

Grip Fast Journal



The Newsletter of Clan Leslie Society International

September 2016



In This Issue:

Scottish Weaponry!

Parts 1 & 2 of a
fascinating 4-part series.
(Pages 3 & 4)

The Clan
Leslie Collection
(Page 14)

The Honourable Alexander Leslie, Chief of Clan Leslie



This is the last article I will write before we meet in Fergus. The Gathering is now very close, and we are getting very excited.

Although it will, without doubt, be enormous fun, the schedule is beginning to look quite daunting (in a good way).

Apart from the trip to see Niagara Falls, something that I have wanted to do for as long as I remember, there are a huge number of events. The Festival itself is, apparently, really big and we will be firmly in the spotlight as the Honoured Clan. One of the highlights will definitely be the banquet on Saturday evening, where Miranda and I are quite

positive that there will be a dram or two shared with friends old and new.

One slightly late entry in the calendar is that I am speaking at the lecture series on both Saturday and Sunday. My theme is 'The blood runs strong – Clans and the Foundation of Diaspora – the Global Scottish Human Experience'. At this point I am quite interested in hearing what I have to say. This is code for 'I haven't worked out what I am going to say' but it looks as if I need to cover about 1,000 years of history in 40 minutes or so. So, either I am going to have to speak really, really fast, or choose carefully what I say. The good news is that Diana Gabaldon is speaking right after me, so there will be something to look forward to!

We will see you (we hope) in Fergus in a matter of weeks and by then I might even know what I am going to say!

We can't wait.

Alex Leslie
Chief of the Clan

A Note from the Co-Editor of the Grip Fast Journal:

I must apologize profusely for the delay in getting this issue out. I've had an extremely busy past few months but once I get past September, things should even out a bit. As I write this, I am working on the next issue with all of the gathering details. As you can see, this issue should have made it to everyone *before* the gathering. I will get the gathering issue out as quickly as possible and will hopefully be caught up.

Regards,
Laura Messing

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ABOUT THE COVER

CLSI Member Jordan Hinkley is our Mountain Region convenor and resident Scottish Weaponry expert. See pages 3-4.



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A Warm Welcome in Scotland

This February, I took my Acton, Ontario, Curling Club ladies curling team to Scotland for a week-long bonspiel.

It was the 50th anniversary of the Highland Week of International Curling in Inverness - in the Highlands of Scotland. Six countries were represented this year - Scotland, England, USA, Canada, Switzerland and Sweden. There were 46 teams this year for their 50th celebration. Hamish has been welcoming curlers to this bonspiel since 1967.

Originally, the curling took place in Aviemore, a short distance away in the Cairngorm National Park. When the Aviemore rink closed, the spiel was moved in to Inverness in 2000. It is held in the Inverness Ice Centre which is used for hockey on the weekends and 4 or 5 local curling clubs curl there from Monday to Friday.

As part of the bonspiel we had a bus tour to the Glenfarclas Distillery (a bonspiel sponsor for many years) and also stopped at Aviemore at the historic Cairngorm Hotel for a lovely lunch. Accommodation for the bonspiel is at the beautiful Kingsmill Hotel in Inverness. Bus service is provided hourly to and from the Ice Centre. Banquets are held each night of the week with live bands providing dancing music until the wee hours. Bagpipes were prevalent throughout the week, including the opening ceremonies, address of the Haggis and the closing ceremonies. Everything was done with pomp and ceremony and kilts!!

The curling was fun, too!! Most of the teams we played had already won the trophy at least once. Everyone was very gracious and polite. We thoroughly enjoyed our week. We also toured Glasgow for a few days before the curling started. We walked for miles and enjoyed the Glasgow Cathedral, the Necropolis and the kilt shops in Glasgow! It is a more modern city compared to Edinburgh, but we felt it was very old when we were there (as we had not seen Edinburgh, yet!!). Scotrail train service was excellent

as we made our way to Inverness and then to Edinburgh after the curling was finished.

Edinburgh in such a historic city - cobbled streets and incredible buildings that really make you wonder how they built them all so long ago. So many different types of architecture from many areas of the world whose influence came to Edinburgh. We were quite thrilled to hear a concert in St. Giles Cathedral from the Edinburgh Academy students. They were wonderful talented young people. We toured the Edinburgh Castle and our mouths were gaping at the size and detail of it.

Our highlight of our visit to Edinburgh was having the opportunity to meet our Clan Chief, Alex Leslie. He very kindly agreed to meet with us and we enjoyed a lunch in Chez Jules. We enjoyed easy conversation with him about his life and job in Edinburgh and our lives in Canada. We certainly look forward to meeting him again in August as well as his wife, Miranda, when they come to Canada for the Fergus Scottish Festival. They also are looking forward to their visit. They are especially anxious to see Niagara Falls as well as the Fergus Scottish Festival, such an important Canadian event.

The weather in Scotland was spring-like with flowers blooming and no need to wear a coat most of the time. It was very pleasant and surprising, compared to our usual Canadian winter weather in February. I enjoyed each area of Scotland that we visited and certainly was so pleased to meet with Chief Alex Leslie.

With warm regards,
Margaret Aitken,
Acton, Ontario Canada.



Margaret and Chief Alex



Weapons of the Highlands and Their Uses Part 1: Introduction

The Sgian-dubh, the Dirk, the Targe, the broadsword, the Claidheamh mor. Few things are as much a part of our shared heritage as the weapons of Scotland. They exist in legend but live today through our continued use and wear of them in formal and informal parts of our dress as Scots. But where did these weapons come from, how was each used, where is the line between the myths of the weapons and the truth, and how can we use that knowledge to better explain why and how we wear them?

In this multiple part series, we will explore the history, and some basics of how these weapons were used in their context, and how we are learning about and training with them today. This series will focus on edged weapons and the Targe, but herein it is my hope to communicate to the diaspora of Scots in Utah the history and basic use of the weapons we use and often wear at festivals and events. This is not intended to be a full training, where everything is explained and taught. I would never consider such a task to be easily accomplished, nor to fully explain all of the subtleties of each in their full expression. This is primarily a taster, something to explain the history in brief, set aside the myths of 25 pound swords, in an attempt to better explain the basics as they are known today in the Historical European Martial Arts Community.

So who am I to explain this? I have been training in the Historical European Martial Arts for over a decade. Though my primary focus has been on the practice of Italian Long Sword of the 15th and 16th centuries, in the last few years I have expanded my knowledge to include the weapons of Scotland as my interest in it has grown. I welcome questions and comments and am always willing to discuss these with interested parties at length about these weapons and how they are used.

Weapons of the Highlands and Their Uses part 2: The Sgian-dubh



Of all of the weapons that we will discuss in this series, nothing is seen more with our idea of traditional Scottish dress than the Sgian-Dubh. Its name literally translated is Black knife, or possibly hidden knife. It comes from an earlier weapon called the sgian-achlais which was worn near the cuff of the sleeve, or hidden in a pocket under the arm, thus where it received this name.

The Sgain-dubh was not a primary weapon, and although it is bladed, would be used primarily for self-defense were the need to arise. As a smaller weapon than the others in which we will look at here, if used for self-defense, it would be used more in very close quarters, when things like broadswords were either removed upon entering a room, or when the use of larger weapons would not be practical due to space constraints of a room.

It is likely that the Sgian came from knives that were used for skinning hunted prey but could also be used as a day to day knife for cutting food, or in instances where a good knife was handy to have around. Historically it was not uncommon that when entering a building you may be asked to remove weapons that were on your person. This knife, then would be either moved to ones sock making it visible or could remain hidden if one did not want to reveal to the other people you were meeting or being in contact with that you had this weapon on your person, "just in case".

With a leaf shaped blade that may or may not have been sharpened on both sides it is decent for cutting with the true or full edge, and great for thrusting as both sides work together to cut. This was not a battlefield weapon that one hoped to protect oneself with

rather it was the weapon that was used if you needed to; very much a weapon for close encounters.

Why do we wear it?

The wearing of this knife is a nod back to a time when the use of the weapon was used everyday, and could mean the difference between protecting yourself and death. Today, a majority of Sgian-Dubh's on the market are not sharpened, are made of metals which though pretty do not keep a good edge, or in some places where the wearing of knives in public is illegal, they are sometimes sold as a hilt attached to a sheath with no blade at all. If traveling with one of these it is best to place it in your checked luggage as they are not allowed on flights due to the length of the blade. Most recently, there was a rule made for the 2014 reenactment of the battle of Bannockburn that they would not be allowed, but in August of 2013



due to a large public outcry it was deemed acceptable as long as it was being worn with traditional dress at this gathering.

Historically the Sgian-Dubh was a tool, the same way that someone may carry a pocket knife now, it is a nod to our history when this tool could mean the difference between protecting yourself and being killed as you are sitting down to dinner. Though the blade is short, if used properly it is much better than nothing. It is a nod to the tool which our ancestors would have used daily, and one we can still use today.

Jordan Hinckley

Utah Scottish Association Board member

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Parts 3 & 4 of Weapons of the Highlands and Their Uses will be in the next issue of the Grip Fast Journal



Texas Scottish Festival & Highland Games

Convenor's report for the Texas Scottish Festival & Highland Games, held May 13 and 14, 2016 at UT Arlington Stadium. The weather was nice on Friday and Lynne carried the Leslie Banner during the Calling of the Clans, held about 8 PM. Frank carried the Wallace banner as he is also a Wallace. Saturday started with an early morning shower that quit about 8 AM. The morning was cool and cloudy but the sun came out and made the rest of the day a nice one. In the picture, from left to right, are Frank, Lynne, and David Leslie White, past CLSI Chieftain. The picture also showcases Carol M. Lucas' cloth banner that she made and donated to CLSI. Carol is a member of CSLI. She joined after the November 2015 Salado Gathering. It is parade ready with a slot for a rod at the top and finger loops midpoint along each side. We plan to bring it to Fergus in August. A rod or 1 inch (5cm) diameter 6 foot (1.9M) length of PVC will be needed there in order to display and parade the banner.



We left Saturday evening due to another commitment on Sunday, May 15.

Yours Aye,

Frank & Lynne Leslie

CLSI Convenors

Midland, Texas Scottish-Irish Faire

Clan Leslie again was present at the Midland, TX Scottish-Irish Faire, held on March 12 & 13, 2016, in the Midland Horseshoe Arena complex. This is primarily an indoor venue with Celtic music and entertainment going on both days. In addition, the Scottish Heavy Athletics were conducted outside for the second time during the Faire. The weather was nice and sunny both days.

Two people signed in on the visitors log and Anthony Lesley received a CLSI membership application and learned about the various spellings of Leslie. Joe Alexander, a longtime CLSI member, stated that he has been having email problems and has sent in dues payment.



Lynne & Frank Leslie

Amy Leslie

Amy Leslie (October 11, 1855 – July 3, 1939) was an American actress, opera singer, and drama critic who was the first wife of Frank Buck.

She was born as Lillian West in West Burlington, Iowa. She studied at the Conservatory of Vocal Music, St Mary's Academy, Notre Dame, Indiana, graduating in 1874. After more study in Europe and at the Chicago Conservatory of Music, as Lillie West she became a singer in operettas.

In 1890, she began contributing to The Chicago Daily News, signing her stories as Amy Leslie, and became drama critic for the paper. She was one of the few women drama critics of her time, the only one in Chicago, and came to know and write of the stars of the day. Amy Leslie retired in 1930.

While playing Fiametta in La Mascotte she was married to Harry Brown, an opera singer, who abandoned her. Their son, Francis Albert, died of diphtheria in 1889. After obtaining a divorce from Harry Brown, Leslie was the mistress of Stephen Crane and lived with him in New York in a house at 121 West 27th Street. In 1901, the 46-year-old Amy Leslie was married to 17-year-old Frank Buck, who was at the time a captain of bellboys at the Virginia Hotel in Chicago, where she was living. Buck described her as "a small woman, plump, with keenly intelligent eyes, the most beautifully white teeth I have ever seen and a red, laughing mouth," adding that she was "always good-natured." In 1913 Amy Leslie and Frank Buck divorced.

To digress for a moment, note that Lillian West (pen name "Amy Leslie") at the age of 46 married a 17-year-old captain of the bellboys named Frank Buck, a man 29 years her junior. Does the name "Frank Buck" prod your memory? Frank Howard Buck was born in Gainesville, Texas in 1884. He apparently commenced making trips abroad in 1911 when he won \$3,500 in a poker game. He went to Brazil and brought back exotic birds to New York, and was surprised at the profits he was able to obtain from their sale. He then took trips to Asia and Africa bringing back live specimens for zoos and circuses. He co-authored several books, beginning with the 1930's Bring 'Em Back Alive which became a best seller. He was often known as "Bring 'Em Back Alive Buck." Later and for a brief period of time he was the director of the San Diego Zoo. He toured with the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. The Frank Buck Zoo in his hometown of Gainesville, Texas, is named after him. He died in Houston, Texas in 1950.

Suffering from diffuse arteriosclerosis and a brain tumor, Amy Leslie died in her home in Chicago's Parkway Hotel in 1939. Her remains were cremated.



Support Our Convenors

The Highland games and Scottish festival season has begun. The CLSI is always actively engaged in recruiting new members, educating young and old alike about our Society, about Scottish history and the contributions of Scots to the modern world. Our Convenors are the face of our Society. They are the ones who meet and greet the public, and are the unsung heroes of the CLSI. They pack their vehicles the night before the event, rise from a warm bed at "zero-dark-thirty," drive to the event, put up the tent, arrange the display of materials, put out refreshments (purchased at their own expense) for the visitors, and spend one or two whole days hosting the tent. They march in the parade of clans, and some also volunteer to assist with the event itself. Sometimes the weather is great, while other times there is rain, mud, hail, high winds, cold or enervating heat. Finally, when the visitors have all left, the Convenors pack up their materials, fold the tent, load up their vehicle one again, and drive home. There they unpack, fall into bed and rise the next morning in time to go to their real job.

We owe our Convenors so much! Sometimes, in spite of their best efforts, no CLSI members even show up to visit the tent. That is most discouraging. So please, when there is going to be a Scottish festival in your area and one of our Convenors is hosting a CLSI tent, make the effort to attend, and offer to assist in the tent for a few hours. The Convenors would like some time to watch the athletics, visit the vendors, grab a bit to eat, or to listen to some of the entertainers. Suggest you bring your own folding chairs and some refreshments. I assure you, you will be a welcome guest.

David Leslie White

DECLARATION OF ARBROATH AND TARTAN DAY APRIL 6

The Scottish “Declaration of Independence” from England or more accurately the Declaration of Arbroath was signed on April 6, 1320. It is a plea to the Pope to use his power and influence to convince the king of England to stop his attacks on Scotland.

“May it please you to admonish and exhort the King of the English, who ought to be satisfied with what belongs to him since England once used to be enough for seven kings or more, to leave us Scots in peace, who live in this poor little Scotland, beyond which there is no dwelling place at all, and covet nothing but our own.”

And in this document are those powerful phrases that still resound today: “For, as long as but a hundred of us remain alive, never will be on any condition be brought under English rule. It is in truth not for glory, nor riches, nor honours that we are fighting, but for freedom – for that alone, which no honest man gives up but with life itself.

Note that in recognition of this historic document that both the United States and Canada have established April 6 as Tartan Day. Among the lords, barons and other prominent Scots who signed the Declaration of Arbroath were Sir Andrew Leslie and William Abernethy. Let each of us on April 6 wear a bit of Leslie tartan, and if it pleases you, raise a wee dram of whisky in honor of the day.

David Leslie White

Leslie Salt

George Alexander Hamilton Leslie (great uncle Alex) came to San Francisco (from Boston, from Edinburgh) in the late 1890s to modernize the salt production in San Francisco Bay. This was when the smaller producers were being consolidated. Great Uncle Alex was a trained hydrologist from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. There were very few men of his training in the US at that time.

The money behind the consolidation was from the Whitney family of NY (Whitney Museum people). Their daughter was named Leslie. It became Leslie Salt because of great uncle Alex, the engineer, and the Whitney’s daughter’s in-common name of Leslie.

After this modernization project (where Leslie table salt was a round red background box with large white lettering) he became associated with the Crystal Springs Water Company that supplied water to San Francisco, from the Crystal Springs lakes on the San Mateo peninsula. With San Francisco expanding and the peninsula gaining population the Crystal Springs Water Company, whose investors and board of directors were fellow Scots hired great uncle Alex to design a system to bring water to San Francisco from the Yosemite Valley area. He designed the system of storage, hydro power, and most importantly a pipeline that supplied water to San Francisco without pumps! Not an easy requirement but pumps were a huge, expensive, and not reliable component back at the beginning of the 20th century.

The system has become known as the Hetch Hetchy Water System. Great uncle Alex being the design/consulting engineer, Michael O’Shaughnessy was the builder and city engineer. They became great friends, fellow immigrant Celts, Alex from Scotland, Michael from Ireland. Alex died in 1928 six years before the Hetch Hetchy system was finished. A professor from UC Berkeley tried to take credit for great uncle Alex’s work. O’Shaughnessy on the way to the East Bay to inspect some work down by Fremont (the Irvington tunnel I believe) stopped at UC Berkeley with two of his foremen (think muscular giants) to see the professor, to confront him. O’Shaughnessy, after a strong lecture, had the professor read and sign a document that he had nothing to do with the work that he was trying to claim, that the work was the effort of George Alexander Hamilton Leslie, and there was some addition in the document that would impose damages on the professor and his employer(s) if such statements were ever to come to light again. For good measure O’Shaughnessy punched the professor out, left and went down to inspect the ongoing construction in Fremont. Michael O’Shaughnessy died in 1934 at age 70 just weeks before Hetch Hetchy delivered its first water to San Francisco.

Read more at <http://www.cargill.com/salt/about/san-francisco-bay-salt/sustainable-salt-making/slideshow/index.jsp>

Stephen Leslie

Chaplain's Corner

Samantha Gray, Chaplain, CLSI

Myth, Magic and Gardens.



Ast-samhrad beannachdan gu mo Chinneadh!! Blessings of summer to my Clan! In this issue of Grip Fast we will look at the myth and magic and of plants blooming now, common to both Scotland and North America. A number of these plants (such as roses) will be found cultivated and growing wild on other continents as well, so

CLSI members may include in their gardens, if they are so inclined and no matter where they live, plants that our distant ancestors grew in theirs. Since we have mentioned it already, let us begin with the rose. It has been cultivated for over 5,000 years and is used in medicine, food, and even in politics! In ancient Rome, when a “star chamber” met and absolute secrecy was needed for the proceedings, a rose - symbol of peace and trust - was hung from the ceiling of the meeting place. Our modern phrase “sub-rosa” (literally ‘under the rose’ or ‘confidentially’) derives from that old custom. Rose honey was a popular dish in medieval times, and is still used as a luxury garnish today. It is made by clipping the white tips off several cups of rose petals to avoid bitterness and boiling them gently with a jar of honey for 5 or 10 minutes. Cooled, strained, and returned to the jar, the honey will carry the taste of roses. Roses were also pounded into poultices and placed on bruises to speed healing. Rose hips, very high in Vitamin C, were used to avoid Scurvy, although our ancestors had no idea of why this worked. Rose petals are still used in modern times to make rose beads, which will give off a lovely scent when dried, strung and worn. There are many simple recipes available that may be googled. Roses were extremely popular in Christian countries, beginning in early medieval times, because of their association with Jesus. The five petals of the dog (or common) rose represented His five wounds, while the red rose stood for His passion and blood. St. Mary’s purity was often depicted by the white rose in addition to her familiar white lily. These representations occur frequently in tapestries and other art. Various rose symbols may be seen as carvings and rose windows throughout Europe in the great cathedrals and at Templar and known Cathar sites.

Rue, the badge of Clan Leslie, is known as the Herb of Grace. Our ancestors named it among their slan-lus” or healing plants. Rue has grey-green leaves and yellow flowers which form interesting brown seed pods when mature and dried. The leaf of rue served as a model, according to several sources, for the Clubs suit in our playing cards. Rue was known as a pesticide; our ancestors washed their hair with water in which rue had been boiled to rid themselves of lice. Rue was hung in pantries to drive out flour moths, and was included with other “bedstraws” in mattresses to repel vermin. It was used as a flavouring for cheeses, and was dried, powdered and sprinkled on floors and across thresholds to drive away pests. As Herb of Grace, it was grown in gardens and by front doors for the blessings it would bring, and encouraged to be grown by the Church to remind people that frequent confession and repentance would bring Grace as well. If you decide to grow rue, be aware that some people react to its sap as others do to poison ivy. If you have not cultivated rue before and are not sure how you will react, best to wear gloves when you work around this lovely and special “Leslie” plant.

Honeysuckle is a familiar plant that was used by our ancestors to mark celebrations and especially the arrival of the Summer Solstice. Doorways were draped with honeysuckle vines entwined with rose, and ivy, and tussie-mussies - tiny bouquets people used to hold to their noses to blunt the stench of medieval gutters - contained honeysuckle for its lovely perfume. Modern honeysuckles, bred not to be invasive, are often planted to encourage hummingbirds to visit. And who does not remember the childhood summer pastime of sucking out the sweet nectar from the blossom ends? Honeysuckle was associated with fairy food, and mentioned many times by Shakespeare in association with magic. Because of this, ancient farmers were reluctant to cut the vines before the blooming was done for fear of angering the Wee Folk who might depend upon it for sustenance.

The “Yarb” doctors of Europe or “Root” doctors of the new world used many “nuisance” plants including dandelion as medicine. Dandelion, sometimes called “St. Bridget’s Gold” in Celtic countries, has a very high vitamin C content which prevented Scurvy (severe lack of Vitamin C) and helped heal bruising and loose teeth, both symptoms of “C” deficiency. The roots could be dried and ground as a coffee substitute and the leaves used as an early spring tonic, while the flowers themselves made a delicate

and delicious wine. The plant was originally named in French “Dent de lion”: ‘teeth of the lion’, for its jagged leaf edges. The lion symbolized courage and fortitude, attributes of Jesus and the Apostles, which helped to gain popular appreciation for an otherwise pretty but highly invasive weed.

Another flower associated with courage was the Borage; it attracted bees, and the sky blue, star-shaped flowers were associated with the mantle of the Virgin Mary. Borage leaves eaten while tiny taste similar to cucumbers and are a good source of several vitamins which was much needed during times of famine or the hardscrabble agriculture many faced hundreds of years ago in Scotland and in the early days of settlement in Canada and the USA. Leaves are also used to flavour wine and Pimms Cup. Today the flowers support the world’s struggling bee colonies, and are pretty frozen in ice cubes for summer punch bowls.

Bees also love thistles. The legend tells us that during Scotland’s far past, an invading Norse army attempted to sneak up on a company of sleeping Scottish soldiers. The Norsemen - in their eagerness for complete stealth - had removed their shoes,

and as they crept forward to attack one of their men stepped on a thistle and cried out in pain. This alerted the Scots in time for them to defend themselves and defeat the enemy. Thus the thistle was chosen as the national flower. Thistle alkaloids, or plant chemicals, are used in the making of a number of medications to treat ulcers, cancers and cardiac illnesses. Thistle is also a particular favourite of goldfinches who flock to the plants or feeders to feast on the seeds.

Here’s a wish for many blessings and a delightful, safe, relaxing summer season for all our Leslie kith and kin.

Clan Tourism in Scotland

A great article on Clan Tourism in Scotland with mention of our Chief, Alexander Leslie. Read it at <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-business-35795287>

Lang May Yer Lum Reek

Lang May Yer Lum Reek means “Happy Birthday!”. Translated, it comes out to “Long May Your Chimney Smoke!” If that sounds a bit odd, it’s really a wish that the recipient of the congratulations will live for many years to tend his or her own hearth. It is your Chaplain’s privilege and pleasure to wish long life and much happiness to the following members of CLSI on their birthdays.

May

Linda Leslie McNamee – 5/2; Craig Cairney – 5/3; Vera Denny and Richard Leslie – 5/5; James Leslie - 5/6; Teresa Dutton – 5/12; Adam Flowers, McKenzie Flowers and Margaret Kelley – 5/16; Adam Leslie - 5/17; Peter Gray and Priscilla Rodriguez – 5/19; Orrin Gould – 5/20; Joe Cairney and James Arnaud – 5/23; Brenda Meyer – 5/25; William Leslie – 5/28; Susan Abernethy and Lillian Green – 5/30; Leah Leslie – 5/31.

June

Lori Hoopes – 6/1; Bart Moore – 6/2; Andrew K. Leslie and Dan Leslie – 6/4; Linda Jones – 6/7; Olivia Phillips – 6/10; Frances Greer – 6/11; Stephen Leslie and Timothy Pettigrew – 6/12; Jordan Hinckley – 6/14; William Leslie.-.6/15; Roy Abernathy, Gary Dabb and Elaine Wood – 6/16; Betty Biggs and Roy Bingham – 6/20; John Luedecke – 6/22; Jeanne Leslie and Leslie Seich – 6/24; Tait Goos – 6/25; Doris Lee and Douglas Wilcox – 6/28; Donald Leslie and Emily Leslie – 6/30.

July

Leslie Tuchman – 7/1; John Leslie – 7/2; Donald Abernathy – 7/4; Ginny Carlson, Walter Leslie and William Leslie – 7/7; George Alexander – 7/8; Arthur Leslie, Chester Maritz and Linda Schroder – 7/13; Kurt Regling – 7/16; Sarah Stegall – 7/17; Leslie Weaver – 7/18; Melanie Cave – 7/20; Pat Moreitta Leslie – 7/21; Gary Leslie – 7/23; Ruth Storrow – 7/25; Patrick Masson – 7/26; Emily Leslie Weaver – 7/27; Mary Leslie – 7/28; Nancy Bitterling and Robert Leslie – 7/31.

August

Stephen Lessley – 8/3; JoAnn Wilcox – 8/8; Margaret Brown, Harold Leslie, Rosemary Leslie, and Richard Lynch – 8/10; Dean Messing and Wayne Seich – 8/11; Robert Abernathy – 8/14; Betty Starr.-.8/15; Robert Abernathy – 8/22; Cindy Flora – 8/23; Margaret Hibbs and Anne Maret - 8/24; Irene Bush, David Olling – 8/25; John Leslie, Loren Leslie, Timothy Leslie and Leslie Short.

In Memorium

SIR JOHN JACK LESLIE

Born: 6 December, 1916. Died: 18 April, 2016, aged 99.

One of Ireland's last surviving Second World War veterans has died aged 99.

Sir John Leslie, a cousin of Winston Churchill and whose family seat was Castle Leslie in Co Monaghan, died at home with family at his side.

"The Leslie Family are sad to announce that Sir Jack Leslie passed away peacefully in his sleep this morning surrounded by his family," they said.

They described him as an active Knight of Malta, art connoisseur, water colourist, ecologist, disco-dancer and restorer of historic buildings.

Last November Sir Jack was awarded France's highest award for his role in the country's liberation. He toasted the Legion d'Honneur with a glass of champagne in the French embassy in Dublin and dedicated it to "all soldiers from the island of Ireland who fought and died between the two great wars".

Sir Jack became an international news sensation in 2002 as his castle hosted Sir Paul McCartney's wedding to Heather Mills. With the global media gathered at the gates of the estate near Glaslough he announced the superstar's nuptials were taking place behind the gates but that it was "a secret".

Known for his love of house music in his later years, he celebrated his 85th birthday in 2001 by travelling to Ibiza to party at Privilege, then the world's biggest nightclub. The family said this taste in music was "perhaps one of the most endearing of Uncle Jack's hobbies".

"Each week he would visit the local night club to dance to the 'boom boom' music. He quickly gained respect in the clubbing community to the extent there is a nightclub named after him in Clones, Co Monaghan," they said.

His family said he was blessed with an astonishing memory for people, places and events and he was interviewed many times and appeared in a number of documentaries.



Sir Jack enlisted in the Second Battalion of the Irish Guards in August 1937, at the age of 21. Three years later he was part of the British Expeditionary Force, landing in France in May 1940. Commanding a section that battled for two hours to defend Boulogne-sur-Mer against advancing Germans, he was captured and spent the next five years as a prisoner of war (POW). It was believed for a time that he had been killed in action. During his captivity, he risked his life to spirit out a postcard to his cousin Mr Churchill pleading for a POW exchange to allow some of his comrades in the camp who had taken ill to be freed. The missive hangs in the Imperial War Museum in London.

In 2009 he published his memoirs: *Never A Dull Moment*.

He will be buried in a private burial enclosure next to the estate church of St Salvator where he has already prepared his tombstone.

After being released from German captivity in 1945, he travelled the world before settling for some time in Rome, where he bought a 1,500-year-old monastery.

He became the 4th Baronet of Glaslough and Pettigo at Castle Leslie when his father died in 1971.

Articles Needed

In the first American Clan Leslie Society Journal, dated Autumn, 1978, the editor, Gloria F. Leslie Klieforth wrote the following:

"The first issue of the Journal is the first public cry of our infant Society. Its main purpose is to tell our members about our Society and about other members. It also serves to inform others what the ACLS is and what it is doing. But it is your publication. It will be as interesting as you help make it. Communicate. Your contributions are welcome and necessary. Write about your interests, what you know about the Leslies, share your knowledge of Scotland with us. Write! And send your contributions to the Editor."

That opening request is still valid today. The job of the publications editor is to EDIT, not to do the research and write the articles. That task is for the membership. Our publications "will be as interesting as your help makes it." So please, find something of interest to our Society, do a book review, or tell us about hosting a CLSI tent, or a trip to a location with connections to Scotland in general, or the Clan Leslie in particular.

David Leslie White

DAVID CHRISTIE LESLIE

May 23, 2016. Age 78, of Canton Michigan. Beloved husband of Rosemary for 54 wonderful years. Loving father of Scott (Amy) and Jay. Cherished papa of Samuel and Oliver. Dear brother of William (Janet), Robert (Ruth), and Ian (Deborah). Brother-in-law of Louis (Barbara) Barta. He was born in Detroit, MI on April 26, 1938 to the late Willam Bremner Leslie and Laura (nee Cruickshank).

David worked at American Motors in data processing and retired from Chrysler Corporation in 1991 as a systems analyst/programmer. David's greatest love was spending time with his family. He was active in scouting from the time he was a Cub Scout through the many years of shepherding his sons through the scout program serving as a Cub Master and Assistant Scout Master. He loved the outdoors and enjoyed traveling and camping, especially visiting Civil War battlefields. He was an active member of the Clan Leslie Society since 1995, serving as a regional convener, and hosting a tent for 19 years at the Alma MI Highland Festival. David also volunteered at Wellspring, a Christian nonprofit youth development organization which provides support to the youth in Northwest Detroit. He was a founding member of The Ford Piquette Avenue Plant Preservation Group in Detroit, aiding in efforts to preserve Henry Ford's first manufacturing plant and birthplace of the Model T.

The funeral service was on May 26th at Geneva Presbyterian Church in Canton, Michigan.



JO ELIZABETH "BETH" MICHAELS (HUXTABLE)

Michaels, Jo Elizabeth "Beth" (Huxtable), sister of our Chieftain, died peacefully with her husband and daughter by her side on May 9, 2016. Beth was born October 24, 1937 to Jo E. (Zimmerman) Huxtable and Lew Wallace Huxtable in Wichita, KS. She is predeceased by her parents and her brother, Wally Huxtable. She is survived by her loving and devoted husband of 56 years, Kenneth B. Michaels; son, Jeffrey Alan Michaels and his wife, Kim Truong of San Marcos, CA; daughter, Elizabeth A. "Betsy" (Michaels) Morehead and her husband, Mike Morehead of Norman, OK; brother, Thomas L. Huxtable of Wichita, KS; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and countless friends. Beth suffered for most of her adult life from Multiple Sclerosis, Rheumatoid Arthritis, and various associated illnesses. While she suffered a great many physical debilities during her lifetime, she was, until the day she died, a warm, kind, loving woman, with a heart of gold and the patience of a saint. She had a wonderful sense of humor and a captivating smile; she was loved by all who knew her. She loved people and took great joy from nearly everyone she met. Beth was a member of the D.A.R., Clan Leslie Society International, and the Unitarian Universal Church of Fayetteville, AR. A memorial gathering will be held at 2 p.m. on May 28, 2016, at the family home in Norman, OK. For directions please contact a family member or send an email to bethmichaels1937@gmail.com. Her family requests that gifts in her memory be made to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society at www.nmss.org



Elisha Leslie

Printed with permission from the Genealogy Trails History Group. Article can be found at http://genealogy-trails.com/newmex/lincoln/leslie_elsaha.html

Narrator: Edith L. Crawford

Carrizozo, N. Mex. Oct 17 1938

Date: October 14, 1938.

Topic: Pioneer Story

Source of Information: Elisha Leslie.

I was born February 14, 1873, in Dublin, Erath County, Texas, and came to New Mexico when I was ten years old. I have lived in Lincoln County about fifty-three years. My father, Robert Leslie, was born in Fulton County, Georgia, May 17, 1853. My mother, Elizabeth Ward, was born in Georgia, (I do not know the town or county) January 6, 1857. My parents were married about the year 1871 in Dublin, Texas. I do not know when they came to Texas. My father owned a farm near Dublin, Texas, and raised corn, small grains, potatoes, and had a small bunch of cattle and a few horses.

My father had some big heavy teams and sometimes used them in doing construction work. I know that at one time he had four teams at work for a rail-road company, but I do not remember just where this was. My father met a man by the name of Jack Farr, who came down into Texas from Lincoln County, New Mexico. He was always telling my father what a great country New Mexico was and wanted to sell my father a ranch that he had in Lincoln County.

In the spring of 1883 my father decided to sell out his farm near Dublin Texas, and move to Lincoln County. Two other men that he knew wanted to come too, so these three men, my father, a man by the name of Dink Arthurs, and a man named Yorke. (I have forgotten his other name), decided to set out for Lincoln County. They had three covered wagons, one to each family. In our family there was my father and mother, myself. Lura, Jim and Callie. (A brother, Leech, had died in Texas several years before.) There was Mr. and Mrs. Arthurs and one boy and one girl.

Mr. and Mrs. Yorke had no children. My father and the other two men decided to drive their cattle through. The other two men hired two men, brothers, named Carter and I made a hand for my father. We three rode horseback and looked after the cattle, about 200 head.

Each wagon had their own provisions and each family did their own cooking over a camp fire. The woman and children slept in the wagons and the men slept on the ground. Each wagon had their own chuck box and water kegs. The only fresh meat that we had on the trip were prairie chickens and antelope that we shot on the way. We did not see any Indians or buffalo and we had no serious trouble. We grazed the cattle along and when we would come to good grass and water we would sometimes stay as long as a week.

We crossed the Pacos River at Fort Patches. We had heard so much about the quicksand on this river and how dangerous it was to cross it that my father got a pilot to guide us across. We got all three wagons and all the cattle across without any serious trouble.

Billy the Kid had not been dead very long and we went out to see his grave. My father had met Billy the Kid at a railroad construction camp but did not know him well.

From Fort Patches we went down to Roswell and up the Hondo river through the Mescalero Indian reservation, through Tularosa and on over to Weed, New Mexico.

We got to Weed in the fall of 1883. We were on the road about three months. The two Carter boys left us at Weed and I do not know what became of them. The Arthurs family stayed in New Mexico only a year or so and went back to Texas.

The Yorkes lived around Weed for several years and the last I heard of them they were still in the Penasco country, in New Mexico.

My father stayed in Weed only about a month and then decided to go to the Farr Ranch, which is about eight miles from White Oaks, New Mexico, and is now known as the Felix Guebara Ranch.

We drove our cattle from Weed, through the mountains, to the Farr Ranch. We stayed there at this ranch all that winter. In the spring of 1884 my father filed on a homestead at the foot of the Tuscon Mountains. My sister Callie died during the winter that we were at the Farr ranch.

After we had lived on the homestead for several years my father bought a small place in White Oaks and stayed there during the fall and winter and sent us children to school there. After school was out in the spring we would go back to the homestead. It was near enough for my father to go back and forth to the homestead all the time and see how things were getting along.

One winter I got tired of going to school and decided that I would get out on my own, so I ran away from White Oaks and went out to the Block Ranch and hired out as a bronc buster. I was about seventeen, I guess then. I was a good rider and not afraid to tackle any kind of horse. I worked for the Block outfit for about five years. It was owned then by two brothers, Andy and Mel Richardson.

About 1894 I went to Arizona. I opened a meat market at Springerville, Arizona. I was married there in 1895 to Minnie English. After I married I went to work for a man named Harris Miller, who owned a ranch near Springerville. I worked for his for about three years. While I was working for him, breaking wild horses, a horse fell on me and crushed me up pretty badly.

I was in a hospital at St. Johns, Arizona, for more than six weeks. As soon as I was able to travel again I came back to my father's place in the Tuscon Mountains. I know that my days of breaking horses was over.

I homesteaded on a place of my own not very far from my father's place. I raised a few cattle and horses and did some dry farming. My wife and I had four children, Ruby, Walker, Lura and Alma. When Alma was about three months old my wife died. This was about 1920. My mother-in-law, Mrs. George English took my children to care for. Mr. and Mrs. English lived on a place about a mile from our place.

About 1923 I moved in to Carrizozo New Mexico and opened up a meat market. I brought my three oldest children with me and sent them to school. Ruby, the oldest girl kept house for me.

In 1933, I was married to Mrs. Ruby Wright, of Albuquerque, New Mexico. In 1934 we moved to White Oaks and I bought the place that my father had owned there, and my wife and I still own it and live there.

My father died in February, 1932, and my mother died just a month later, March 17, 1932, in White Oaks, New Mexico. Both are buried there. My parents had ten children, five of whom are still living here in New Mexico, one in Colorado, and four are dead. The names of the children who are living are, Elisha, Lura, Robert, Ward, Ben and Ellis. My brother Ward still lives on the old place that my father homesteaded in 1864.

NARRATOR: Elisha Leslie, Aged 65 years. White Oaks, New Mexico.

Corrections on *PIONEER STORY of Elisha Leslie*. Page 1, paragraph 5 - My mother and father has ten children, Elisha, Lure, Leech, Jim and Callie were born in Texas. Robert, Ward, Ben, Jesse and Ellis, were born In New Mexico. Leech died before we moved from Texas to New Mexico. Callie died the first winter we lived in New Mexico, late in the year 1883. My brother Jim died about the year 1889, and Jesse was killed in an automobile accident about the year 1929, all died in New Mexico, except Leech. Page 2, paragraph 4. - Billy the Kid's grave in at Fort Sumner New Mexico, DeBace County. Page 2, paragraph 5. - Weed, New Mexico, in low in Otero County, in the Sacramento Mountains, about four miles southeast of Cloudcroft, New Mexico. When we came to this country in 1883, all of the places mentioned were in Lincoln County at that time. Page 3, paragraph 1. - The Penasco country referred to in this story was formed by a group of ranchers who settled on a small dry creek, called Penasco Creek. It is in the Sacramento Mountains and at that time in Lincoln County. Page 3, paragraph 3. - Our homestead was in Lincoln County, in the Tuscon Mountains, about eight miles southwest of White Oaks, New Mexico, and about fourteen miles northwest of Capitan, New Mexico.

[Source: Manuscripts from the Federal Writer's Project - 1936-1940, Transcribed by C. Anthony]

Interesting Article

The Scotsman has an interesting article, Five Churches of Scotland with Dark and Bloody Pasts.

Read it at:

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/five-churches-of-scotland-with-dark-and-bloody-pasts-1-4II5249#ixzz47JZ9FLyv>

All of you are familiar with the story of Bartholomew and Queen Margaret, her riding pillion behind him, as their horse crossed a stream in flood. The horse loses his footing for a moment, and Bartholomew tells Queen Margaret to take hold of his belt and to "grip fast." That has become the motto of Clan Leslie. The rare book *The Leslies of Tarbert, County Kerry, and Their Forebears* by Pierce Leslie Pielou, privately published in Dublin, 1935, pages 4-5, offers an old and unidentified poem on this motto.

"GRIP FAST"

Earl Rothes lay dying one summer eve;
He lay at his casement wide;
He looked at the green and fertile lands
And said, with a flash of pride,
Son John! this lordship fair is thine;
If you wish that right to last,
I have but two words to say to thee, Grip Fast!

Two short strong words like a trumpet call,
Now listen to what they say;
There's a tide in the affairs of men,
And it comes not every day.
If it brings thee good in some good hour
The award for deeds that are past,
Would'st thou keep it thine? There is one way, Grip Fast!

And if thou hast found thy work to do,
Then this is thy wisest part;
Count it as one of the best of gifts
And do it with hand and heart.
If slack or careless, others will seize
A blessing thou let slip past;
The skirt of a happy circumstance, Grip fast.

Hast thou a home, tho' humble and poor,
If love sit down by thy side,
Grip it so fast that nothing on earth
Thy home and thy heart divide;
Keep this with a strength that will last;
There's hope for the man who home and wife Grips fast.

Then here's to the man who can win and keep
His love, his gold and his land.
Here's to the true and steadfast heart,
To the sure and strong right hand;
To him who knows and can hold his place,
Who knows and can hold his right,
Who says to his heart in the tug of life,
Two short words of the brave old knight, Grip Fast!

THE CLAN LESLIE COLLECTION

The Clan Leslie Collection at the McLaughlin Library, University of Guelph in Guelph, Ontario continues to grow thanks those who have so generously donated. The most recent shipment included some rare and interesting books. First is the *Train to Nowhere*.

This is an amazing book about Anita Leslie's experiences as an ambulance driver in World War II. If you can imagine a debutant from a wealthy Irish family, married to an exiled Russian colonel who was 30 years older, joining the Royal Army as an ambulance driver and learning how to drive, maintain and do minor repairs to her ambulance. She is first deployed to South Africa, then to Cairo Egypt, Beirut, where she becomes the editor of a command newsletter. While in Lebanon she met Bill King, a Royal Navy submarine commander who she would later marry. Then off to Italy, and per her request is transferred to the French Army. She wanted to be as close to real combat as possible. Her wishes became reality as the French army advances through France and across Germany. Several of Anita's fellow drivers are killed. It is a wonderful story, and her performance reflects on her remarkable courage, stamina and determination. A great read.

Another interesting book again by Anita Leslie, daughter of Shane Leslie and his wife Leonie Jerome. *The Gilt and the Gingerbread: An Autobiography*, by Anita Leslie, published by Hutchinson & Co., London 1981. 1st. edition, with dust jacket. This is a wonderful autobiography of Anita Leslie. She being of the Leslies of Graslough, County Monaghan, Ireland. Her father was Shane Leslie (christened John Randolph Leslie), who had been disinherited when he became Roman Catholic, and her mother was Marjorie Ide, an American. Anita was raised in this wealthy family, experienced abysmal schooling in strange schools and convents in various parts of Europe, married her riding instructor, an exiled Russian Colonel Paul Rodzianko who was 30 years older than she was, and became an ambulance driver in World War II and served in combat. She wrote extensively of her wartime experiences in her book *Train to Nowhere*. She became a prolific author. All in all, a prolific write and remarkable woman. Her father Shane was also a prolific writer, and her brother Desmond, and her uncles Seymour and Lionel also wrote.

Angles Weep by Desmond Leslie, published by T. Werner Laurie LTD, London 1948. This book is remarkable in that it is fiction on the same topic as *Nineteen Eighty-Four* by George Orwell which was published a year later in 1949. Desmond's protagonist is a John Smith who is caught up in the Socialist Bureaucracy of post-war England. The bureaucracy is so dense, it has become virtually impossible to get approval to do anything. In Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, the protagonist is Winston Smith, a member of the Outer Party, who works in the Records Department of the Ministry of Truth as an editor, revising historical records, to make the past conform to the ever-changing party line." Of course Orwell's book became a great success, while Desmond Leslie's book was not. However Leslie's book is rare and expensive on the rare book market.

Wilderness Trails In Three Continents: An Account of Travel, Big Game Hunting and Exploration in India, Burma, China, East Africa and Labrador by Lionel A.D. Leslie (Lionel Alistair David Leslie) , F.R.G.S. (Fellow of the Royal Geographic Society), with a Forward by the Right Honourable Winston S. Churchill. P.C. Winston was Lionel's cousin. Published by Heath Cranton Limited, London 1931. A remarkable book that is increasingly difficult to find. Lionel Leslie led a remarkable life. An Army officer (graduate from the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst), travels in India, Burma, China and Africa; big game hunting, exploration in Labrador, an 'ex-pat' in Paris learning to become a sculptor, back into the Army during World War II and posted to Italy and Albania, and after the war moving with his wife and young daughter to a derelict house on the Isle of Mull. This is another book that is becoming increasingly rare and expensive on the rare book market.

The Jerome Connection by Seymour Leslie, published by John Murray, London 1964. Seymour Leslie presents a series of letters between his mother Leonie and her sister, Lady Randolph Churchill, the mother of Winston Churchill. These letters give insight of Edwardian society. The four Leslie brothers, Norman, John (Shane), Seymour and Lionel were mostly of a robust nature. Norman was killed by a German sniper in World War I, and his ghost is said to haunt Leslie Castle. Shane was of a remarkably strong nature, and walked barefoot from Grasspoint on the east coast of Mull to the tiny island of Iona just off the west coast of Mull. Lionel was a boxer at Sandhurst, served in the army, and also was a noted explorer. Seymour was very different. Anita Leslie, his niece, wrote that "He was an exuberant intellectual, but in childhood had suffered from a tubercular hip which kept him flat on his back for ten years. He could not follow his brothers to Eton but educated himself from books held by an overhead gadget. By the age of sixteen when he was able to walk, though limping, Seymour taught himself perfect French and German and became the best-read member of a hard-reading family." (*The Gilt and the Gingerbread* by Anita Leslie, page 125.)

In addition to these five books, there are twenty more that have been sent to Guelph, including three donated by Thomas G. Leslie of Hertfordshire, England. This latest collection shows the connections between the Guthries of Torosay on the Isle of Mull and the Leslies of County Monaghan, Ireland. Also the connection of the Leslies of County Monaghan as descendants of King George IV. Plus Lionel, Seymour, Shane, Anita, and Desmond were cousins of Winston S. Churchill.

What remains to collect and add to our Collection are books that are more rare and very scarce. That also means more expensive. One of the books that I acquired for \$145 is now priced at \$340. In the final analysis, I am confident that we have assembled an impressive and comprehensive collection of materials by and or about Leslies. Perhaps the largest in the world, but perhaps the collection at Castle Leslie at Graslough, County Monaghan has more. Your continued support will be greatly appreciated!

David Leslie White

THE SCOTTISH SETTLERS OF AYR, ONTARIO

I found some information on the settling of Ayr, Ontario in an article in our local newspaper, The Waterloo Region Record, that showcases how Scottish immigrants to Canada settled and prospered, bringing with them their intrepid industriousness. I think it reflects the experience of many of our Scottish forebears who left their stamp on Ontario. Ayr is 30 kilometers from Kitchener, Ontario where I live. It is also about an hour away from Fergus where Clan Leslie will be celebrated this summer at their Highland Games.

In 1884 there were three closely situated settlements: Jedburgh, Mudge's Mills, and Nithvale. Today they are semi-forgotten corners of Ayr, Ontario. The settling of these burghs was by the Scots.

In Ontario, the Nith River flows through Dumfries and Ayr. In western Scotland it begins south of Ayr and courses through Dumfries. Jedburgh, is, of course, much farther east in Scotland close to the English border. Here, too, in Ontario, Jedburgh was east of Ayr and the Nith.

Mudge's Mills was named after Abel Mudge, who in 1824, saw the potential of the area where Cedar Creek tumbled into the Nith River. Abel purchased 100 acres and erected a dam across Cedar Creek. This provided waterpower for his sawmill and grist mill on the east side of the Nith River. Soon the small settlement was attracting other families. An early community effort petitioned for an Ayr-to-Roseville road to provide access to and from the mills; today Northumberland Street is part of that 1826 project.

Abel Mudge died in 1832. His son had no interest in Mudge's Mills so there followed several owners including industrialist John Watson. He purchased the old Mudge properties in 1868 and within a few years had constructed his manufacturing company on the old mill site.

In the same year that Abel Mudge died, 75 acres north and east of Mudge's Mills was purchased by Jedburgh, Scotland native, John Hall. Upstream from Mudge's millpond, Hall erected another dam on Cedar Creek creating Jedburgh Pond and Hall's flour mill and sawmill. Soon a distillery was in business. (How Scottish!)

Hall's Jedburgh attracted other Scots-owned businesses such as Colcleugh's distillery, a woollen mill, and a blacksmith. Hall argued to have Mudge's Mills renamed 'Jedburgh', but there was opposition. A post office was established in 1840 and the new name of 'Ayr' was suggested as a result. When the postal authorities agreed to this, John Hall was outraged. Not surprisingly, the owner of the post office, Robert Wyllie, was from Ayrshire, Scotland.

James Piper was another Scot who prospered here. His mills, store, and several other businesses were located on the west side of the Nith. This locale was nicknamed 'Nithville'. After 1840 the three-settlement cluster - Ayr, Nithvale, and Jedburgh - jockeyed for dominance. It was Ayr that won out due to its larger population and number of businesses. Incorporation as a village came in 1884.

All these names have now faded from memory except for a few plaques that recall their once important place in the settlement of this part of Ontario.

Taken from an article by Rych Mills, a local historian in the Waterloo Region Record, December 5, 2015.

Submitted by:
Bonnie Leslie Rudnisky
Kitchener, Ontario, Canada

Thanks To Our Volunteers

There are no words sufficient to thank our volunteers. Our Society depends entirely on volunteers, and their work is vital to our organization. Their commitment, talents and generosity are the bedrock of our Society's survival and success.

Our shared Scottish heritage and interest in preserving it bring us together. Our volunteer positions range in the amount of work from demanding ones such as a Treasurer, Secretary/Registrar and Publications Editor to just helping with the work about our Society and its purpose and to encourage others to join. Our volunteers have fun participating in Scottish festivals and hosting a CLSI tent or hosting our biennial Gathering.

There is a need to bring more volunteers into the fold. New energy, new ideas and more vitality will help define our future. It is crucial that we maintain our momentum and growth. Don't be afraid to ask. Your contribution will help sustain a lasting legacy. To quote Sir Winston Churchill: "We make a living by doing what we do, but we make a life by what we give." Please don't hesitate because you have never done this before. All of our volunteers started as novices, and learned by doing.

Please contact our Chieftain, Tom Huxtable at tshus@cox.net or telephone 316-721-0307 if you are interested in volunteering.

Men and Books

ROLPH BIDWELL LESSLIE, M.A., M.D. (Tor.)

By J. H. Elliot, M.D.

Toronto

A most attractive biography and one which has achieved great popularity is "Sir Richard Burton's Wife" written by Jean Burton. The author was a student in the University of Saskatchewan and graduated from the University of British Columbia. It is a delightful story of a beautiful woman infatuated with and devoted to, a most unusual man, keen to be with him in his wanderings and his studies of primitive races, ever watchful of him through his declining days. In 1889 after a serious illness it was found necessary to have a resident doctor always with them, so "they telephoned from Cannes to England for Dr. Ralph Leslie, a Canadian from Toronto" who travelled with them to Trieste where Sir Richard made a speech at dinner at the British Consulate on the occasion of Queen Victoria's Jubilee. "It was a blow when Dr. Leslie was called away later in the year. He was so good humoured, and above all had a true reverence for Richard. Richard did not want any other doctor."

This reference to Dr. Rolph Lesslie of Toronto suggested more detailed information. Referring to the list of graduates of the University of Toronto there is a record of Rolph Bidwell Lesslie, B.A., 1873, registered at University College, graduating M.B., 1875, and receiving his M.D. (Tor.) in 1876. From the London Medical Directory, 1890, we further learn that he became a Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians and a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, that he was created a Chevalier of the Order of Leopold and a Chevalier of the Order of the Congo Star for distinguished service in Africa, that he served as Surgeon-major to the Turkish forces in the Serbian war, was present at the siege and capture of Aleximatz, continued with the victorious army on the march from Aleximatz across the Balkan mountains to the Danube, was awarded the Turco-Serbian and the Turco-Russian medals, and was invested with the Order of the Medjidie, 4th Class. He also served with the British forces in the Zulu war, receiving the ribbon and medal of this campaign. This active and adventurous graduate of the University of Toronto died in Dominica, September 20, 1893.

Dr. Charles S. Ryan, a young Australian doctor, who served with the Turkish forces, writes in his reminiscences that he recalls meeting Rolph Lesslie at Nish, Turkish army headquarters some thirty miles from Aleximatz in Southern Serbia, then under siege; "Another of my comrades at Nish was Rolph Lesslie a Canadian who has had a fairly adventurous career, and was afterwards with Stanley on the Congo. He was a nice young fellow; but he used to read Gil Blas to me in French when I was in bed at night and required all my energies to circumvent the strategy of the Bulgarian insects."

A brother, Joseph W. Lesslie, born in 1854 and educated at Upper Canada College graduated in 1879 and took his M.D. degree in 1880. He was for many years surgeon to the Queen's Own Rifles. He served with them in the North-west Rebellion in 1885, received the 1885 medal and clasp, was mentioned twice in despatches and was in action at Cut Knife Hill. His ambulance corps in the Q.O.R. was the first in Canada. His wife was the daughter of William Willocks Baldwin, a granddaughter of Hon. Robert Baldwin whose father, Dr. William Warren Baldwin, first came to York in 1798.

Apart from the Baldwin-Lesslie connection established by this marriage, a short inquiry into the Lesslie family reveals much that is related to the history of Upper Canada. What associations are recalled by the name of Sir Richard Burton's physician, "a Canadian from Toronto" – Rolph Bidwell Lesslie! It was the Lesslie family from Dundee, Scotland, settled in business in Dundas, U.C., who brought William Lyon Mackenzie to Canada. It was in the home of his uncle, James Lesslie, Secretary of the Canadian Alliance Society, of which W. L. Mackenzie was president, that meetings of the opponents of Francis Bond Head and his government were held. Rolph and Bidwell were the leaders of the Reform party in the Provincial Assembly, of which Bidwell was twice elected speaker. James Lesslie and a brother were arrested and jailed, charged with complicity in the Rebellion of 1837, but were discharged without trial. Bidwell, we are told by Francis Bond Head in one of his essays, was given the option of leaving the country forever with a package of unopened letters presumably treasonable, or to have them opened and face the consequences. He left promptly for the U.S.A. where he had a brilliant and successful legal career. Rolph, charged with treason, escaped to the United States, a reward of £500 on his head.

Rolph Bidwell Lesslie was the elder son of Joseph Lesslie. His mother was Sara Elizabeth Graham, a daughter of Dr. James Graham, a surgeon on the medical staff of Upper Canada, and serving principally with the forces in the Niagara district through the war of 1812. The association of the Lesslie family with Hon. John Rolph was not only political, for Rolph Bidwell's mother was born on a farm in Norfolk County which had been purchased from Dr. Thomas Rolph, the father of Hon. John Rolph.

Dr. James Graham, the grandfather of Rolph Bidwell Lesslie, was born in Wyoming in the valley of the Susquehanna, Pennsylvania, in 1782, of Scotch parentage. The family can trace to Canada in 1786, a short time after the Wyoming massacre and located on wild land in the County of Oxford, where seven children were born. James studied medicine at Grimsby in the office of Dr. Cyrus Sumner who, coming from the U.S.A., passed the medical board at York in 1804. His examiner was William Warren Baldwin.

Both Dr. Sumner and Dr. Graham were Assistant Staff Surgeons during the war of 1812, and after the close of the war were examiners for the Pensions Board, the one at Grimsby, the other at Long Point. Canniff says Dr. Graham married in 1813 Elizabeth Sutherland, daughter of Col. Sutherland, of the Glengarry Highlanders, while on page 643 he says Elizabeth Brant the youngest daughter of Dr. Cyrus Sumner became his wife.

Dr. Graham received the Prince Regent's land grant for services during the war. At the close of the war he purchased from Dr. Thomas Rolph a farm in the Township of Wodehouse, Norfolk County, where he developed an extensive practice while carrying on his farm work. Two of his sons, Thomas Rolph Graham and John Rolph Graham, became physicians, the latter being a student at the Rolph School of Medicine in Toronto, and in practice at Tilsonburg to his death.

Joseph Lesslie (1813-1904) the father of Rolph Bidwell born in Dundee came to Canada with his father Edward in 1819, the large family settling in Dundas, and soon established business in Dundas, York and Kingston. Joseph was educated in Rochester and Boston, became Editor of the Examiner (later the Globe), and later purchased a farm in Norfolk County

near that of Dr. James Graham, and here he married Sarah Elizabeth Graham. After tow years of farming he moved to Toronto and was appointed superintendent of York roads, and in 1853 postmaster, which office he held until pensioned by the MacDonald Government in 1879. Before this appointment he had campaigned for Hon. Robert Baldwin, whose granddaughter his son Dr. Joseph W. Lesslie later married.

The Ralph Leslie of Jean Burton is Rolph Bidwell Lesslie. His adventurous career and his success in his undertakings can be understood when one recalls his forebears and their associates. The Lesslies, pioneer wholesale and retail merchants in three Upper Canada towns, his maternal grandfather a pioneer settler in the province and one of the earliest to qualify in medicine, serving as Staff Surgeon through the War of 1812, the family intimately associated with the Reformers who secured representative government for Upper Canada, what wonder that he and his brother served their country seeking military service and constructive work in the Militia and the Army, in Zululand, the Congo, the Balkans, and the North-west.

Brian Lesslie

The Life of Mrs. Frank Leslie

We recently donated a book about Mrs. Frank Leslie to the Clan Leslie Collection at the University of Guelph. The book was *Purple Passage: The Life of Mrs. Frank Leslie* by Madeleine B. Stern, published by the University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, Oklahoma, 1953.

Mrs. Frank Leslie was born in 1836 in New Orleans of exotic forebears, noble French Huguenots and Creole émigrés. She was married four times, the third marriage to Frank Leslie, the editor of various publications such as *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper* and *Leslie's Weekly*, and the owner of *Leslie's Publishing House* in New York City. Her first name was actually Miriam Florence Folline, and she became a writer and editor of Frank Leslie's publications. She also fashioned herself as "Baroness of Bazus." On his death, she assumed the position as CEO of the enormous *Frank Leslie's Publishing House* and under her direction *Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly* grew to be the leading magazine in America. It later became *The American Magazine*. She died in 1914.

In one of the publications that lists famous people, she was described as follows: LESLIE, Mrs. Frank (Baroness de Bazus) editor, publisher; b. (Miriam Florence Folline), New Orleans, 1851, of noble French Huguenot family, from whom, now that she has retired from the pub. [i.e. publishing] business, she take her title of Baroness de Bazus; m. Frank Leslie, publisher (died 1880). Succeeded to his business, then badly involved [i.e. in serious financial difficulty]; personally managed it and put it on a paying basis. Leased her business to a syndicate and made extended European tour. On her return, the syndicate having been unsuccessful, business was put into company, she being president and editor of the *Popular Monthly*, which increased 200,000 copies in 4 months under her management; magazine was subsequently sold and appeared under a new name. Now writing book and contbg. to European magazines exclusively. Home: Sherman Square Hotel, Broadway and 70th St., New York, N.Y.

Certainly a remarkable woman.

David Leslie White

Important Announcements

Election Nominations Announcement

Election time for CLSI is approaching and nominations are encouraged for several important positions. CLSI must elect a Vice-Chieftain, a Secretary/Registrar, and three Council positions.

According to the bylaws: The Vice Chieftain will perform the duties of the Chieftain in his/her absence, disability, or decease, and shall perform other duties as directed by the Chieftain or Council. The Vice Chieftain shall be elected for a term of two years, and no Vice Chieftain may serve more than two consecutive terms.

The Bylaws state that the Secretary/Registrar shall keep records of Society proceedings, maintain correspondence files of the Society, receive and process applications for membership and notify applicants of their enrollment, and maintain current membership records. The Secretary/Registrar shall be elected for the term of two years.

There will also be an election for three council members. Council members shall be adult members of the Society in good standing. This excludes the Chieftain and Vice-Chieftain. The Chieftain and Vice-Chieftain will continue to be lineal members. Council members shall be elected for a term of four years each, as vacancies occur. Council members whose terms are expiring are Don Abernathy, Robert Leslie, and Laura Messing. All are eligible to run again if they so desire. Council member terms are for four years.

Persons interested in running for any of these offices, please contact Chris Johnson, Secretary of CLSI at CEJOHNSON@TRIAD.RR.COM or 1113 FOXHAVEN DRIVE, GREENSBORO, NC 27455. Please send a short bio and a picture no later than October 10th for printing in the October issue of Grip Fast Journal.

The election shall take place by email or mail in November and those elected will take office January 1, 2017.

Dues Are Now Due

Members owing 2016 membership dues will receive an invoice by email or mail at the end of July. Dues are now due. Please pay your dues as soon as you can. There is a new way to pay dues that is so easy! Go to our website, [clanlesliesociety.org](http://www.clanlesliesociety.org), click on the membership tab, scroll to the bottom of the page, and click on PAY YOUR CLSI DUES HERE. You can pay by a PayPal account or by a credit card. Dues can also be paid by check, money order, PayPal, Visa, MasterCard, or Discover. If paying by check or money order, please mail to Linda Flowers, CLSI Treasurer, 302 SW 3rd St. Tuttle, OK 73089. If paying by PayPal, use the PayPal email address LFLOWERS1954@YAHOO.COM. If paying by credit card, I need the card type, name on the card, card number, expiration date, and security code on the back of the card. If you have questions, please contact me at LFLOWJINGO@SBCGLOBAL.NET or 405-381-3577.

CLSI Items For Sale

Our website has a great selection of Leslie items for sale!
Visit our online store at: <http://www.clanlesliesociety.org/store>

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We have a new website!
Take a look at our beautiful new CLSI
website: <http://www.clanlesliesociety.org/>

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