the end of the summer when the reports of Games and Gatherings have been completed.

Have your say: You will notice contributions from several people in this issue. Just send your letters or messages to the Editor, William Leslie at william.leslie@sympatico.ca

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 william.leslie@sympatico.ca

The Griffin. The Griffin will be published annually.

NEXT GRIP FAST ONLINE - NOVEMBER

Please send us your stories. Some stories may be published initially in the Grip Fast Online and published again, in more complete form in the Grip Fast or one of the other publications.

Note the number of different clan members who have contributed to this issue.

William Leslie, Editor william.leslie@sympatico.ca

Chief of Clan Leslie	Alexander Leslie	alex.leslie@btinternet.com		
	Boreland House, Lockerbie, Dumfriesshire, DG11 2LN Scotland			
Commissioner to North America	William Leslie	william.leslie@sympatico.ca		
	705-326-6791 82 Tecumseth St., Orillia, Ontario, Canada, L3V 1Y2			
CLAN LESLIE SOCIETY ELECTED (COUNCIL) AND APPOINTED OFFICERS				
2008 – 2009 CLAN LESLIE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL				
TITLE	NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE	EMAIL
Chieftain	Bob (Robert C.) Bailey	6113 El Toro Court, San Jose, CA, 95123, USA	408-224-1190	rbailey3056@sbcglobal.net
Vice Chieftain	David Leslie White	7313 Old Mill Run, Fort Worth, TX, 76133, USA	817-346-3333	clanleslie@earthlink.net
Secretary-Registrar	Rebecca Dobias	10 Lakeview Drive, Carlyle, IL, 62231, USA	618-594-8273	dobiasrsc@aol.com
Treasurer	Linda Flowers	302 SW 3rd, Tuttle, OK, 73089, USA	405-381-3577	lflowjingo@sbcglobal.net
Council	Joan Leslie Eike	1227 Route 17C, Barton, NY, 13734, USA	607-565-4437	jleike@hotmail.com
Council	Samantha Leslie Gray ANPC	61 Robinson Avenue, Glen Cove, NY, 11542-2944, USA	516-676-5719	riognach@aol.com
Council	Reuben Leslie	12203 Antoinette Place, Austin, TX, 78727-5334, USA	512-837-6181	rlsd@io.com
Council	Laura Messing	1107 Tamm Ave., St. Louis, MO, 63139, USA	314- 781-5481	designinvasion@gmail.com
Council	Loren R. Leslie	4746 Cascade Beach Road Lutsen, MN 55612, USA	218-663-7622	lrakleslie@aol.com
Council	Vacant			
2008 – 2009 CLAN LESLIE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL APPOINTED OFFICERS				
CASSOC Delegate	Fred Leslie	3 Durie St., Toronto, ON, Canada, M6S 3E5	416-763-2586	fred.leslie@utoronto.ca
Chaplain	Rev. Samantha Gray, ANPC	61 Robinson Ave, Glen Cove, NY, 11542, USA	516-676-5719	riognach@aol.com
Fiddler	Anne Leslie	6024 Telegraph Rd., Alexandria, VA, 22310, USA	703-960-0095	lesliefw@aol.com
Genealogist	Joan Leslie Eike	See above		
Herald	Susan C. Abernethy	5643 Limerick Av, San Diego, CA, 92117-1526, USA	858-576-8293	sabernet@trexenterprises.com
Historian	Timothy W. Leslie	3800 Horizon Pl., Fort Worth, TX, 76133	817-764-0244	timothywleslie@gmail.com
Justiciar	Vacant			
Piper	Gale Walker	30 Calder Bay, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, R3T 5L9		galew259@shaw.ca
Publications Grip Fast, Journal Griffin, GF Online	William Leslie, Editor Publications Committee, W. Leslie, David L. White, Laura Messing, Elsie Montgomery	See above	705-326-6791	william.leslie@sympatico.ca
Quartermaster	Peter M Leslie	3930 Knowles Road, Wenatchee, WA, 98801, USA	206-890-3053	scotslad@nwi.net
Webmaster & Web Site	Brian Lesslie Jr.	109 Nimmo Ave., Perth, PW1 2PV, Scotland	01738 560687	less7506@blueyonder.co.uk Leslie Web Site Address below. www.clanlesliesociety.org
REGIONAL CONVENORS				
Canada	Vacant			
Central Region	Laura Messing	1107 Tamm Ave., St. Louis, MO, 63139, USA	314- 781-5481	designinvasion@gmail.com
Europe/Asia	Brian Lesslie, Sr.	4 Albany Terr., Perth, PH1 2BD Scotland	07138 563050	Bless993@blueyonder.co.uk
Mountain US	Vacant			
North East US	John Aulerich	16 Mount Hygeia Rd, Foster, RI, 02825-1435, USA	401-351-4017	jaulerich@yahoo.com
Pacific NW US	Steve Olling	3909 242 nd Ave SE Issaquah, WA 98029, USA	425-557-7672	ollings@comcast.net
Pacific SW US	Vacant			
BRANCH PRESIDENTS				
South East US	Timothy R. Sering	2000 Enon Road Valdese, NC 28690, USA	828-874-2550	trsering@embarqmail.com
South West US	David Leslie White	7313 Old Mill Run, Fort Worth, TX, 76133, USA	817-346-3333	clanleslie@earthlink.net