

Grip Fast



Online

The Online Newsletter of Clan Leslie Society International

May/June, 2014

Lionel Leslie's *Drover's Inn*

See Page II



From the Editor

CORRECTION: In the article “Wilderness Trails in Three Continents” in the April *Grip Fast Journal*, there was an error in that Anita Leslie was not the sister of Lionel Leslie. Anita is the daughter of John (Shane) Leslie and hence is the niece of Lionel Leslie.

Don't Forget!

Join us for the 2014 CLSI Biennial
Gathering in conjunction with the
Grandfather Mountain Highland Games

July 10-13, 2014
Clan Leslie will be the Honored Clan

If you haven't registered for the
Gathering, be sure to stop by the Leslie
Tent at the games!

For more information about GMHG is located
online at <http://www.gmhg.org/>

NEXT PUBLICATIONS TO MEMBERS

July– Grip Fast Journal

Please continue to send your stories. We are recording your history and we cannot do it without your input.

Send us stories and pictures of your Scottish ancestors or your North American family; we really need them.

The Griffin will be published when we have enough stories to warrant a printing.

We do need Griffin stories. These are usually well researched stories which include references and sources preferably illustrated with some photographs. Deadline for articles and photos is the first of each month.

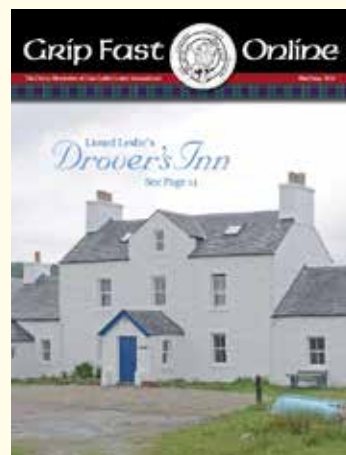
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ABOUT THE COVER

Lionel Leslie's Drovers' Inn.

Photo courtesy of David Leslie White.



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Clan Leslie Society Australia & New Zealand

Chieftain & members
Clan Leslie Society International

Clan Leslie Gathering

I note with interest that your gathering will take place on 11-13 July 2014. It is to be hoped that it is a wonderful and successful event, and that those members of the Clan who can get there have a great time.

On behalf of Clan members here 'Down-Under' I wish you all the best and send our fraternal greetings.

We belong to a great Clan, and it is important for us to remember that although we are scattered, we are family.

Have a great Gathering, and know that your southern cousins are with you in spirit.

Yours Aye,

Malcolm W Leslie D.Ua.
Chieftain
Scan Leslie Society
Australia & New Zealand



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The Truck System Commission Hearings and the Testimony of Henry Leslie of Gord, Dunrossness, Shetland

The term truck meant payment in goods rather than money, a system which was imposed by the Scottish Lairds on the crofter fisherman tenants of the Shetlands in which they required the fishermen to sell their catches to them or their merchant agent and in turn were paid in merchandise in lieu of currency. Of course the merchandise was more costly than would have been purchased from local vendors. This extortion resulted in an existence of debt bondage. The Scottish government became concerned with these trading practices and an inquiry into the truck system was initiated with hearings held by the Truck Commission in Lerwick, Shetlands in 1872.

The Shetland Islands, originally a possession of Norway and later Denmark, were populated by the Picts and Norse commonly called udals. In 1468, Christian I of Denmark gave the islands to James III Scotland as a part of his daughter's dowry. Although James III annexed the islands to Scotland there was little change for almost 100 years in the lives and laws of the udals until Queen Mary allocated the islands to Earl Robert Stewart. Lord Robert extended his power over the islands and opened the lands to Scottish Lairds. The udals became completely at the mercy of the Laird landowners who regarded their lands and rentals as a major source of income especially in the Dunrossness region of Shetland.

Dunrossness is the southern part of the islands consisting of three areas, Scousburgh, Sumburgh and Quendal, the latter on the east and west sides of the Bay of Quendal respectively. The Lairds of Scousburgh were the Nevens, of Sumburgh were the Bruces, and Quendal were the Sinclairs. The Leslies of Warthill were among the Scottish immigrants with the families of Norman and William Leslie, the second and third sons of the first Laird of Warthill, settling in the more central Tingwall area. The marriage of Alexander, the son of William, to Katherine Nevens, the daughter of the Laird of Scousburgh, brought the Leslies to Dunrossness.

The udal crofters were primarily farmers growing barley, oats and potatoes as well as raising livestock; however, as the population grew the crofts became smaller with the crofters turning to fishing as a supplemental income source. Fishing

became more important with years of crop failure and disease. Initially the Lairds were uninvolved with the fishing as long as the crofters paid their rent. With declining revenues and the increasing trade of cured fish to mainland Europe, especially Germany and Holland, the Lairds began requiring the crofter fishermen to sell their catches to them or their designated merchants as a condition of their croft occupancy. In turn, the Lairds would advance the cost of larger fishing boats and supplies ultimately owning the crofter fisherman's land, house and boat. It also became a requirement that the fishermen had to purchase all of their goods from the laird merchants' shops. Failure to do so resulted in eviction. Most often the prices of the merchandise were greater than that received for the fish creating a debt bondage system. Eventually no currency exchanged hands, only merchandise, a practice that would come to be called the truck system. As the fishing boats grew larger in order to reach more abundant, deeper offshore fishing waters more men were needed as oarsmen. All male family members were bonded to this service. Any son who left to work elsewhere in the islands resulted in the entire family being evicted. Only if they left to serve in the Navy or immigrated from Shetland could their release be purchased.

Even then the Lairds found their revenues declining with the Nevens of Scousburgh selling their holdings to Bruce of Sumburgh. Many Dunrossness Leslie descendants either returned to Scotland, the Orkneys, or became crofter fishermen themselves settling primarily in the Quendal estates held by the Sinclairs especially in the villages of Garthbanks, Hillwell and Brake and the crofts of Gord and Upper Gord. Five generations of my Leslie ancestors were crofter fishermen, first under the bondage to the Laird of Quendal, John Sinclair, and later of the Scottish Laird James Grierson when the Quendal estate was sequestered and sold in 1790. Grierson took little interest in the operations of the Quendal estate and as such turned its management over to a tackman fish merchant who exerted even more repression on the fishermen tenants. Later, the Hay and Co. was engaged to operate the truck system merchandise venue at Garthbanks, but in 1860 the Grierson grandson Andrew assumed the management of the fishing operations and truck system practice in Quendal.

The Scottish government finally took notice of the exploitation of the tenant fishermen and in 1872 established the Truck Commission. Among the crofter fishermen who testified before the Commission hearing on January 9, 1872 was my great-great grandfather, Henry Leslie of Gord. His testimony was recorded in the proceedings of the commission as follows:

You are a fisherman and a tenant under Mr. Grierson at Gord?

I am.

You have heard the evidence of Flaws and the others?

Yes.

Do you agree with it as far as you know?

Yes.

You know the facts that have been stated by them to be true?

Yes.

Have you been a long time tenant on that estate?

Yes for 50 years at any rate.

At the commencement of that period were you free to fish to anyone you liked?

No, there has always been a bond on that estate to fish to Mr. Grierson or to anyone to whom fish were let. That has been the case all my time and I have more than sixty years there.

Have you fished to anyone else during any part of the time?

No, it was always to him. There were three years when Mr. Bruce and Mr. Grierson were in company together.

But before that time were you not free?

No, I never knew a time when we were free all the time I have been there.

Who did you fish to before that?

To Mr. Grierson and to his father. I fished to the present Mr. Grierson's grandfather as I was at the beach to him.

Was he a fish curer and fish merchant also?

Yes.

Was that property ever set in tack to a fish merchant?

Yes, but that was before my day.

Has the obligation to fish always been a part of the condition on which you held your land?

Yes.

Were you present at the time when young Mr. Grierson intimated to the tenants that he was taking fishing into his own hands?

Yes, I and every man and boy on the estate were all assembled in the same room and we all heard the same agreement read over.

Was not that the beginning of the present state of things under which you are now bound to fish?

Yes.

Then were you free before that?

No, we were not free but we wrought upon a different scale.

Were you bound at that time to fish for Mr. Grierson?

Yes.

Have you been getting meal from Mr. Grierson's store?

No, I have got none there for the past 2 years. I required none during that time.

Have you had plenty to supply you from your own ground?

Yes, or I had bought it at a ramp when other people were going out.

Henry's testimony was similar to other crofter fishermen of Quendal and Sum burgh although the majority of the tenants feared eviction or the raising of their rents if they appeared before the commission. Grierson himself testified and stated that he increased his rents if the tenants were not fishing for him and that he expected the sons of the tenants to fish or serve on the beach. They had to supply young boys when they had them suitable for the purpose of curing the fish. He also admitted that he would exact liberty money for those male family members who left and worked elsewhere.

Little was accomplished by the Truck Commission as far as change in the system until 10 years later when the Napier Commission came to investigate the state of affairs in the Shetlands. Following their report, the Scottish parliament in 1886 passed the Crofter Act establishing the rights for crafting; however, it had become apparent to the Lairds that the Truck Commission itself was going to change the way they conducted the fishing business. In 1876 Grierson abandoned fishing as a source of revenue, evicted the fishing tenants of Garth banks, Garth, Corston, Quam and Neflan, a total of 27 families converting the southern half of the Quendal estate into a sheep farm. Fifty crofters remained on the rest of the estate around Uendal Mill, Gord, Upper Gord, Hillwell and Brake, but

were no longer bonded to fish for Grierson. In his Book “The Dunrossness Story”, James W. Irvine quotes the crofters’ lawyer’s statement before a newly formed Crofters Commission in 1889. “Shetland is the chosen home of the truck system in its worst and most oppressive form. It is likewise the last resort of the exploited doctrine of the divine right of landlords. The relationship of the laird and tenant in Shetland is undoubtedly the dark chapter in the history of Scottish landlordism having resulted in only two classes in Shetland, a dominant class and a servant class”.

Prior to Henry’s testimony in 1872, his son Magnus, my great grandfather, had purchased his liberty from Grierson and in 1866 immigrated along with two sibling sisters to Canada. As a result of Henry’s testimony, he and the remainder of his family were evicted from the croft at Gord and joined Magnus in Wellington County, Canada. He died in Guelph, Ontario in 1881. I never heard my grandfather, Henry, speak about the plight of his father and grandfather in the Shetlands. He never admitted to his Scottish ancestry which was undoubtedly the result of the residual animus between the exploited, bonded crofter fishermen of the Shetlands and their Scottish Lairds. Yet in retrospect the bravery of men like my great-great grandfather, who placed themselves and their families at risk by appearing before the Truck Commission, is to me the quality of heroism.

Dr. Loren R. Leslie



The ruins of Garthbanks, Dunrossness, Shetlands. Once an important fishing station, all that remains are the walls of the Hays & Company warehouse from which they conducted the truck system business with the crofter fishermen. The rocks in the foreground were where the boys who served on the beach carried the fish to be dried.

Malt Musings

The Glen Garioch Distillery has a new release, the Glen Garioch Single Malt 1794 Founder’s Reserve.

Tasting Notes are: Nose – Warm amber in appearance, sweet vanilla and subtle spice combine with fruitier green apple and grapefruits on the nose. Palate- Butter cream and vanilla pave the way to fruity green apple skin and citrus cleanliness, leading to an elegant and subtle finish.

Technical Notes: Glen Garioch Distillery is situated in the Aberdeenshire village of Old Meldrum in the Scottish Highlands. This region is famed for its stunning scenery, colorful tartans and is home to many distilleries. Glen Garioch, being one of the oldest and most endearing was established in 1797. This small distillery

takes its name from the Valley of the Garioch, traditionally the finest barley growing area of Scotland.

The location chosen by founder John Manson (1762-1838) and his younger brother Alexander (1770-1847) for their new malt whisky distillery was an obvious one. Old Meldrum lay at one end of the Valley of the Garioch, pronounced Gerry in the ancient Doric dialect of Aberdeenshire.

Obviously, the Glen Garioch promotion folks can wax eloquent about their product and the Garioch Valley. It is a smooth dram, but to me lacks complexity and depth. No age or year distilled stated. A good value at \$38-\$40 US, but not destined to become one of my favorites.

David Leslie White

Liam Leslie's Innovative Math Memorization Rap!

Hi Linda - below is a forward of an email about William (Liam) Leslie - the sixth (in Canada we are unable to use numerals after our names due to Commonwealth tradition), my son and grandson of William of Orillia, ON (son of Sara Leslie Leslie, my wife - yes, 2 Leslies in one name - that's another story). He is an inceptor member of the Clan Leslie Society and we live here in Stony Plain, Alberta where he is in Grade 7. Thought you might enjoy it for consideration on submission to the Grip Fast. Liam is 12 and is a Blue belt/Red Stripe in Taekwondo.

Thanks!
Will Leslie

I just wanted to share the awesome work that Liam did today! He was able to take some time today and put together a "Math Rap" about the concepts we have been studying! It is really good; in fact Liam has given me permission to send it on to the "Word Works" program to be published! He is such a great student and hard worker! I will miss him next year. Hope you enjoy this little rap as much as I did.

Megan



Liam Leslie, age 12. Taekwondo blue belt/red stripe and math memorization expert!

Math Rap

Let me tell you a tale about the math whiz code
About how to remember mean, median and mode

Firstly we must learn about mean
And this little rap will make you feel very keen
To find the mean you must add all the numbers
But try to stay awake because you might fall into slumber
Next you divide by the digits in the set
And then mean is exactly what you'll get!

Next we will find the median
Don't laugh at this rap I am not a comedian
Organize the numbers from lowest to highest
The number in the middle will try to act the slyest
If there are two numbers in the middle
Add them then divide it by half of a fiddle

The modes are the numbers that occur the most
It is so easy you'll have time to eat toast

Now you know the code my brothers and sis'
And you can brag to all the misters and misses!

Mean,
Median,
Mode!

CLSI Tents at Scottish Events

Texas Scottish Festival & Highland Games Arlington, Texas May 2-4, 2014



Lynne and Frank Leslie

The 2014 Texas Scottish Games and Highland Games were held in the University of Texas Football Stadium at Arlington, Texas near Ft. Worth, Texas. The CLSI tent was co-hosted by Frank and Lynne Leslie.

Several visitors took membership applications. There were five people who signed the register and several more who spent time at the tent with general questions.

The crowd was more energized than usual which was probably helped by the cooler weather. The move from June to May seems to be working. There are several clans and vendors who have not been able to adjust their schedule but the attendance seems to be improving.

Entertainment was continuous with many Texas bands and nationally recognized bands from all over the U.S.A. There was a mix of traditional music and Celtic Rock and everything in between. Heavy athletics were performed on both days with their own following. In addition to Highland dance competition, there were Rugby demonstrations. The children had their own entertainers with groups like the TattyBogglers and Willow and Diarmuid (Germ).

Sherry Huxtable was remembered in the Flowers of the Forest portion of the Kirking Service Sunday morning.

The weather was excellent all three days with blue skies and light winds except for Sunday afternoon when the wind started to pick up. Really, you could not have asked for a nicer weekend.

Frank Leslie

One Man's World

The next book I want to consider is *One Man's World: A Story of Strange Places and Strange People* by Lionel Alistair David Leslie. The previous book review on *Wilderness Trails in Three Continents* was published in 1931 while *One Man's World* was published in 1961. In between these time, Lionel self-published a booklet *Poems of Mull and Iona* (undated) and *The Drovers' Inn* (undated) about how he and his wife rebuilt a derelict house at the end of a rocky promontory on the Isle of Mull after the end of World War II. However, *One Man's World* partially fills in that period between when Lionel left Labrador in 1928 and the start of World War II in 1939 when he was recalled to active duty in the army.

One Man's World was published in 1961 by the Pall Mall Press, London. In a sense, it is autobiographical and it fills in some details of his interesting life. As usual, Lionel is rather

vague on some topics and omits dates most of the time. The book opens with him aboard a paddle steamer chugging up the Irrawaddy River, north of Mandalay in Burma. He has resigned his commission in the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders about 1926. He writes that his future lies in his own hands backed by a "quarterly remittance of fifty pounds from home." I assume that fifty pounds in 1926 bought a lot more than it does in 2014. Lionel was on his way to China in spite of reports of a civil war in progress there. He then reflects on his childhood at Castle Leslie and his ancestors. His grandfather, Sir John Leslie, 1st Baronet of Glaslough, had an artistic nature. After he had served in the Life Guards, he studied art in Italy and Bavaria. He relates stories of his brothers. For example, he writes of his older brother Shane, who was tall, of great physical strength, dark haired and with the "hatchet profile of an American Indian." Shane was a keen walker, and once "walked barefoot for forty miles across the Isle of Mull on a self-imposed pilgrimage to Iona."

Lionel then returns to his year at Eton, from which he was "sent down." Then he went to Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland, and finally two years at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. His chosen athletic activity was boxing, as he disliked team sports. Following his graduation and commission in the Queen's Cameron Highlanders, he was posted to a battalion in India. He was sent out on a reconnaissance mission to examine the coasts of Bengal and Orissa, a trip of about six hundred miles. His travels included a visit to the famous Black Pagoda, and the then half-ruined temple of Kanarack. He was much impressed by the sculpture that made a deep impression upon him. Following his resignation from the Army, he set out up the Irrawaddy River in Burma to visit China. That area of China was in chaos due to a civil war, and the authorities

"suggested" that he return to Burma, and they provided a detail of twelve Chinese soldiers to "assist" in his rapid return. From there he travels to Africa, where he shot a lion in his pajamas which had come very close to camp. He eventually became ill with form of dysentery and elected to return to Ireland. By this time he apparently was broke, and the British Consul found him a passage as a "Distressed British Subject."

There is no mention of his actual return to Castle Leslie, but he notes that "Next year found me in Labrador with an expedition that I had accompanied from England." In this book he only provides a very short note on his travels in Labrador, and then notes that "After I left Labrador I headed for the French island of St. Pierre, lying off the coast of Newfoundland." He becomes involved in running illegal alcoholic beverages into the United States as Prohibition was in effect. The chapter ends when he decides that "Rum Running's not for me!"

The next chapter opens in Morocco, with Lionel considering joining the French Foreign Legion, or just attaching himself as a camp follower. Eventually he fell ill with malaria, and took an apartment to care for himself as he knew the succession of attacks that would follow. To pass the time, he took up molding clay as "my medium for expression". As the weeks passed, he slowly regained his health and his attention was now taken up with sculpture. He decided to go to France, seek tuition and embark on a career of art. He finds a noted sculptor in Montrouge who was willing to take Lionel as a pupil, and also rent him a small attic studio in the house. At this point, eight full page black and white photos are included. The first is of Lionel in 1960, followed by seven of his sculpted pieces. Lionel continued to study and sculpt in Paris for three years, and had achieved sufficient skill to have some of his work exhibited at the Salon des Tuileries and the Salon in the Grand Plais des Champs Elysees. Lionel states that he lived a solitary existence in his Bohemian life-style. He makes no mention of a girl friend or even a female friend.

In Chapter VI, "Chelsea," it is now 1934 and Lionel has moved to Chelsea in London. His student days are over, and he is faced with becoming a real sculptor. Once again, he moves into a small apartment in a neighborhood of artists and writers. Like Paris, he writes many sketches of the characters living in the area. All of them, including Lionel, seem to be living the life of the "starving artist."

In 1936, he held his first one-man show and received some excellent reviews and managed to sell four of his works. Two years later he held a smaller show at the Storrans Gallery in Piccadilly. Later he moved across the Thames River to Battersea. He wrote that "I at last had found the ideal working conditions." Shortly after that, he received an official letter

informing him that as an Officer of the Reserve, it was his duty to report to his old regiment in two days' time. "The date was September the fifth, 1939."

The last chapter of this book is titled "EPILOGUE." No more "Strange Places and Strange People." After receiving his re-call to active duty letter, Lionel rejoined his regiment at the Regimental Depot in Inverness. Then a short visit to France in 1940 [Dunkirk?] and he was then posted to a training battalion in Yorkshire. Although he makes no mention of his marriage to Barbara Yvonne Enever in Ripon, Yorkshire, the record shows that marriage on 10 January 1942. He then ended up in the Middle East, which I assume was Egypt as he mentions that he was able to visit the Sphinx and the Great Pyramid. By 1943 he was in Italy, and his name was "Mentioned in the Dispatches." He then writes that "When the war ended I found

myself in Bologna." And in the next paragraph he writes of revisiting the old home at Castle Leslie. He remarks on his late brother Norman's old bedroom, and wanders in the Big Wood. He returns to London, and writes that he will move to "an island in the Inner Hebrides (Mull) with his wife Barbara, their daughter Leonie Deirdre aged two, and his step-daughter Delphi who was about nine." Delphi was Barbara's daughter from a previous marriage.

Prior to moving to Mull, Lionel took a job in London as an unskilled laborer or 'navvy.' The book ends with Lionel moving bricks and mortar for a construction company, earning four pounds ten a week.

Lionel and his family moved to the Isle of Mull and restored an old inn at Grasspoint. He details this experience in a 39 page pamphlet titled The Drovers' Inn.

David Leslie White

ROSSLYN RENEWED

Rosslyn Chapel, the Midlothian icon founded in the 1400s by the legendary William Sinclair, has been restored to its former glory after an intense sixteen year effort by the Rosslyn Chapel Trust. Long rumoured to host treasures of the Templars, a rumour no doubt given added vigor when Dan Brown's *The DaVinci Code* was filmed there several years ago, and said to host a variety of exotic religious artifacts said within its sealed crypts, Rosslyn Chapel is renowned as an example of the finest in Scottish architecture.

Coming up in the autumn issue of *Scottish Life* magazine, Candace Leslie will have an extensive article on Rosslyn Chapel. Look for it at your local newsstand or book store about August.

Scottish Life Magazine

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

Rosslyn Chapel Website

<http://www.rosslynchapel.org.uk/>

Right: Rosslyn Chapel
Photo by Ronnie Leask (CC)



CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Troy and Sandi More of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. They hosted a CLSI tent at the 151st Victoria Highland Games and were awarded a medal for placing 3rd overall in the Clans and Societies tents, as judged by the Mayor of Victoria.

CelticFest 2014

Marion, Iowa
June 29, 2014
10 AM to 6 PM
Marion is located just north of Cedar Rapids on Interstate 380

Host: Chris Chamberlin

Annual Gathering of the Clans & Highland Games

Salado, TX
November 7-9, 2014
<http://www.saladoscottishfestival.com/>

Hosts: Frank and Lynne Leslie



A Note About Our Society...

One of the Objectives of our Society is “To promote, foster, collect and preserve historical and genealogical records and information about descendants of Clan Leslie around the world.” In the past we have had articles about history, geography, tradition, homes, castles, and various members of Clan Leslie.

The responsibility for the research and writing of such articles lies with the members. The membership is “the contributing staff” to the publication. Even though you may have never written an article before, don’t let that hold you back. The editor will prepare your article for publication. To quote Alexander Leslie Klieforth (*The Griffin*, Vol. 1, 1979, p. 4) “We are not looking for polished gems or prose; we are a Clan, a family organ, and an important purpose of this publication . . . is to promote kinship.”

You get out of our Society what you put into it. Gifts of your time, talent and effort are what make us successful. Please consider writing an article for our Grip Fast newsletter. It can be a short book review of a book by or about Leslies, Abernathys, Cairneys, Laings, Moores or Bartholomews, your visit to Scotland, or some site with a Clan Leslie connection, or an article on a prominent Leslie from your area. An article might be as simple as an informal gathering of CLSI members for Hogmanay, a ceilidh, St. Andrew’s Night, or a Burns Dinner.

Or you can do some serious research and write a more academic article. The choice is yours, but the gift of your time, talent and effort is what is needed.

David Leslie White

The Drovers' Inn (continued from the April Grip Fast Journal)

In the last issue of *Grip Fast Journal*, we left Lionel Leslie working as a common laborer in London, working for four pounds ten shillings a week. But he announced that he and his family would move to Grasspoint on the Isle of Mull. One might ask why at the age of 46, Lionel would want to move to Mull. My best assessment is that Lionel may have already been aware of this derelict old inn at Grasspoint when visiting his cousins, including Pat Guthrie, who lived at Torosay Castle a few miles up the road. And, it was remote enough to satisfy his need to contemplate and ponder things.

The “inn” had been an inn for cattle drovers who would wait there for boats to carry them and their cattle to Oban on the mainland, across the Firth of Lorn. The “inn” was a three story ten room building, with two roofless side wings and a roofless cattle barn beside it. Lionel offered to rent this inn, to the



Lionel Leslie's house at Grass Point (top), a seal sculpture at Grass Point (right)



The dock at Grass Point

astonishment of the owner. The inn hadn't been occupied for over forty years. The owner offered to rent it to Lionel and Barbara for fifty years at a rate of two pounds ten shillings per year. The inn was already occupied by a cow and some chickens that would have to be evicted. There was no running water, no plumbing, no windows and no electricity. The spring was three hundred yards away. But the view was beautiful, and the ocean lapped the rocky shore just twenty yards away. And facing less than ten miles away across the Firth of Lorn was the island of Lismore, on which is the ruins of the Episcopal Palace of John Leslie, Bishop of the Isles. It was this John Leslie, also known as the “Fighting Bishop”, who established the Leslie family in Glaslough, Ireland

Lionel was able to locate some local assistance, starting with removing forty years of debris. I can only assume that Lionel's

years of living as a starving artist in rustic accommodations had prepared him for this situation. But bringing a two-year old child presented some additional problems. His work as a laborer in London had prepared him to mix his own cement. Floors and doors were repaired, and in the meantime they cooked on an oil stove. They were able to get rabbits, eggs, chickens, fish and vegetables locally, which were still rationed in England. Lionel sent the measurements for new windows with frames to a carpenter “down south” who was able to obtain the needed wood from bombed out buildings, and hence not “subject to control.” Rationing of food and building materials continued for some time in the UK after the end of World War II. By the end of summer, they finally had windows fitted.

Lionel wanted to add a new window by making an opening in the outside wall of the house, only to discover that the walls were four feet thick, and it was a major project. To get supplies, they had to travel to Craignure. But they had no automobile, only a bicycle and a row boat. Sometimes Lionel would row to the head of Loch Don, or ride his bicycle and hang bags from the handle bars. They eventually purchased a donkey and cart. This donkey and cart became a useful addition in bringing water to the house from the spring three hundred yards away.

After their first winter at Grasspoint on one of their trips to Craignure, they notice an old car for sale, a 1938 Hillman. The owner assured them that it was “in perfect running order” the last time he used it. Lionel bought the car, but extensive repairs were needed. Barbara discovered that huge stocks

of army surplus machine gun belting were available. She acquired a considerable quantity and platted it to make bath mats, shopping bags and eventually carpets to fit each room. Her mother used the sacks that the machine gun belting came in to make curtains. There seems to be no end to their resourcefulness.

At this time, there was still no road from the main road (now A849) from Craignure to Grasspoint. There was just a single track. But in 1966, there was a National Seamen's Strike and daily steamer service from Oban to Craignure ceased. Because Grasspoint had the only other jetty, Grasspoint became the only way left for travelers to hire a boat to travel to and from the mainland. This included the mail. As a result, a road about three miles long, was built between A849 and Grasspoint.

The barn had been refitted as a studio for Lionel, and in the summer it was set up as a public art gallery. For sale were pictures painted by local artists and handcrafts by Barbara. Barbara also commenced serving teas and coffee in the barn, which was now an art gallery, studio and tea room.

Today, the Drovers' Inn still stands at Grasspoint. Now named "The Ferry House," there are new owners. The house is still white with blue trimmed doors. The barn/studio/art gallery/tea room is still next to the house, but was undergoing renovation

when we visited there in 2012. Between the house and the shore is the remains of a seal that Lionel had sculpted from concrete. It had been a very life-like seal and fooled many visitors. On the side of the house is a sculpture (relief) of a highlander. The "road" to Grasspoint has fallen into disrepair. It is a single track, unpaved road, with grass growing up between the tire tracks. Highland cows roam along this road. An attractive arched rock bridge is the only reminder that this was once a real road. However, it is still drivable in dry weather. To visit Grasspoint, take A849 south of Craignure about three miles, and there is a small sign on the left side (east) of the road reading "Grasspoint." Don't worry about the cows, but do drive slowly about three miles. I suggest that you do not leave the roadway, and much of the area is bog on either side this road. The present owners are unknown but the property is available for rent on a weekly basis. If you are interested, just Google "Old Ferry House Mull". If you plan to visit Grasspoint, I would recommend you purchase the Ordnance Survey Explorer Map No. 375 (Isle of Mull East- Craignure).

The Drovers' Inn was privately published by Lionel and printed by Caithness Books, Thurso, Caithness. It is undated, but I would estimate that it was written about 1976. It sold for 60 pence. Used copies are still available from Abebooks on the Internet.

David Leslie White



Highland Coos



A decoration on the house at Grass Point (left) and a bridge near Grass Point (below)



Lionel Leslie Obituary

This is the last of my series of articles on Lionel Leslie. I've wanted to do a series on at least one notable Leslie, and I eventually selected Lionel. He was not the most prolific writer, and certainly not a general in the army. However, he was noted for being his own individual, somewhat quirky, creative, less well-known than others, and perhaps more importantly I could obtain materials by and about him. It was a pleasure to do the research.

David

Lionel Alistair David Leslie died January 17, 1987 at the age of 86. His wife, Barbara Yvonne (nee Enever) Leslie died shortly after that on August 3, 1987. He was survived by their daughter Leonie Deirdre Elise Leslie, who married Luiz Gabriel Prado Monteiro De Barros. His wife's daughter by a previous marriage, Delphi Enever, attended a prep school in Slough, Berkshire, and later became an actress using the stage name of Delphi Lawrence. She appeared in over 25 moves, and played the lead role in several, almost exclusively "B" films. She also played in a Broadway production of *The Constant Wife*. Delphi died in Northport, New York April 11, 2002. The obituary for Lionel that follows is transcribed from an unknown newspaper, probably a London newspaper

"LIONEL Leslie, who has died aged 86, was a highly individualistic sculptor, writer and explorer.

A member of the literary Leslie family from Co. Monaghan, he was the youngest brother of the writer Sir Shane Leslie, third Bt. [Baronet] and the last surviving first cousin of Sir Winston Churchill (they both descended from the same flamboyant American grandfather Leonard Jerome).

Lionel Alistair David Leslie learned to ride and shoot in the idyllic surroundings of Glaslough, the family seat, but his wild, uproarious spirit made him unsuited to Edwardian drawing rooms and to Eton where he went to school. However, he found success at Sandhurst where he was boxing champion.

He was commissioned in the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders and served four years in India. He spent his leave traveling in remotest China, Tibet, India and Burma.

STUDIED IN PARIS

The urge to wander further afield became too strong so he resigned his commission and travelled alone among the Masai tribesmen, living from what he could shoot and later joined an exploratory expedition to Labrador led by Gino Waskins. These experiences were described in "Wilderness Trails in Three Continents" (1931).

On a trip to Morocco, where an attack of malaria stopped his joining the Foreign Legion, Leslie discovered during the convalescence he could model clay. He studied sculpture in Paris under Despiau and exhibited at the Paris Salon.

HethenreturnedtoLondon,becameanassistanttoFrankDobson and in 1936 had his first show at the Leicester Gallery. Duveen [referring to Joseph Dunveen, 1st. Ba on Dunveen, and a prominent art dealer] bought for the Tate Gallery, and he was commissioned to do reliefs for the interior of the new liner, the Queen Mary.

Leslie's style was influenced by his travels and interests. He did very simple, strong stylized carvings of animals, pugilists, Africans and Red Indians. He was very proud of his Iroquois blood and his difficult character was imbued by a similar love of nature and simplicity.

In 1939 he rejoined his old regiment and served in France and Egypt, but he found his true métier in Italy organizing Yugoslav partisans behind the lines, for which he was mentioned in the dispatches. He later discovered that his great success with the Partisans was due to his use of a Serbo-Croat oath which he had been told was a polite form of welcome.

On demobilization, he signed on at a labour exchange and told them he could do anything in stone. The next morning he found himself working on the roads as a navy [common labor].

When invited to lunch by his cousin, Winston Churchill, he found it hard to give the real reason for his day's absence but, in the event, Winston was most amused to hear what Lionel's workmates were talking and thinking about.

THE SIMPLE LIFE

In 1942 Leslie had married Barbara Enever and from 1949 onwards they restored a derlict drover's inn on the Isle of Mull. Early exponents of the simple life, they dug peat, fished for mackerel and collected drinking water by donkey cart. The carpets were made from machine gun belting and the curtains from hessian sacks completely covered in woolen embroidery.

Despite the lack of electricity and telephone, a warm hospitable home was established where he continued to sculpt and write. For many years thousands of tourists visited his home in the summer to see his sculptures.

In 1961 he published his memoirs, "One Man's World", which are full of amusing anecdotes concerning the sometimes grotesquely comic incidents of his life.

Leslie had a wide circle of friends, especially among the young, and he was an inspired raconteur in the Irish manner. He investigated the Loch Ness phenomenon and always shared his brother Shane's fascination in the paranormal.

Towards the end of his life, encroaching blindness dimmed somewhat his joie de vivre and he never adjusted to enforced inactivity.

He is survived by his wife and daughter."

David Leslie White

Clan Leslie Items for Sale

Clan Leslie Mouse Pads

Add a pop of color and Leslie pride to your office! We are pleased to offer these Leslie mouse pads featuring the beautiful Dress Leslie tartan and our clan crest. These high quality mouse pads are only \$18, so you can Grip Fast while doing your work, surfing the web (or reading the *Grip Fast Online*).



Griffin Reprints (see details next page)



Clan Leslie Items From the Quartermaster, Peter M. Leslie

Clan Leslie items for sale are listed on our clan website, 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 autographed 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 origin 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 Convenors/Tent Hosts who host a CLSI tent.

Peter M. Leslie

How to Order

To order any of these very special Leslie items, contact Linda Flowers, lflowjingo@sbcglobal.net, 405-381-3577.

We accept the following forms of payment:

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Money Orders

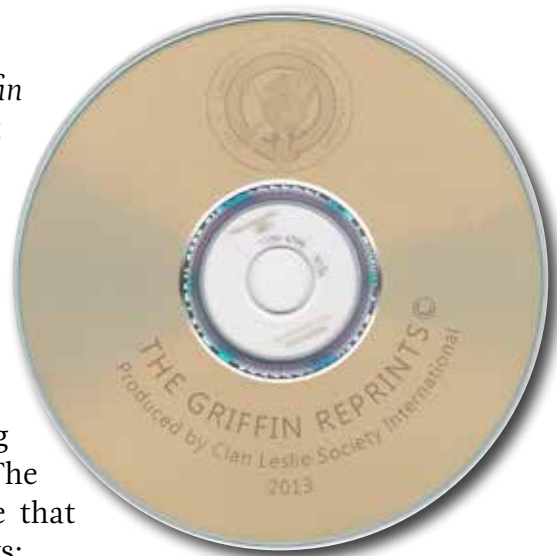
PayPal to the email address lflowers1954@yahoo.com

Credit Cards: Visa, MasterCard, and Discover.

If paying by credit card, please include the card type, card number, name on card, expiration date, and 3 digit security code.

GRIFFIN REPRINTS AVAILABLE

Some of you will remember the four volumes of *The Griffin Reprints* that were published by The Clan Leslie Charitable Trust many years ago. These four volumes contained the best articles from the 17 volumes of *The Griffin*, the historical journal of the Clan Leslie Society, and had been reedited by The Right Honourable Ian Leslie, 21st. Earl of Rothes and Alexander Leslie Klieforth. These reprints were sold by the Clan Leslie Society to the membership for about \$17 each, and they sold out quickly. We have had these four volumes professionally scanned and recorded on a CD. I am exceedingly pleased that we can offer this CD of our history for \$30. The articles are excellent and contain information about Clan Leslie that is not available anywhere else. The index to the contents is as follows:



No. 1:

The Clan Society, Some Leslie History and Heraldry

History:

Introduction
The Clan Leslie Society Badge
Purposes of the Society
The Genesis and Founding of the Society
Chief of the Clan Leslie
Commissioner for the United States
The Founding of Clan Leslie
A Brief History
Bartholomew, Hungarian or Flemish?
St. Margaret of Scotland – A Book Review
The Mystery of Sir David Leslie
Leslies and the Jacobite Rising
Decline of the Family
Military Tradition

Heraldry:

A Brief History of Heraldry
The Language of Heraldry
Arms and the Blazon
Heraldry: Types of Leslie Arms
A Leslie Hatchment
Heraldry: Scottish Flags
The Scottish Clans
Cornets and Helmets
The Leslie Plant Badge

No. 2:

Some Leslie Places and Family Branches

Introduction:

Purposes of the Society
Map of Leslie Lands
The Restoration of Leslie Castle, Aberdeenshire
Balquhain Castle and Fetternear House
The Leslie Chapel at Fetternear
The Chapel of the Garioch
Pitcaple
The Battle of Harlaw
Ballinbreich
Balgonie Castle
The Old Church at Leslie in Fife
Leslie House, Fife
“The Auld Toon O’ Leslie”
Industry in Leslie
Glenrothes “New Town”
Suddie House, Ross-shire
Leslies in Ireland
The Leslies of Castle Leslie, Co. Monaghan
Leslie Hill Demesne
Leslies in Australia
Name of Choice in the U.S.A.
Leslies in the Argentine
Leslie Castles and Churches in Austria
Some Canadian Lesslies
Some Leslies in Norway
Leslies in Poland

No. 3:

A Leslie Miscellany

Introduction:

A Leslie Shield
Purposes of the Society
Branches of the Leslie Family
Leslies of that Ilk
Leslies: The Kininvie Branch
Leslies: The Wardis Branch
The Leslie Septs
Clan Leslie Septs: Abernethy
Clan Leslie Septs: Lang/Laing
Clan Leslie Septs: More
Clan Badges
The Leslie Tartan
The Leslie House Dance
The Griffin: The Leslie Heraldic Animal
The Clan Leslie Charitable Trust
The National Covenant, 1638
The King’s Own Scottish Borderers
The Royal Canadian Horse Artillery
Brig. Gen. E.M.D. Leslie, DSO, CD
A Leslie Curiosity
John Leslie and Silversmiths of Aberdeen
Lord Harold Birsay
Count Alexander Leslie de Lavallle Vergennes
Charles Alexander Leslie, Painter

No. 4:

The Diaspora America

Leslie’s Retreat
Leslies and the American War for Independence
The Burial of Capt: Leslie Panton, Leslie & Co.
Early Virginia Leslies
The Saga of the Leslie Family
An Early Branch in Pennsylvania
The Arkansas Leslies
The 1850 U.S. Census
A Leslie Family in Oklahoma Territory
American Descendants of an Aberdeenshire Leslie
The Wild West in Florida – Emory Leroy Lesley
How Many Leslies in the U.S.A.?

A Collection of Notable Leslies:

A Leslie in Space – Dr. Fred W. Leslie
Escape and Evasion – Lt. Dale M. Leslie
Admiral Maxwell F. Leslie
Admiral Murphy, 1899-1981
Peter Lesley – Geologist
The Saga of Buckskin Frank Leslie
John Lesley and the “Sultana”
Leroy G. Lesley
Eliza Leslie

To order the CD of *The Griffin Reprints*, please send a check drawn on a US bank, International Postal Money Order, or by Visa, MasterCard, or Discovery to Linda Flowers, CLSI Treasurer, 302 SW 3rd, Tuttle, OK 73089 USA or contact her by email at lflowjingo@sbcglobal.com. If you pay by credit card, she needs the type of card (Visa, etc.) name as it appears on the card, card number, expiration date, and the 3 digit CVS

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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:

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