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**ESTATE OF THE WILD**

**At Castle Leslie in Ireland, you're treated like one of the (old and very eccentric) family**

By [RACHEL DODES](#)



Castle Leslie Estate

**IRISH ELEGANCE:** Castle Leslie's restored stone lodge now contains 29 guest rooms.

I am riding through the Irish countryside in a horse-drawn carriage, past the grave of Winston Churchill's aunt; a field where there have been multiple alleged UFO sightings; and a 17th-century building that, in the 1960s, served as a marijuana greenhouse.

These are just a few of the peculiar thrills of Castle Leslie, a 347-year-old estate that is one of a handful of Irish castles still run by their founding families. The estate bills itself as "utterly charming, mildly eccentric," and among the activities

it offers are horseback riding, hot-air balloon rides, cooking classes and—unofficially—living among a clan of batty aristocrats whose lineage can be traced to Attila the Hun.

The 1,000-acre property, purchased in 1664 by Bishop John Leslie, is a 90-minute drive from Dublin, down windy country roads and past ivy-covered cottages that would have (and just may have) inspired Wordsworth, who used to stay at the castle. The estate's caretaker, Samantha "Sammy" Leslie, said that nowadays there is a zero-tolerance policy on naming A-list visitors, but in past years notable guests have included Mick Jagger, W. B. Yeats, Prince Pierre of Monaco and Mr. Churchill, whose white baby frock sits in the drawing room in a dainty frame.



**Photos: At Castle Leslie** [View Slideshow](#)

Castle Leslie Estate

The Billiard Room at Castle Leslie Estate in County Monaghan.

"They put a blue ribbon on it for him, and a pink ribbon on when my aunt wore it," said Ms. Leslie, 44, whose great-grandmother was Leonie Leslie, the American-born sister of Mr. Churchill's mother. "He started to become quite famous so none of us got to wear it."

After studying hotel management in Switzerland, Ms. Leslie took over her father's decaying estate in 1991. She sold his Volkswagen for £5,000 (about \$7,300) to fund a renovation of the castle's tea salon—a smallish project that turned into a 20-year-long

transformation. Today, the hunting lodge is a 29-room hotel; the property has a restaurant, bar, spa, equestrian center with 56 stables and an arena that seats 200. Former carriage garages now serve as self-catering cottages.

In 2002, the estate was thrust into the spotlight when Paul McCartney, whose mother was from the neighboring town of Monaghan, chose the location for his wedding to Heather Mills. It's since become a very popular venue, with 35 events hosted there last year alone. A particularly Leslie-ian option: Couples are encouraged to slice into their wedding cakes with the sword wielded by Norman Leslie, who died in battle during World War I, and whose ghost is said to haunt the castle. (He charged a German machine gun with a sword because he felt it ungentlemanly for officers to carry guns.)

The grounds surrounding the castle were so lush that I wouldn't have blinked if a unicorn had trotted out from behind a tree. That said, the weddings can break the magical spell. A couple's nuptials were taking place when my husband and I visited, and all the rooms in the castle were occupied. We stayed in the lodge, once a convent and, in the '60s, a dance club called "Annabel's on the Bog." Restaurant reservations were unavailable the first night, and our equestrian fantasies were dashed when we were told by a tartan-clad staffer that the horses had all been reserved by the wedding party. (Ms. Leslie said our experience was atypical, but advises guests to request horses when booking.)

iStockphoto



Horse lovers should pack riding gear on a trip to Castle Leslie.

Exasperated, I headed to the Victorian spa for a massage followed by a visit to the "steam chamber"—essentially a cedar coffin with a cutout for one's head. After 10 minutes, I flung open the doors and emerged a relaxed vampire lobster.

Feeling sufficiently tenderized, I returned to my room, called "Trixie" after (of course) one of the horses on the estate. Less expensive than those in the castle, the room had umber walls, peridot-colored quilted drapes and a fireplace topped by a plasma TV.

The next morning, we ate eggs benedict with truffled hollandaise sauce at the lodge's restaurant, Snaffles, named for a famous equestrian artist. With a six-course dinner planned, we skipped lunch for pike fishing on the lake. The castle loaned us rods, and we pushed off from what is now known as "McCartney's Jetty." Built for the former Beatle's wedding, it was meant to be temporary but outlasted Sir Paul's marriage. We rowed out to the middle of the lake, inhaled the crisp air and enjoyed the silence, interrupted occasionally by ducks, horses and a shotgun blast in the distance.

Given our lack of experience, we didn't expect to catch anything other than a breeze. But after about an hour in the boat, my husband started shouting, "I got something!" He reeled in a large pike, which Ms. Leslie later said probably weighed between 20 and 30 pounds. As our catch thrashed about on the surface, we looked at each other, not quite knowing what to do with it, or ourselves. The castle had

loaned us what appeared to be Victorian-era forceps, which were no match for the razor-sharp teeth on our pike. When the fish liberated itself after about a minute, we breathed a sigh of relief.

### The Lowdown

- **GETTING THERE:** Castle Leslie is about 75 miles north of Dublin and 50 miles southwest of Belfast. A taxi from Belfast International Airport will run about \$200 and from Dublin Airport about \$230. Bus service is also available from both cities to Monaghan, a \$20 cab ride from the castle.

- **WHERE TO STAY:** The main castle has four luxurious master bedrooms (from around \$440 per night) and 16 "heritage bedrooms" (from \$350 per night), each commemorating a Leslie ancestor. The lodge, closer to the stables, has 29 equestrian-themed rooms that are more modest for about \$275 per night. Families and large groups may prefer the self-catering Old Stable Mews, with 12 two-bedroom units. [castleleslie.com](http://castleleslie.com)

- **WHERE TO EAT:** Snaffles Restaurant in the lodge is open for breakfast and dinner, and offers upscale fare in a relaxed environment. Conors Bar, also in the Lodge, serves pub food. For an unforgettable dinner by candlelight overlooking a lake, head to the Castle Dining Room, where chef Andrew Bradley serves a \$95 prix-fixe meal.

- **WHAT TO PACK:** A fishing rod to experience some of the best pike fishing in Ireland, and riding gear for horse lovers. The castle offers basic equipment for less avid anglers and equestrians.

Before dinner, Ms. Leslie led us on a tour through the library and the halls, which housed items like a pen used by Pope Pius IX, a bloody shroud that once held the head of a Catholic martyr, and portraits of deceased Leslies painted by famous artists like Gilbert Stuart.

We ate at the Castle Dining Room, an aristocratic experience unmarred by irony. Chef Andrew Bradley prepared a six-course meal, which we ate by candlelight facing a lead-glassed window, with a view of the glaslough—meaning "green lake"—at sunset. I giddily tasted the first course, a langoustine terrine in gazpacho, followed by a Champagne sorbet before the main course, a grass-fed Irish beef filet with Bordelaise sauce. The meal was artfully presented by white-gloved servers to the strains of Debussy.

As we waited for dessert, I spotted an older gentleman dining alone in a corner. Sir John, Ms. Leslie's 94-year-old uncle, was imprisoned by the Germans during World War II. These days, he rocks the nights away at a discotheque in Monaghan, where he is a local celebrity. (Ms. Leslie explained that he missed crucial years of his youth while he was a POW, so now expresses his joie de vivre through dance.)

Sir John approached our table and said, in a deep, patrician voice, "If there is anything we can do for you, anything at all, just let us know." His brown bespoke suit was made for him in London, Ms. Leslie noted. Back in 1937.

Sir John offered me a signed copy of his memoir, "Never a Dull Moment," which he wrote three years ago in an apparent effort to add to the canon of Leslie literature. He dated his signature "A.D. 1010," then laughed at his mistake.

Jonathan Swift, a friend of an earlier generation of Leslies, once wrote of the family:

Here I am in Castle Leslie,  
With rows and rows of books upon the shelves,  
Written by the Leslies,  
All about themselves.

Ms. Leslie noted that in the 200-plus years since Mr. Swift wrote the poem—she called it a "rude ditty"—her relatives have published more than 200 books.

A biography of Ms. Leslie's late father, Desmond, came out around Christmas. He may have been the most eccentric member of the clan to date. A successful record producer and screenwriter who turned the family estate into a hippie commune in the 1960s, he is probably best known for his own book, entitled "Flying Saucers Have Landed," which Ms. Leslie said has been translated into 20 languages.

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## **TWO MORE TRAGEDIES INVOLVING CLAN LESLIE SHIPS**

The SS Clan Leslie was built by Clan Line Steamers Ltd., which was founded in 1878 by Charles Cayzer (the first of the Cayzer Baronets). The company operated in London and Glasgow.

The SS Clan Leslie was one of the company's fleet of freighters and passenger liners, most of which were named after Clans. The SS Clan Leslie was built in 1902 and was sunk by an Austro-Hungarian torpedo November 4, 1916, about 200 miles Southeast of Malta. The ship was returning to London from Bombay (Mumbai), India. She was not carrying a military cargo. Three hands lost their lives.

The submarine that launched the attack was the German built UB-43 which was sold to the Austrians and renumbered the U-43. As such, she sank 22 ships between her launch on April 8, 1916 and being decommissioned on July 21, 1917. She was one of six Austro Hungarian submarines assigned to the Mediterranean.

The U-43 was ceded to France as war reparations and broken up by the French after the war.

More can be learned about the U-43 on Wikipedia.

Cayzer and Irvine Ltd. lost 69 ships, many named after Clans, during the First World War.

### **The Earliest Known SS Grip Fast**

As the research into one ship named Gripfast led to a second of the same name, additional research has surfaced yet another SS Grip Fast.

My previous story about two ships named SS Gripfast failed to point out that the Clan's motto is actually two words...Grip Fast.

The two ships noted in a previous story were identified as Gripfast, and a search of the two-word motto surfaced a third ship, the SS Grip Fast, built in 1883. The British cargo steamer had a compound expansion engine, single iron screw and single boiler. It was built in Aberdeen by the Hall and Russell & Co. for William Leslie of the Leslie Steamship Co.

Sadly, later that same year the ship sank off the Solent, a stretch of sea separating the Isle of Wight from the mainland of England.

The ship sank as the result of an explosion bringing about the loss of two lives.

Some additional credits are important for the research into these ships. CLSI member Tim Leslie provided a great deal of the background on these ships. Keith Greenaway whose website <http://www.ss-tregenna.co.uk/> provided useful information and Dr. Jonathan Hicks author of the recently published historical mystery novel 'The Dead of Mametz' introduced us to the research sites and researchers.

Some research produced additional insights into the ships. One item explains how the SS Gripfast which was named in 1948, is connected to the Clan Leslie:

The Newbiggin SS. Co Ltd purchased a ship from the Stanhope SS Co Ltd and renamed it Gripfast. According to Tim Leslie's research the renaming reflected the owner, Edward Richmond Newbiggin's desire to commemorate the family of his grandmother, Mary Ann Lesslie. This ship saw service with the company until 1960. After several more name changes over the years the ship sank while under tow in December 1967.

The story of the sinking of the Pandora in 1951 and the role of the SS Gripfast in the attempted rescue provides some interesting reading into the hazards of life on the sea.

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### **2011 UPCOMING TENTS AT HIGHLAND GAMES AND SCOTTISH FESTIVALS**

Please remember to send us a notice of your coming Tents at Games in advance and to send a short report and two or three photographs afterwards.

#### **GEORGIA**

**OCTOBER 14-16** Stone Mountain, Georgia.

<http://www.smhq.org/>

**Cathy Duling President, South East Branch**

#### **ABERDEENSHIRE**

**JULY 24 Chapel of the Garioch and Warthill Castle.** Leslies and friends from several countries will gather at the Chapel of the Garioch for a service to dedicate the new Leslie's Cross and to remember the 600<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Harlaw. There will be a Clan Leslie Gathering and Dinner at Warthill Castle.

**AUGUST 06. The Green, Aboyne, Aberdeenshire, Scotland.** David Leslie will be hosting a Clan Leslie Tent at the Aboyne Games.

**David Leslie from Leslie**

<http://www.aboynegames.com/information/location/>

#### **TEXAS**

Frank W. Leslie, Southwest Region Convenor, plans to host a CLSI tent in 2011 at the following event:

**NOVEMBER 11-13, Salado Scottish Clan Gathering & Highland Games.**

<http://www.ctam-salado.org/>

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## PIPERS AND PLAID IN THE MILITARY

The following is transcribed and reprinted with permission from an article by Command Sergeant Major (USA, Ret.) John Hotker of Schenectady, New York and published in *The Galley*, Spring/Summer 2011. *The Galley* is a publication of The Clan Macneil Association of America, Nellie McNeil Sanders, Editor.

### Abolition and Proscription of the Highland Dress 19 George II, Chap. 39, Sec. 17, 1746

*That from and after the first day of August, One Thousand, seven hundred and forty-six, no man or boy within that part of Britain called Scotland, other than such as shall be employed as Officers and Soldiers in His Majesty's Forces, shall, on any pretext whatever, wear or put on the clothes commonly called Highland clothes (that is to say) the Plaid, Philabeg, or little Kilt, Trowse, Shoulder-belts, or any part whatever of that peculiarly belongs to the Highland Garb; and that no tartan or party-coloured plaid of stuff shall be used for Great Coats or upper coats, and if any such person shall presume after the said first day of August, to wear or put on any part of them, every such person so offending . . . For the first offence, shall be liable to be imprisoned for 6 months, and on the second offence, to be transported to any of His Majesty's plantations beyond the seas, there to remain for the space of seven years.*

The 1745 Jacobite Rising was an effort to overthrow the then-reigning House of Hanover and to restore the British throne to the House of Stuart. The rising ended on 16 April 1746 at Culloden Moor, near Inverness, with the defeat of the Jacobite forces of Charles Edward Stuart, Bonnie Prince Charles, by an army commanded by William Augustus, Duke of Cumberland. The British forces were particularly brutal putting down the rising and crushing any Highlander resistance to the crown.

One of the efforts of Parliament after Culloden to assimilate the Highlands into Great Britain, destroy the Clan system and end the Highlanders' ability to revolt yet again was the Act of Proscription of 1 August 1746. Parliament's intent was to destroy the distinctive Highland Scottish culture and turn the Scots into North Britons. Part of the Act was the Dress Act. This Act prohibited the wearing of Highland Dress, including the tartan and the kilt. [A similar act prohibited the Scots from possessing or carrying any firearm, sword, spear, or dirk. The bagpipe was also banned as a "weapon of war".]

The Act of Proscription was repealed on 1 July 1782. What's more, it didn't work out exactly as planned - that is, unless the British Parliament was seeking a place of honor in the Great Moments of Unintended Consequences Competition. Recognized everywhere, arguably, the kilt today is the world's best known national dress, representing not just the Highlands but Scottish and even British culture, in general.

During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, regiments of the British Army acted as colonial policemen throughout the British Empire when not at war. Many of these were kilted Highland Regiments, marching and fighting to the skirl of the bagpipes. Their professionalism and hard-earned reputations for military prowess came to exemplify what it was to be a soldier. Many other armies formed Highland Regiments of their own. Highland Regiments serve in the armies of Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, and there was even one in the United States during the Civil War: the 79th New York Volunteer Infantry, the Cameron Highlanders. Their regimental dress uniforms were patterned after the Scottish regiments and included the kilt.

These Highland regiments had pipe bands; militaries of other countries have adopted pipe bands in further homage to those regiments. The armies of India, Pakistan, Nepal, Jordan, Egypt, Oman and Thailand all have pipe bands. The United States military is among those who have followed this pattern.

Currently there are three active duty pipe bands in the US Armed Forces: The Pipes and Drums of the Corps of Cadets at the US Military Academy at West Point, New York; the US Naval Academy Pipes and Drums at Annapolis, Maryland; and the Air Force Reserve Pipe and Drum Band at Robins Air Force Base in Georgia. The US Army has thirty traditional bands. Although none are pipe bands, many of these bands include pipers.

The Pipes and Drums of the Corps of Cadets often perform at the games at Mills Mansion, Staatsburg, NY that we attend every September. They also host a Military Tattoo at the Academy each year. The band wears the West Point Tartan, adopted in 1983.

The Army's fabled 7th Cavalry Regiment even has its own tartan, reputedly the only regiment that has. The regiment also has three pipe bands. The 7th Cavalry Regiment organized the first in 1954 at Camp Haugan, Japan. They wore the Seventh's own tartan until the regiment was reorganized in 1957. In 1959, the 2nd Reconnaissance Squadron, 7th Cavalry formed a Pipe and Drum Band at Warner Kasern, Germany. The band's uniform was not based upon a Scottish Highland regiment but upon the British regiment that assisted in its formation: the 1st. Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers: saffron kilts and caubeens. The Fusiliers' uniform, however, was based on the Highland regiments. In 1963, the 3rd Reconnaissance Squadron, 7th Cavalry formed their pipe band in Schweinfurt, Germany and wore the Seventh's tartan.

The US Air Force had a pipe band from 1950 to 1969 stationed in Washington, DC. The band wore Highland attire and the tartan that they wore was Mitchell, in honor of AF General William "Billy" Mitchell.

The US Coast Guard Pipe Band is not an official part of the USCG but is a recognized affiliated organization. The band wears the USCG Tartan, adopted in 2002.

The Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina has a pipe band. Its Regimental Band and Pipes was the first military college to participate in the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo of Scotland in 1991 and was the only US band at the Tattoo in 2010.

The Virginia Military Institute's (VMI) Pipes and Drums have as its tartan the New Market Battlefield Tartan named for the Civil War battle in which the school's Corps of Cadets fought with distinction.

Some veteran groups, such as the Marine Corps Leatherneck Pipes and Drums, have formed pipe bands along with schools, police, and fire departments. Lone pipers play at funerals and memorials, bands perform at concerts and in parades, providing both music and pageantry. With the ubiquity of the bagpipe at various funerals in the aftermath of September 11, 2001, one could be forgiven for concluding that the bagpipe is now America's national instrument, as well as Scotland's. So, despite Parliament's best efforts in 1746, we may happily conclude that the Scottish culture and traditions are still alive and well around the globe, going into the 21st century! To that we sing "Auld Lang Syne."

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## **ORDER OF THE THISTLE**

Most people are aware that England awards knighthoods under the Order of the Garter. Less well known is the Scottish award of knighthood under the Order of the Thistle, or properly The Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle. The current version (there is some evidence that it existed previously) was founded in 1687 by King James VII of Scotland, also known as James II King of England. The Order probably began before the reign of King James III (1460-1488) as evidenced by paintings of the king wearing a ceremonial collar of thistles. This elite order consists of the Sovereign (king or queen) and sixteen Knights and Ladies. There are also "extra" or supernumerary knights such as members of the British Royal Family and foreign monarchs. The Sovereign is the only person to grant membership in this order.

The most senior order of chivalry is the English Order of the Garter, with the Order of the Thistle immediately below. As originally established, the Order of the Thistle consisted of the Sovereign and twelve knights. In 1827, George IV increased the Order to sixteen members. One of the members is always the Lord Lyon King of Arms. The Lord Lyon predates the Order of the Thistle also serves as the King of Arms of the Order.

When the Order of the Thistle was created in 1687, King James VII of Scotland designated the Abby Church at Holyroodhouse as a Chapel for the Order. But during the riots of 1688 when he was deposed, the chapel was destroyed. A new chapel was finally built at St. Giles' Cathedral (the High Kirk) in 1911.

Obviously, only those of the highest merit are selected for Knighthood in the Order of the Thistle. In the past, the following Leslie's were selected:

John Leslie, 10th Earl of Rothes (1698-1767), 1753

Archibald Alexander Leslie-Melville, 13th Earl of Leven (1890-1947), 1934

Harald Leslie, Lord Birsay (1905-1982) 1973

The tiny but exquisite Thistle Chapel in St. Giles' Cathedral in Edinburgh measuring just 37 feet by 18 feet is the spiritual home of the Most Ancient and Noble Order of the Thistle. This order is one of the most exclusive in the world. The chapel, with its extraordinary wood carvings and stained glass windows was donated by John David Leslie-Melville, Lord Balgonie, and his brothers in fulfillment of the wishes of their father Ronald Ruthven Leslie, Eleventh Earl of Leven and Tenth Earl of Melville.

In 1905 Ronald, Earl of Leven and Melville, a newly appointed Knight of the Thistle, offered to fund the restoration of the chapel at Holyrood as the Chapel of the Thistle. This proposal proved unworkable and regrettably Ronald died shortly thereafter. His sons, including John David Leslie Melville, proposed building a new chapel at St. Giles' Cathedral. Work commenced on 1909 and was completed in 1911.

At the entrance of the chapel is a large carving with the Leven and Melville arms, including the quartered three buckles of the Leslie's.

There are a total of nineteen stalls (seats) in the chapel. This includes the Sovereign's stall, two royal stalls, and the sixteen stalls for the knights. Above the Sovereign's stall is a magnificent carving of St. Margaret of Scotland, who was the queen of King Malcolm III Canmore. Each seat is highly decorated with detailed carvings and no two are alike. The ceiling is breathtaking, with almost 100 carved bosses.

No trip to Edinburgh should be considered complete without a visit to the Thistle Chapel.

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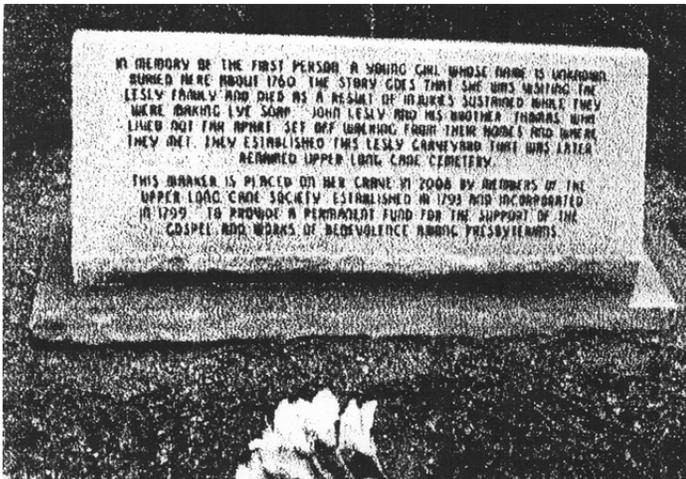
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### **THOMAS LESSLIE, SCOTCH-IRISH IMMIGRANT, PIONEER, FRONTIERSMAN**

Thomas Lesslie was born 1725 in County Antrim, Northern Ireland and died April 17, 1778 in Ninety-Six District, South Carolina, a location that was later to be designated as Abbeville County. Thomas, his wife Jane, sister Anne and four children arrived in Charleston, South Carolina aboard the brigantine Prince of Wales in late November 1765. They were accompanied by his brother John and his wife and four children. The two Lesslie families and their companions had successfully completed a three month voyage across the stormy Atlantic Ocean in a sailing ship that was only 50 to 60 feet long and 25 to 30 feet wide. Though small by modern standards, the Prince of Wales was a fortunate choice for escaping the conditions that existed in Ulster at the time, for the ship was well made and there were only fifty or so others sharing the available space aboard ship. The same ship is known to have carried two hundred or more on other voyages. The Ulster-American Folk Park in Omagh, Northern Ireland has constructed a village as it would have looked in the 1700's and one of the exhibits is a replica of the kind of ship used for the transportation of immigrants. The most graphic part of the replica ship display was how the cargo hold was modified to allow accommodations for as many humans as possible. All security provisions for cargo had been removed and six foot wooden shelves were attached to the inside of the hull extending toward the center on both sides of the ship for the length of the cargo hold and about two feet between each from deck to the overhead. In the small space in the center between the shelving, all elements of living took place –change of clothing, child care, food preparations and sanitation. Our ancestors voluntarily accepted this crude facility in their determination to reach the American colonies and a freedom unknown in their native countries for they not only were to own their land but expected to be able to worship without government interference. Three months is a long time to be cooped up in such a small space with nothing to occupy their time but storytelling and general conversation. There must have been

many conversations about how things would turn out once they reached their destination. In one such conversation, to be repeated by their children in later years, brothers Thomas and John agreed that once they were settled on their respective properties, at the first death in either family, they would meet between their homesteads and use that spot as a burying ground if none existed elsewhere.

After reaching Charleston the immigrants attended the December 4, 1765 Colonial Council meeting where each brother received 400 acres according to the land bounty formula, both to be in Boonesborough Township. Since the majority of their shipmates also received land bounty acreage in that location it is probable that they traveled the 200 miles along the Keowee Trail as a group, each adult carrying their few possessions. The long voyage across a stormy ocean, with little rest and then a lengthy trek by foot that included women and infants, must have truly tested their stamina and physical wellbeing. Further tests were to come, for when they reached the 'long canes' area later to be known as Abbeville County, they found a wilderness with a few scattered settlers living in hastily built log cabins, no roads and no facilities for their shelter or provisions for food. The weather in this area in early January is usually cold and wet and the lack of provisions added to their difficulties. Fortunately, wild game was plentiful and the forest provided building materials. With only basic tools such as axes, hand saws, augers and mallets, the newly arrived settlers went to work and provided the rudimentary necessities for survival for only temporary shelters could have been erected since they were yet to select the ground where their 400 acre grants would be located. History has recorded many stories of the settlers that moved to the lands across the Blue Ridge Mountains into Tennessee, Kentucky and beyond, the attendant troubles with Indians and the hardships of establishing themselves in a wilderness but at least they had experienced living in semi-civilized conditions prior to their forays into those lands. Thomas and his comrades made a transition from a Northern Irish land of fairly intense population and small farms directly into a vast forested unpopulated land that was completely



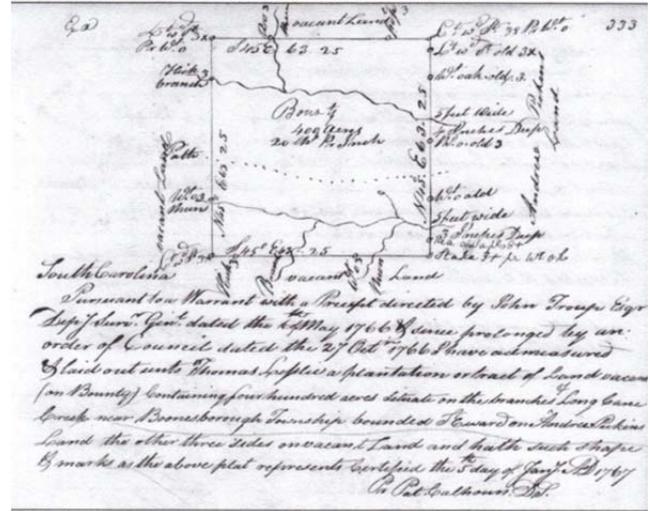
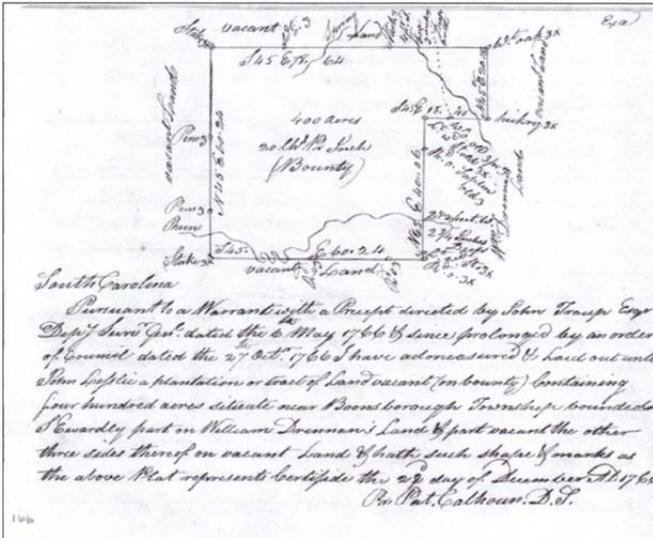
different from anything they had ever seen and probably could not have imagined even after being told what to expect. Those hardy, self-reliant Scots not only survived but flourished in their new homeland and the fact that their ancestors continue to live on the very grounds they cleared and cultivated so long ago, gives testimony to their survival skills.



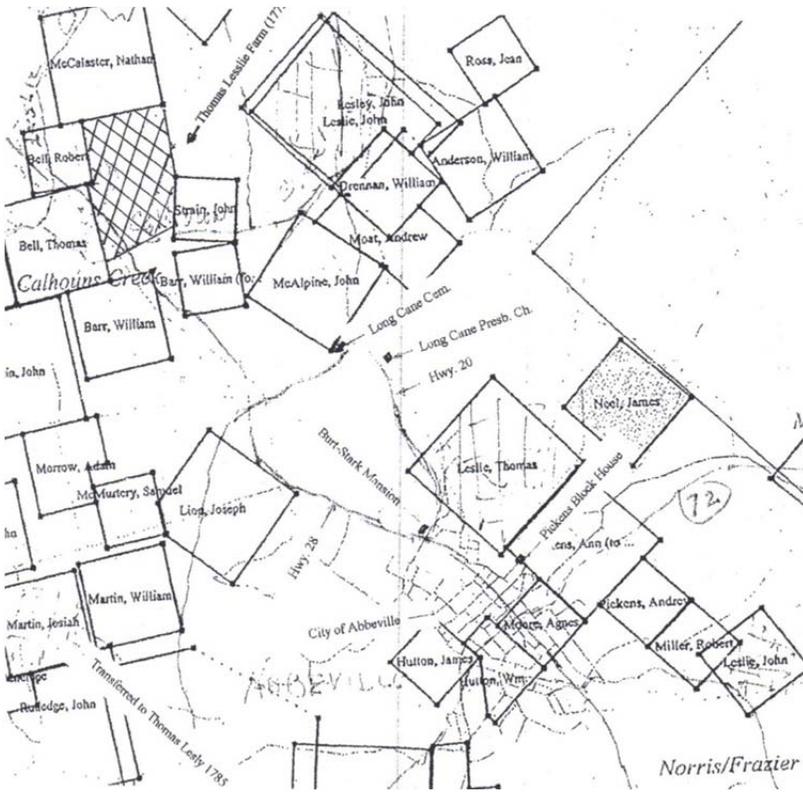
Shortly after settling on their respective grant lands, one of John's servants was scalded while making lye soap and died of her injuries. The brothers met as they had agreed and buried the unfortunate servant at that spot. Close to that first grave is the location of the graves of both brothers as well as many local inhabitants of the times and that area would later be known as Long Cane Cemetery.

Above is a picture of a granite memorial placed next to the first grave by the Long Cane Cemetery Association acknowledging the Leslie brothers part in starting the Long Cane Cemetery.

Nearby that initial grave are the graves of the two brothers with simple field stones as markers, apparently inscribed by the same person with their initials and dates of their deaths – Thomas's as TLSD A 17 AD 1778 (Thomas, Sr. since he had a living son named Thomas) and John's as JLD O 28 AD 1776.



Both brothers had official surveys performed and recorded in Charleston to be preserved for future generations and copies of those surveys are shown below with the written descriptions indicating the common property lines with neighboring grants – John’s with William Drennen and Thomas’s with Andrew Pickens. Patrick Calhoun performed and signed both surveys as District Surveyor and noted that each were near Boonesborough Township – not in it!



A small part of one of those improvised plot maps that is relative to this paper is shown below. One of the reasons for including this map is to show that Long Cane Cemetery is almost exactly half way between the two Leslie grants and seems to fortify the story of how that cemetery was originated. Another area of note is the location of Thomas’s grants relative to the city of Abbeville. It has been a contention within the Leslie family and acknowledged by many Abbeville ‘old timers’ that David Lesly (grandson of Thomas) built what is now known as the Burt-Stark Mansion on land belonging to the Leslie family. The map below shows the Mansion’s location in the fork made by Highways 20 and 28 and a slight tweek of around 100 feet would include that

location within the confines of the Thomas Lesslie grant, adding substance to the family tradition. Note also the cross hatched area of the Thomas Lesslie farm on Highway 28.

When Confederate President Jefferson Davis and his entourage were making their way south in an attempt to reach Texas after Lee's surrender, they stopped at Abbeville and Davis visited an old friend from their Congressional days. Armistead Burt was the owner of the home David Lesly built in the 1840's and the last Confederate War Council meeting was held in the parlor during his visit. That house is now known as the Burt-Stark Mansion and is owned by the Abbeville Historical Society, maintained in beautiful condition and used as a tourist attraction.



It is also interesting to note that according to Lester W. Ferguson in his Abbeville County: Southern Life-styles Lost in Time, 1993, he stated that William Lesly, son of Thomas, was a member of a five man commission that chose the site of the first Abbeville County Courthouse in 1783 which also established the site of the future town. The town was known for many years as Abbeville Courthouse, not just Abbeville which was not unusual at the time for many other villages carried the same connotation.

Thomas Lesslie and his descendants though spelling their name in various ways including Lesly, Leslie and Lesley made contributions of lasting significance to the historic community of Abbeville, South Carolina and his descendants continue to own and occupy land he claimed from the forest wilderness. The farm he created in 1773 is still producing income for his family today.

**Donald W. Leslie, sixth generation descendant of Thomas Lesslie.**

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#### **MEMBERSHIP DUES PAYABLE IN AUGUST**

Membership dues for Clan Leslie Society International will be due in August. In the August issue of Grip Fast the Journal, there will be an invoice you can remove and send to me along with your dues payment. Dues this year will be \$25. Several of you have already paid dues this year and you will not owe dues again. If you have any questions or can't remember if you paid dues this year, please contact me. Linda Flowers, Treasurer 405-381-3577 [lflowjingo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lflowjingo@sbcglobal.net)

**Linda Flowers, Treasurer**

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#### **UPDATE ON THE HARLAW GATHERING.**

We are off to the Garioch this week to participate in the history making event of the dedication of the new Leslie's Cross, the Gathering Dinner and the once in a lifetime Leslie Historical Tours. Those who were at the Leslie Gathering at Leslie Castle in 1995 will remember the great arrangements that David and Leslie made for us. David has outdone himself with the Leslie Historical Tours of 2011.

The Commemoration Booklet listing all the events and the names of all donors to the Leslie's Cross will be mailed out right after the Dedication Ceremony.

**William Leslie** [william.leslie@sympatico.ca](mailto:william.leslie@sympatico.ca)

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#### **ABERNETHY HIGHLAND GAMES**

For those of you who might be in Scotland on Saturday, August 13th, you may want to consider attending the Abernethy Highland Games. These games are located in the small village of Nethy Bridge near Aviemore, at the heart of the Cairngorms National Park in Aberdeenshire. The Abernethy Games, the first held in 1880, is one of the longest established traditional Highland Games in Scotland. These games also host the Clan Grant Gathering, and Grants from near and far are most welcome. (I expect that Abernethys would also be welcome). For additional information see their website at [www.nethybridge.com/highlandgames/](http://www.nethybridge.com/highlandgames/)

**David Leslie White,** [clanleslie@earthlink.net](mailto:clanleslie@earthlink.net)

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## MEMBERS OVER 85 YEARS OF AGE

Did you know that if you have been a member of Clan Leslie Society International for at least 10 years and reach the age of 85, the CLSI will continue your membership without further payment of annual dues?

**Contact Linda Flowers**

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## 2012 CLAN LESLIE GATHERING, LOON MOUNTAIN RESORT, LINCOLN, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Make plans to join us for the 2012 Clan Leslie Society International Gathering, in conjunction with the New Hampshire Highland Games in Lincoln, NH. Traditionally held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of September, the New Hampshire Highland Games are the largest Scottish cultural festival in the Northeast. These games also have a tradition of outstanding entertainment (You can see their 2011 entertainment line-up on their web site as a reference). Although dates for the 2012 games have not been announced, I will let everyone know the dates as soon as they are available.



Lincoln, New Hampshire is tucked away in the scenic White Mountains, making it the perfect venue for our gathering. To find out more about the New Hampshire Highland Games, please visit: <http://www.nhscot.org>. For more information about other attractions in the Lincoln (and nearby Woodstock) New Hampshire area visit <http://www.lincolnwoodstock.com/vacation/attractions.php>

And of course, I'll be posting updates to this event and others on our Facebook page at:

<http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=696321738&ref=ts#!/group.php?gid=155937880572&ref=ts>

**Laura Sawyer Messing** 781-272-2065(phone) [designinvasion@gmail.com](mailto:designinvasion@gmail.com) (email)

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## CLAN LESLIE ON FACEBOOK

Have you checked out our Facebook page lately? If you haven't, you're missing out on some great posts by Clan Leslie Society members, and other Leslies who are not members. To connect with Leslie kinsmen from around the globe go to. [www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=155937880572](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=155937880572)

Click on the link and you can access the page. To add comments or to connect with other Leslies who use the page, you need to become a member of Facebook. This is easy and free, just go to <http://www.facebook.com/> and fill out the brief information panel on the home page.

Send your information to:

**Laura Sawyer Messing**, [designinvasion@gmail.com](mailto:designinvasion@gmail.com)

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## NEXT PUBLICATIONS TO MEMBERS

August 2011 – *Grip Fast, the Journal of the Clan Leslie Society International*.

September 2011 – *Grip Fast Online Newsletter*.

October 2011 – *Grip Fast, the Journal of the Clan Leslie Society International*.

November 2011 – *Grip Fast Online Newsletter*.

December 2011 – *Grip Fast Online Newsletter*.

We do need Griffin stories. These are usually well researched stories which include references and sources preferably illustrated with some photographs.

**William Leslie, Editor** [william.leslie@sympatico.ca](mailto:william.leslie@sympatico.ca)

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## CLAN LESLIE ITEMS FROM THE QUARTERMASTER

### PETER M. LESLIE, QUARTERMASTER, CLSI

Clan Leslie items for sale are listed on our clan website, [www.clanlesliesociety.org](http://www.clanlesliesociety.org) Click on the Leslie Badges, Crests and Flags link. The list of items includes a description, price, and photo along with how to order. All prices are in \$US and include postage and packaging. The Clan Leslie items now available for sale are listed below.

1) Grip Fast - The Leslies in History, a beautifully hardbound book, detailing the Leslie clan from its inception (290 pages), authored by Alexander Leslie Klieforth and signed by our Clan Chief, The Honourable Alexander Leslie. Price \$66.00



2) Post Cards-Two 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 notes. Please specify which style you prefer. \$5.00 for a package of 25 post cards.

3) Grip Fast Pin -- \$3.00

4) Grip Fast Patch -- \$3.00

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

Payment should be made to Linda Flowers, CLSI Treasurer, 302 SW 3rd, Tuttle, OK, 73089, USA. [lflowjingo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lflowjingo@sbcglobal.net)

Peter M. Leslie, [scotslad@nwi.net](mailto:scotslad@nwi.net)

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### **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:

Linda Flowers, CLSI Scholarship Committee, [lflowjingo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lflowjingo@sbcglobal.net)

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### **THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER**

**This *Grip Fast Online* is your newsletter. Send us your stories and pictures.** The Clan Leslie Society International is made up of a dedicated group of people whose main objective is to preserve Clan Leslie history and to create fellowship among members of this ancient and historic family. The publications of the CLSI, the *Grip Fast Online*, the *Griffin* and the *Grip Fast, Journal of the CLSI*, collect, communicate and preserve Leslie historical stories. The Society promotes Gatherings of Clan members so that they can meet their distant cousins, meet the Clan and Society leaders and share family stories. The Clan Leslie Society also provides leadership in preserving family history through the growing Clan Leslie Collection in the Library of the University of Guelph. The commitment to offer academic and Scottish arts studies scholarships has helped young Clan members to join in celebrating their heritage. Officers of the Society are joining the effort to make sure that Leslie soldiers killed in one of the most significant battles in Scottish history, the Battle of Harlaw, are not forgotten. The Society is active and vibrant and needs your participation.

The *Grip Fast Online* is sent to many individuals who have shown an interest in the Clan Leslie. We know that if you are reading this that you have an interest in the ancient and distinguished history of the Leslie family. Why not send us your stories and pictures and help expand and preserve the recorded history of the Society?

Check to see the vacancies where you can serve the CLSI and make a difference. Convenors are needed for various Regions in the USA and Canada. A Registrar/Secretary is needed and I could use help with our publications.

William Leslie, Commissioner Clan Leslie, North America, [william.leslie@sympatico.ca](mailto:william.leslie@sympatico.ca)

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### **YOU CAN CHOOSE HOW YOU RECEIVE THE GRIP FAST JOURNAL**

As you know, you can receive the Journal by regular mail or email. It is your choice. If you would like to change your method of delivery from email to regular mail or regular mail to email, all you have to do is notify me. I will be happy to make the change. We want all our members to receive the publications by the method of delivery that is best for them.

The Grip Fast Journal is usually published in January, April, July, and October. In the other months, the Grip Fast Online is sent to those members who have an email address on file. Please make sure you keep your email address up-to-date so you receive Grip Fast Online.

Linda Flowers 405-381-3577, 302 SW 3rd St. Tuttle, OK 73089 [lflowjingo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lflowjingo@sbcglobal.net)

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## CLAN LESLIE

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Chief of Clan Leslie      The Honourable Alexander Leslie      [alex.leslie@btinternet.com](mailto:alex.leslie@btinternet.com)  
Boreland House, Lockerbie, Dumfriesshire, DG11 2LN Scotland

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Commissioner to Clan Leslie North America      William Leslie      Phone 705-326-6791      [william.leslie@sympatico.ca](mailto:william.leslie@sympatico.ca)  
82 Tecumseth St., Orillia, Ontario, Canada, L3V 1Y2

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### CLAN LESLIE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL - ELECTED (COUNCIL) AND APPOINTED OFFICERS

#### 2010 – 2011 CLAN LESLIE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

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Chieftain      David Leslie White      Phone 817-346-3333      [clanleslie@earthlink.net](mailto:clanleslie@earthlink.net)  
7313 Old Mill Run, Fort Worth, TX, 76133, USA

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Vice-Chieftain      Thomas (Tom) Leslie Huxtable      Phone 316-721-0307      [tshux@cox.net](mailto:tshux@cox.net)  
118 S. Coach House Rd., Wichita, KS, 67235, USA

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Treasurer      Linda Flowers      Phone 405-381-3577      [lflowjingo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lflowjingo@sbcglobal.net)  
302 SW 3rd, Tuttle, OK, 73089, USA

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Secretary/  
Registrar      Christine Johnson      Phone 336-656-4971      [cejohnson@triad.rr.com](mailto:cejohnson@triad.rr.com)  
1113 Foxhaven Drive, Greensboro, NC 27455, USA

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Council      Bob (Robert C.) Bailey      Phone 408-224-1190      [rcailey3056@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rcailey3056@sbcglobal.net)  
6113 El Toro Court, San Jose, CA, 95123, USA

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Council      Samantha Leslie Gray ANPC      Phone 516-676-5719      [riognach@aol.com](mailto:riognach@aol.com)  
61 Robinson Avenue, Glen Cove, NY, 11542-2944, USA

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Council      Laura Messing      Phone 781- 272-2065      [designinvasion@gmail.com](mailto:designinvasion@gmail.com)  
12 Dennis Dr., Burlington, MA 01803, USA

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Council      Loren R. Leslie      Phone 218-663-7622      [lrakleslie@aol.com](mailto:lrakleslie@aol.com)  
4746 Cascade Beach Road, Lutsen, MN 55612, USA

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Council      Timothy W. Leslie      Phone 817-764-0244      [timothywleslie@gmail.com](mailto:timothywleslie@gmail.com)  
3800 Horizon Pl., Fort Worth, TX, 76133, USA

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Council      Lew Johnson      Phone 336-656-4971      [ljohnson12@triad.rr.com](mailto:ljohnson12@triad.rr.com)  
1113 Foxhaven Drive, Greensboro, NC 27455, USA

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#### 2010 – 2011 CLAN LESLIE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL APPOINTED OFFICERS

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Chaplain      Rev. Samantha Gray, ANPC      Phone 516-676-5719      [riognach@aol.com](mailto:riognach@aol.com)  
61 Robinson Ave, Glen Cove, NY, 11542, USA

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Editor, Publications, Grip Fast, Journal of the Clan Leslie Society International, Griffin, Grip Fast Online  
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Genealogist      Joan Leslie Eike      Phone 607-972-8346      [jleike@hotmail.com](mailto:jleike@hotmail.com)  
1227 Route 17C, Barton, NY, 13734, USA

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Herald	Susan C. Abernethy	Phone 858-576-8293	<a href="mailto:sabernet@trexenterprises.com">sabernet@trexenterprises.com</a>
	5643 Limerick Av, San Diego, CA, 92117-1526, USA		
Historian	Timothy W. Leslie	Phone 817-764-0244	<a href="mailto:timothywleslie@gmail.com">timothywleslie@gmail.com</a>
	3800 Horizon Pl., Fort Worth, TX, 76133		
Justiciar	Vacant		
Piper	Gale Walker		<a href="mailto:galew259@shaw.ca">galew259@shaw.ca</a>
	30 Calder Bay, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, R3T 5L9		
Quartermaster	Peter M Leslie	Phone 206-890-3053	<a href="mailto:scotslad@nwi.net">scotslad@nwi.net</a>
	3930 Knowles Road, Wenatchee, WA, 98801, USA		
Webmaster & Web Site	Brian Lesslie Jr.	Phone 01738 560687	<a href="mailto:bless7506@blueyonder.co.uk">bless7506@blueyonder.co.uk</a>
	117 Nimmo Ave., Perth, PW1 2PV, Scotland		
	Clan Leslie Society International Web Site - <a href="http://www.clanlesliesociety.org">www.clanlesliesociety.org</a>		

## REGIONAL CONVENORS

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Central Region	Vacant		
Europe/Asia	Brian Lesslie, Sr.	Phone 07138 563050	<a href="mailto:bless993@blueyonder.co.uk">bless993@blueyonder.co.uk</a>
	4 Albany Terr., Perth, PH1 2BD Scotland		
Mountain, USA	Vacant		
NE USA	John Aulerich	Phone 401-647-0404	<a href="mailto:jaulerich@yahoo.com">jaulerich@yahoo.com</a>
	16 Mount Hygeia Rd, Foster, RI, 02825-1435, USA		
Pacific NW, USA	Steve Olling	Phone 425-557-7672	<a href="mailto:ollings@comcast.net">ollings@comcast.net</a>
	3909 - 242 Avenue SE, Issaquah, WA 98029, USA		
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SW, USA	Frank W. Leslie	Phone 254-577-7050	<a href="mailto:fleslie@hot.rr.com">fleslie@hot.rr.com</a>
	3432 Upton Drive, Kempner, TX 76539-951		

## BRANCH PRESIDENTS

SE USA	Cathy Duling	Phone 706- 442-7448	<a href="mailto:guinnethv@yahoo.com">guinnethv@yahoo.com</a>
	4022 Lyn Drive, Columbus, GA 31909, USA		

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