

Volume 3, Issue 7, December 2010







LESLIE CASTLE, LESLIE, ABERDEENSHIRE DECEMBER 2010 Photo by David Leslie

WARM CHRISTMAS GREETINGS



I would like to offer warm Christmas greetings to all! It is a wonderful time of the year when we gather with family and friends to celebrate the birth of Christ. A bit hectic for some, but a time of friendship, generosity and hospitality. A time to look back at the year passing and forward to the year ahead. I would like to express my sincere thanks for the support and dedication of so many that have made this a successful year for our Clan Leslie Society. To each of you, I wish you much happiness and good health in the coming year. Merry Christmas (Nollaigh Chridheil) to all! Yours ave.

David Leslie White, Chieftain CLSI

THE LESSLIE STORY. THE BEGINNING, UPPER CANADA, 1820.

Edward Lesslie was born in Dundee Scotland. His main occupation was a bookseller and printers ink maker in 83 Murraygate, Dundee. He arrived from Scotland with his daughter and two sons, John and James, about 1820.

Edward financed and opened a drug store as Lesslie & Sons in York (later called Toronto) in the same year. The store was run by his son John and a friend William Lyon McKenzie who came with them from Scotland. A second branch was opened in Coote's Paradise and managed by McKenzie. Son James opened a third store in Kingston in 1823. In 1826 the York store was taken over by James, who then expanded the store to include pharmaceutical products.

Upper Canada at this time was suffering from a shortage of small change for traders so Edward had small denomination coins of ½ p and 2p made as trading tokens. He arrived at the store in Kingston with 3000 dollars worth of coins.

The coins or tokens were of three styles; the ½ p has the names of the three stores and is bilingual on the reverse side. The ones struck between 1824 and 1827 all have plain edges. Issues from 1828 to 1830 have reeded edges. The coins or tokens are now fairly rare and the 2p is very scarce. One 2p was found in a foundation stone in 1978.

In 1834 Edward was elected to the first city council for Toronto. He supported William Lyon Mackenzie and the Reformers.



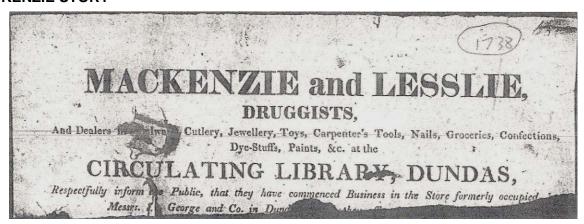


In 1935 he helped establish the Bank of the People serving as General Manager and President after John Rolph. Although he appears to have taken no part in the Upper Canada Rebellion he was arrested in December 1837 but released two weeks

Disenchanted, he became part of a plan by a number of Reformers to relocate to lowa. After hearing of possible changes following Lord Durham's assignment as Governor General, Lesslie decided to stay in Upper Canada.

In 1842 he took over the operation of the Toronto Examiner from Francis Hicks. After George Brown established The Globe in 1844, the Examiner began to take a more radical stance, later aligning itself with the Clear Grits. The paper lobbied for the abolition of clergy reserves and the separation of church and state. In 1855, after a number of competing newspapers had been established Edward, sold the Examiner to George Brown. Edward sold off his business interests about the same time. He served several terms as school trustee and also served as a justice of the peace. Edward died in the village of Eglinton, now part of Toronto, in 1885.

THE MCKENZIE STORY



He was one of the most colourful characters in pre-Confederation Canadian history. But fifteen years before the infamous 1837 Rebellion of Upper Canada, more than a decade before becoming the first major of York (Toronto), and before going on to lead one of the most fiery lives in Canada's history, William Lyon Mackenzie lived in Dundas before following his destiny for which he is well remembered.

After coming from Scotland with John Lesslie in 1820 he worked on Montreal's Lachine Canal. William moved to York and worked with John managing a book and drug store called 'Lesslie & Sons' which was owned by Edward Lesslie, but with his son John and Mackenzie splitting the profits. The business expanded, opened new stores in Kingston and Coote's Paradise, which brought Mackenzie to Dundas early in 1822. The store, known as 'Mackenzie & Lesslie' was established on the corner of Main and Baldwin Streets (the site of today's Cattel Funeral Home), with John and William as proprietors. This store also sold, along with books and drugs, "hardware, cutlery, jewellery, carpenter's tools, nails, groceries, confections, dye stuffs, paints, and so on." according to advertisements of the day. Perhaps most important historically, this store also served as the first lending library in Dundas. It was only one room with 75 books.

On July 1, 1822, William married Isabel Baxter in Montreal. Arriving back in Dundas, Mackenzie and his family are thought to have moved into a residence owned by Edward Lesslie at 34 Baldwin Street. During his stay in Dundas, he also built a Warehouse on the north shore of Spencer Creek just west of East Street (near the current Canadian Tire). In 1823, after a bitter business dispute, William and John Lesslie parted Company, splitting the business inventory between them. It is thought they even took the store sign and broke it in half, each taking their own name. But he kept the warehouse, which he left to the keep of his new partner, Pierre Desjardins (at one point, Mackenzie and Desjardins lived together; perhaps it was their Connection with canals that first brought them together). Mackenzie then moved out of Dundas to Queenston in October 1823. But he kept in touch with Dundas and visited often, following and encouraging the progress on Pierre Desjardins' canal project, which he mentioned frequently in his news publication, "The Colonial Advocate" between 1824 and 1826. Pierre Desjardins died in 1827 and his estate was administered by Edward Lesslie.

After the unsuccessful Rebellion in December 1837, William Lyon Mackenzie passed this way again on his run to the border to escape the authorities. He is reputed to have hidden in what later became known as "Mackenzie's Cave" on the Sydenham Hill before continuing his successful rush to exile in the United States. His route through Dundas may have been along the current Thorpe Street, across the bridge at Spencer's Creek, and then up the wooded slope towards Ancaster, the U.S. and freedom.

In 1849, after being awarded clemency, Mackenzie returned to Canada and lived out the rest of his life in Toronto where he died in 1861. His grandson and namesake, William Lyon Mackenzie King, would go on to become Canada's longest-serving Prime Minister. Today, 'Mackenzie & Lesslie' and the warehouse on Spencer's Creek are long gone. The legendary "Mackenzie's Cave" located just below the Dundas Peak has been concealed by time and nature. His old residence on Baldwin Street still stands to this day.

For more details on Mackenzie's stay in Dundas, the excellent paper "William Lyon Mackenzie: The Dundas Connection" by John Kaler is highly recommended reading. It's available for in-house reference at the Dundas Museum as are other fascinating documents pertaining to the life and times of the Mackenzie's in Dundas.

Brian Lesslie, Perth, Scotland

Produced with kind permission of the Dundas Valley Historical Society, Ontario, Canada.

TO ALL WHO DONATED TO THE HARLAW LESLIE'S CROSS

I want to express my sincere appreciation and deepest gratitude for the donations you made to the Leslie's Cross Fund.

When we started this campaign, I will admit that I had some concerns about our ability to raise the amount we needed. None of us are professional fund raisers, and we could only hope that we could present the goal of honoring the Clan Leslie men who fought and died at the Battle of Harlaw in such a way to encourage people to donate.

It is with great pleasure that we can announce that over 100 donors from seven countries have contributed over \$13,000 US towards the purchase and erection of a new Leslie's Cross at the Chapel of the Garioch. All who made donations can take pride in our accomplishment, and I am very grateful for your generosity.

And a special thanks to those who handled the article writing, donations, currency exchange, and banking. These include Linda Flowers, Treasurer, CLSI; David C. Leslie of Leslie, Aberdeenshire; William Leslie, Clan Leslie Commissioner for North America; and J. Barrie Leslie, Commissioner for Clan Leslie, Australia and New Zealand (CLANZ).

David Leslie White, Chieftain, CLSI

DAVID LESLIE WHITE AND THE CLAN LESLIE



Frank Leslie, David Leslie White, Robert Leslie November 2010 Texas Salado Highland Games

In addition to David's expression of gratitude to all the Harlaw Leslie's Cross donors, I would like to thank David for all his efforts. David has made numerous appeals to the Clan Leslie Society International members to encourage them to donate to this memorial to our Leslie Soldiers of 1411 and has donated more than once himself. David is also very active in Texas and can be seen at all the major Scottish Games in various cities. At the left he is seen with Frank Leslie, the Convenor of the South West USA Clan Leslie area. Frank and David host Leslie tents all year long and sign up many enthusiastic Leslies and Lesleys in Texas.

William Leslie, Clan Leslie Commissioner to North America

GRIP FAST ONLINE

This online newsletter is a service provided by the Clan Leslie Society International (CLSI) to the entire Clan Leslie, Abernathys, Bartholomews, Carneys, Langs, Leslies and Moores, and all spellings of these names, all over the world. *The Grip Fast Online* is sent out, free of charge, eight times a year to anyone who sends an email address to the CLSI Treasurer, Linda Flowers. This publication and back copies from 2008 to the present are also posted on Electric Scotland. http://www.electricscotland.com/familytree/newsletters/leslieint/index.htm.

Please feel free to forward this edition to any relative or Clan Leslie member who you think would be interested in it. The other CLSI publications, the *Grip Fast, Journal* and the *Griffin* are sent to paid up members of the CLSI. We have all been encouraged by the fantastic response from Clan Leslie in several countries to the fund raising campaign for the Leslie's Cross at Harlaw. We welcome stories with pictures from Clan Leslie members everywhere. I was fascinated by Brian Lesslie's story above. Brian researched this in my very own back yard. By the way, visit the New CLSI web site to see the great job Brian has done www.clanlesliesociety.org

The membership in the CLSI is only \$25 per year and these funds are used to produce and mail the *Journal* and the *Griffin*, host Clan Leslie tents at numerous Scottish Games, scholarships, the Clan Leslie Library and other Leslie projects. Why not consider becoming a member of the CLSI?

William Leslie, Editor Publications william.lesliie@sympatico.ca

CLAN LESLIE GATHERING AT WARTHILL HOUSE - JULY 23 to JULY 29. 2010

The rooms at Warthill House and Lickleyhead Castle are filled. However, accommodation can be found in the area for anyone who is interested in attending the Memorial Ceremony and Dedication of the Leslie's Cross. There is still space at the Gathering Dinner. Let me know if you have any possibility of attending.

William Leslie william.lesliie@sympatico.ca





Warthill House Lickleyhead Castle DRAFT OF THE PLAN FOR THE BATTLE OF HARLAW COMMEMORATION WEEK

Please note that this plan is still in an early stage. David Leslie is checking the availability and costs of busses to take us to all the listed venues. Airport pick up may or may not be possible unless incoming flights all arrive and leave about the same time. Also, the City of Aberdeen has not yet set the ticket prices for the events in Aberdeen. We have enough people interested to fill a bus of 25 to 30 seats. If you see anything that you would like to change in the following table, or think of anything we should add, please let me know.

William Leslie william.lesliie@sympatico.ca

SOME HARLAW AND LESLIE SIGHTS









Harlaw Monument

Ruins of Balquhain Castle

Hill of Bennachie

Fetternear Castle

DRAFT PRO	GRAM - BAT	TLE OF HARLAW COMM	MEMORATION WEEK JULY 2011		
DATE	TIME	LOCATION	EVENT	TRANSPORT	COST PER PERSON
Saturday	12:00pm	200/11/0/1		1.0 0	
July 23	to?	Aberdeen Dyce Airport	Pick up	Bus to Castles	
Sunday	2:00 to	Battle of Harlaw			
July 24	3:00 pm	Monument	Commemoration Ceremony	Bus Harlaw Monument	
	3:45 to 6:15 pm	Chapel of the Garioch	Dedication of Leslie's Cross	Bus to Chapel	
	7:00 to 11:00 pm	Warthill House	Clan Leslie Dinner	Bus, Chapel to Warthill Bus back to Castles	
Monday July 25	9:00 am to 4:00pm	Garioch	Tour of Leslie Castles and Chapels Lickleyhead, Warthill, Leslie Castle. St Johns & Fetternear, Balquhain, Chapel of Garioch	Bus Pick up at Warthill & Lickleyhead Stop for Lunch. Return to Warthill	Pay for own lunch.
Tuesday July 26	9:00 am to 12:00 pm	Bennachie and East Aquhorithies, 5000 Year old Stone Circle	Climb Bennachie to Sir Andrew's Fort. Visit East Aquhorithies Stone Circle Lunch in Inverurie	Bus Guides to describe history.	
	4:00 pm to 6:30 pm 6:30 pm to 11:00 pm	Travel to Aberdeen Restaurant Theatre in Aberdeen	Dinner before show Play "Red Harlaw" in Aberdeen	Bus	Individuals pay for own dinner. Tickets?
Wednesday July 27	9:00 5:30 to 9:30 pm	Aberdeen Museums and Galleries Duthie Park	Displays of Harlaw-Harlaw 1411 Recreation of life 600 years ago, tours, talks, plays	Bus	Lunch Tickets?
Thursday July 28					
Friday July 29		Aberdeen Dyce Airport	Return Home Pick up at hotels	Bus to Airport	

IN MEMORIAM: DUNCAN EWING LESLIE



Duncan Ewing Leslie passed away peacefully at Joseph Brant Hospital in Burlington, Ontario, Canada on June 19, 2010. He was born July 2, 1922 to the late Alexander Yule and Euphemia Leslie (nee Ewing). Beloved husband of the late Mabel Florence (nee Bonner) of Halifax, Nova Scotia, cherished father of Carol Leslie of Burlington, and grandfather of Haley, Breanna and Allison Pierce of Burlington. Brother of Alistair Yule Leslie and Catherine Elizabeth Leslie of Windsor. Uncle to many nieces and nephews. Also survived by cousins in the United States, William, David, Robert and Ian Leslie of the metro Detroit, Michigan area. Duncan was a member of the Canadian Navy for 38 years and lived in Halifax, Nova Scotia during that time. He was a veteran of World War II and the Korean Conflict, retiring as a Lieutenant Commander, and receiving the Bronze Medallion in 1985. A member of the Wellington Square Lodge No. 725 A.F. & A.M. G.R.C., the Naval Officers Association of Nova Scotia, The Sackville Trust, and a supporter of the Nova Scotia branch of the Atlantic Telephone Pioneers of America. A Celebration of Life memorial service was held in Windsor on August 8, 2010 at St. John Vianney Church, with Rachelle Leslie, Pastoral Minister, officiating. His ashes were laid to rest beside his wife at Gate of Heaven cemetery in Lower Sackville, Nova Scotia. "Ready, Aye, Ready."

IN MEMORIAM: JAMES WILLIAM CRICHTON LESLIE, GM.

JAMES W. C. LESLIE, Retired Police Officer – died on the 22nd October, 2010 at Strathburn House, Aultbea, Ross Shire on the West Coast of Scotland. He was 96 years old. James, was born in Kimberley, South Africa, on the 22nd September 1914 but his parents returned to Scotland when he was a baby only weeks old. The family settled in the Stonehaven area, about 16 miles south of Aberdeen and James attended the local school there. Against his parents wishes he ran away from home at the age of 16 to join the Merchant Navy. After leaving the sea, James joined the Metropolitan Police Force and during this time he met Dorothy Fletcher, who worked in the glass and china department of Jones & Higgins. James and Dorothy married in the parish church of Leighton Buzzard on the 14th July, 1940. At the outbreak of the Second World War, James was a serving Police Officer and experienced the London Blitz at first hand. It was during this time that he was awarded the George Medal – the highest civilian award for bravery, for without thought for his own safety, he rescued an eight year old girl from under a pile of debris from bombed houses. During the rescue James, using his bare hands, cleared a tunnel to where he could hear the girl sobbing and using his back and arms as props lifted up a beam which was trapping her to free her. The escape tunnel then collapsed trapping James and the girl. James continued to support the beam over the girl singing to her and telling her stories until she finally fell asleep. Both were later rescued and James received his medal from Elizabeth, Queen of King George VI. Soon after this James volunteered and was accepted as a commissioned officer in the Royal Navy and was put in charge of a mine sweeper. During the D-Day landings James commanded a landing craft in the Sword beaches area. After the war he returned to the Metropolitan Police Force and subsequently transferred to the Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary. After a spell in Hull, James and Dorothy retired to Bieldie Neuk, Mellon Charles, near Aultbea, where they enjoyed some 20 happy years together before his beloved 'Doff' died. James was a loving, caring father, grandfather and great grandfather and was a loyal and staunch friend to all lucky enough to know him. As a friend I (David Leslie) cherish the many long conversations and discussions we had over the 30 years or so I have had the honour to know him, a true Scottish Gentleman. He thrived on languages and facts and wrote the words to 'Leslies' Return to Leslie' to accompany the pipe music and 'Leslies' Grace,' for the dinner table. James is survived by his son Stuart, daughter Rosalind and grandchildren Graeme, Roger, Matthew, Adam, Katherine, Hannah, Rebecca, David and great grandchildren Elsie, Chantelle and Jessica. He will be greatly missed by family and friends.

READERS WRITE

GRIP FAST-The Leslies in History

Greetings Peter,

I just wanted to say "thank you" for mailing out my book order so quickly!. it arrived yesterday. Needless to say the book "Grip Fast...Leslies in History" should be considered a must have by all CLSI Households. My family and I reviewed the book last night...what a timeless treasure the author has given us all.

Thank you again for meeting my book order so quickly!

Yours ave.

Ivan Lesley

SNOW IN BUFFALO. NEW YORK

William, I do remember being at university in Buffalo for a couple of semesters way back when. My aunt had been very ill, and so my mother sent me up to her home in Orchard Park - a lovely old Quaker town about 30 minutes outside of Buffalo - to help with my 4 younger cousins. My aunt and uncle sent me to the local university so I would not miss time away from school while helping them. My uncle was an MD in a Buffalo hospital and drove me to morning classes 3 days a week. Back then Dr. Zhivago was all the rage, and we girls all wore "Zhivago coats", with the heavy fake fur trim around the hems and cuffs. And dripped so much from the snow that collected on those furry hems that the classrooms were awash in several inches of water by the end of the lecture. Students and faculty were slipping in the mini-floods on the highly polished terrazzo floors and breaking bones, and within weeks the university actually banned the coats from classrooms! I have lasting impressions of Buffalo winters. One blizzard was so bad from the "lake effect" snows that my uncle couldn't get out of the driveway. In fact, we couldn't get out of the house that morning, as we were snowed in overnight. He had to see his patients in the hospital, so he called the fire department, who could get through with their heavy trucks, and they sent a fire engine to take him to the main road where a police car picked him up and drove him into Buffalo. And how did he get out of the house to meet the fire truck? My cousins had brought their flying saucer in for the night so it wouldn't get buried under the blizzard. My uncle brought it upstairs, climbed out a window onto the roof, settled his black 'doctor's bag' on his lap and pushed off..... All the neighbors - who were watching to see what was happening as soon as the fire truck pulled up out front were treated to the sight of dignified Dr. Kinkel spinning and sliding down the snowdrifts over the yard and out onto the local street. Took awhile, but the firemen finally stopped laughing! Stay warm out there, everybody! And Happy Chanukah to anyone else celebrating! Lattkes and applesauce. YUM!

Samantha Gray

TAY BRIDGE DISASTER MEMORIAL TRUST

Dear William

My friend Stuart Morris of Balgonie has just sent me the new website for his latest project. Type Tay Rail Bridge Disaster Memorial Trust into Google and you can read it all. On looking through the Names of Victims section I note that a young James Leslie from Dundee was among them. He was only 21. I know that a lot of relations of the victims will be attending the unveiling ceremony - I think next year, but do not have a date, and the Councils of both Dundee and Fife are behind this whole event. I wonder if you think this warrants a small inclusion in the next Grip Fast!!! If we support them, then they might support us!! Stuart is always promoting the fact that he lives in one of the great Leslie Castles and as this is near to the Fife Leslie lands, we might do ourselves a little bit of good. I gave him a small donation when I was last in Scotland. This still ranks as one of the great Rail disasters in our history. It took place on December 28th 1879. Yours.

Tom Leslie

TO THE COUNCIL OF THE CLAN LESLIE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL:

Very early this morning (Wed, Nov 24) ... perhaps his first run of the day, UPS delivered the wonderful Garioch Award. It is truly beautiful, and I'll treasure it, as I'm certain my son will when I'm no longer around. It came in perfect condition.

Thank you very much.

With best regards,

Joan Leslie Eike

ELSIE MONTGOMERY

Elsie has resigned from the position as Editor of the Journal, for private reasons. Elsie did a very special job of editing the *Grip Fast Journal* in its new booklet format. I will miss her hard work.

William Leslie, Editor Publications

NEXT PUBLICATIONS TO CLAN LESLIE SOCIETY MEMBERS

JANUARY 2011 – The *Grip Fast, Journal of the Clan Leslie Society International.* Will be sent to Clan Leslie Society International members. Some members may have problems downloading and printing such a large file. If you wish to receive a printed booklet by mail, you may request this of the Treasurer.

FEBRUARY 2011 - The *Grip Fast Online* will be sent to any interested person who sends an email address. Please continue to send us your stories and pictures of your Scottish ancestors or your Clan Leslie family; we really need them. Note that many Clan Leslie members have contributed to this issue.

William Leslie, Editor Publications william.leslie@sympatico.ca

2012 CLAN LESLIE GATHERING - LINCOLN NEW HAMPSHIRE

The 2012 Clan Leslie Society International Gathering will be held in conjunction with the New Hampshire Highland Games at the Loon Mountain Ski Resort, Lincoln, New Hampshire. To find out more about the New Hampshire Games, please visit: http://www.nhscot.org. These games traditionally take place on or around the third weekend of September, but we will post the 2012 dates when they become available. Facebook page: http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=696321738&ref=ts#!/group.php?gid=155937880572&ref=ts Laura Sawyer Messing Design Invasion 314.646.7673 (phone/fax) designinvasion@gmail.com

CLAN LESLIE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL – SCHOLARSHIPS

CLSI is offering scholarships to our members. There are 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 any scholarship must be a member or inceptor member of CLSI. For more information contact: **Rebecca Dobias, CLSI Scholarship Chairman,** dobiasrsc@aol.com,

PETER M. LESLIE, QUARTERMASTER, CLSI

Clan Leslie items for sale are listed on our website, <u>www.clanlesliesociety.org</u> click on the Items for Sale link.



The list of items includes a description, price and photo along with how to order. The Clan Leslie items listed are:

- 1) Grip Fast Leslies in History, a beautifully hardbound book, detailing the Leslie clan from its inception (290 pages), authored by Alexander Leslie Klieforth.
- 2) The Griffin Reprints, First Series, No. 1: The Clan Society, some Leslie History and Heraldry, soft cover book (98 pages), printed by The Clan Leslie Charitable Trust, Edinburgh, Scotland.
 - 3) Post Cards 2 styles. One style contains King Malcolm's promise to Bartolf and the origination of our clan name, and the other style provides open space for your personal note.
 - 4) Grip Fast Pin
 - 5) Grip Fast Patch

The post cards were developed by Laura Messing and can be used by members to tell friends of upcoming Scottish events, to recruit prospective CLSI members and to help increase interest in all events Scottish. A free packet of "giveaway" postcards is available for those Conveners/Tent Hosts who host a CLSI tent.

Peter M. Leslie, scotslad@nwi.net

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Visit the Clan Leslie Society International web site <u>www.clanlesliesociety.org</u>