

GRIP FAST



JOURNAL

The Newsletter of Clan Leslie Society International

March 2017



Join
Clan Leslie in August
for “A Splash of Tartan” (pages 2 & 6)



A Scottish winter poem

It's winter here in Scotland
 And the icy breezes blow
 At seventy miles an hour
 & at 20 degrees below

Aye, I love my Scotland
 When the snow is up yer butt
 Ye take a breathe o' winter air
 And yer nostrils just freeze shut!

Aye the weather here is wonderful
 So I guess I'll stick around
 I could never leave my Scotland
 Cause I'm frozen tae the ground!

From Scotland's wildest way to a perfect pint

“An old Scottish Gaelic speaker overheard a tourist saying, ‘Mañana, mañana,’ and asked what it meant.” Stevie says. “The tourist explained that it was a turn of phrase that meant putting something off indefinitely, and then asked what a similar phrase might be in Gaelic. The Scottish man considered this for a while and then said, ‘Actually, I don’t think we have a phrase in Gaelic that describes such a sense of urgency.’”

– Jill Robinson 7/28/16 SF Chronicle

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ABOUT THE COVER

Chief Alex is front and center for the publicity photos for this year's "A Splash of Tartan." Clan Leslie will march in the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo on August 11, 2017. See pages 2 & 6.



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The Honourable Alexander Leslie, Chief of Clan Leslie



Rock with a view

I spent this morning on top of Salisbury Crags, overlooking Edinburgh, having my photo taken (a thousand times it seemed) with a Macnab, a Bruce and a Carmichael.

This was not some vanity phot shoot, it is part of the beginning of the promotion for this year's Edinburgh Royal Tattoo. The reason we were being photographed was because this year's event is entitled a 'Splash of Tartan'.

Each night at least two Clan Chiefs will march onto the Espanade, along with some followers, and the Guest of Honour. Sadly for you, only the Chief will get to drink the traditional dram of welcome.

Our night, as Leslie, is Friday 11th August. We will be sharing the Espanade with Moffats and possibly one other.

If you are planning a trip to Scotland and/or Edinburgh next year around this time, please let me know because each Chief has been given an allocation of tickets in various locations around the arena, at various prices, but all discounted. If you live here, you are also most welcome.

If you would like to march with us, also please let me know. The more, the merrier.

The Tattoo is very much hoping that this relationship will continue, as are we. If it does, Scotland will definitely see the benefits.

Another event has dropped onto our radar for next year, as well. Miranda and I are the Honoured Guests at Gallabrae, the Greenville Highland Games, at the end of May next year. Although, it will not be an 'Official' Leslie Gathering (that is being organised for 2018) it will certainly be a Leslie Gathering, and Leslie is the Honoured Clan.

We look forward to seeing as many Leslies as are able to make it, but completely understand that a Gathering a year may be a Gathering too many. In any case, we will be flying the flag.

What a year! It seems some time ago now that we broke the drought in Fergus, perhaps a little too thoroughly as the field was basically washed away by the storms. But, as always, we felt tremendously welcome and it was a great event. It was particularly good that my cousins Lucinda, Oliver and Hugo were able to join us.

Alex and Miranda



The Battle of Harlaw: July 24, 1411

We recall the Battle of Harlaw, when Sir Andrew Leslie, the Baron of Balquhain, lost six sons in this battle. The battle was fought in the heart of Leslie lands.

The battle was so savage and bitterly fought with so much blood shed that it became to be known as "The Reid Harlaw" – Red Harlaw.

An unknown poet penned the following:

"Near this you'll see where fam'd Harlaw was fought,
Where curst rebellion direful mischief wrought.
Here dreaded Donald from the Isles came down,
Fired with ambition, to attack the Crown.
Deep, cunning, artful, he by various wiles,-
Indeed, the Chieftain of the Western Isles.
At last the Leslies bordering the Don,
Fired by their chief, who lead his warriors on,
First pierced the ranks, then broke Macdonald's horse,
And brought the foe to own superior force.
Six of the bravest Leslies pressed the plain,
While round these warriors lay whole heaps of slain."*

There will be a Remembrance Service at the Chapel of the Garioch Church on the 24th of July to remember the dear of this the 605th anniversary.

*From The Life and Times of The Right Reverend John Leslie, D.D., Bishop of the Isles, Scotland, and of Raphoe and Clogner in Ireland by the Rev. R. J. [Robert Joshua] Leslie, M.A, published by Rivingtons, Waterloo Place, London 1885



Another Leslie Historical Story

Let me introduce myself. My Name is Steve Leslie, son of Chalmer Leslie, son of Claude Leslie. I have spent my entire life in Southern California. I am an electronics Engineer with Raytheon and have spent almost 32 years with Hughes Aircraft Company and Raytheon (they changed the signs on me!).

My parents both were born and raised in South Dakota, USA, near Sioux Falls. My Grandfather, Claude Leslie came to South Dakota via Michigan and was born in 1910. Claude was a carpenter by trade and built several homes in the small town of Centerville, South Dakota. He had a knack for being able to estimate the lumber necessary for the job and would pre-cut much of it. He raised 6 children of whom 4 still survive. I remain in contact with them regularly. Claude died in 1976. My Father is still alive and at the ripe old age of 83 is still on the right side of the grass.

Claude's Father, John Leslie was born in 1871 and died in 1926. John came from Canada. John's Father, George was born in 1837 and married twice, his first wife was born at Anderson Essex in Canada and his second wife was Euphigenie Grondin who was French. George's Father was Thomas George Leslie who married Betsy Clips who was a Wyandot and Delaware Indian. I am still seeking additional information to provide a solid link back to the Leslie Clan in Scotland, but am sure I can handle this.

I find it very interesting to research the history of our lineage and the Leslie side is the last leg of the unknowns for me as I have a lot of data of Norwegian descent and many documents that have captured that history.

I look forward to further participation in the Leslie Clan Society and am awaiting the get together in 2018. My tartan duffer cap is inbound and should be arriving any day now. Grip Fast!

Steven Leslie



Elections

As we only had one person running for each office, an election was not necessary. The new officers will take office on January 1, 2017.

Vice Chieftain

Loren Leslie (elected to another term)

I am a candidate for re-election as CLSI Vice Chieftain having served for three years in that capacity, one appointed and two elected. I am a retired physician and health care executive. A former Navy Captain, I served in the Viet Nam and Persian Gulf Wars, the latter as Commanding Officer of a field hospital deployed to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait in support of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force.

I am at present a Regent of Concordia University St. Paul, chair of the university's academic committee and a member of the Board of Regents Executive Committee. A widower I have one son, a Delta Airline pilot and member of CLSI.

I value my Scottish and Clan Leslie heritage and can best express it by membership in the CLSI and continued service as its Vice Chieftain.

Secretary/Registrar

Christine Johnson (elected to another term)

Residing in Greensboro, North Carolina. I am currently employed as a speech/language pathologist for a county school district and have been employed in the field of education for more than thirty years. Having been a part-time genealogist for over 20 years, I have completed extensive genealogy research on my husband's and my family. In working on the Leslie family tree, I have traveled to Barbados twice, the Aberdeen area of Scotland, and in 2009 to "The Gathering" in Scotland. My vision for the Clan Leslie Society International is to increase interest in DNA testing and to organize the Leslie family tree so that all members can add their branch to that tree.

Council Positions

Laura Messing (elected to another term)

Both a career marketer and award winning graphic designer, I have been a member of CLSI since 2006 and have served on the council since 2007. During this time, it was my honor to have hosted two CLSI gatherings (2008 in St. Charles, Missouri and 2012 in Lincoln, New Hampshire.) I have volunteered my design and marketing skills by redesigning the CLSI website and am currently co-editor of the Grip Fast Journal. I also have a great time serving as the North East convenor for CLSI and really enjoy my tent hosting responsibilities.

When I'm not doing Leslie stuff, I work as a graphic designer running my own company just outside of Boston. I keep busy with work, various community activities and my two Westies: Dexter and Daisy.

Susan Abernethy

I am a founding member of the Clan Leslie Society International.

My parents, David and Dorothy Abernethy, attended the 1977 International Gathering of the Clans in Scotland, where they met both Chief Ian Leslie, Earl of Rothes and Alexander Leslie Klieforth, founder of our Society. They thereupon brought back the good news of the proposed American Clan Leslie Society and we all immediately signed up.

Over the years, I have been fortunate to attend several CLSI Gatherings in different parts of the U.S. and I hosted two Gatherings—the second Gathering in 1979, and, with my late husband Robert Persons, the 20th biennial Gathering in 1998, both in San Diego, California. I have served as Convenor for California and later for the Pacific Southwest Region, and as Vice Chieftain under Chieftain Dick Teed. I cur-

rently serve as the CLSI Herald, advised by the late Chief Ian and current Chief, The Honourable Alexander Leslie. I live in San Diego near my daughter Tara, and I am raising twin 17-year-old sons who have just become Eagle Scouts.

I am a graphics designer, security professional, actress and Renaissance reenactor (as Mary, Queen of Scots among other personae), and am contralto with a madrigal quintet, Vox Nobili. I volunteer with Boy Scouts USA for the Scouting Honor Society, the Order of the Arrow, for which I coach our chapter Ceremony team (two members of which are my twins), which competed and won National Honors at the Centennial Convention in 2015.

Dane Gay

I am a U.S. Marine veteran and a career retail professional, working for 13 years at a fortune 500 company in sales, management, training, & training design; and the last twelve years at a local Richmond, Virginia company managing Social Media and doing special projects. I also own a small business providing Social Media consulting and other internet and technology related services.

When I'm not at work, I spend time with my wife of 25 years (we love camping!), our 2 adult children, and our new grandson; and I volunteer as a Chaplain Candidate with the state guard, lead a group of military cadets, and minister to the needs of military veterans at a local church.

My wife and I have been members of CLSI since 2012, attended the Clan Gathering at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in 2014, and were co-hosts for the Clan Leslie tent with Lew and Chris Johnson at the Richmond Celtic Festival and Highland Games in 2015.

THE CLAN LESLIE COLLECTION

I recently shipped another box of Leslie books and some memorabilia to the Clan Leslie Collection in the McLaughlin Library, University of Guelph. Included in this latest shipment were four reprints (print-on-demand books) on mathematics by Sir John Leslie. A student at the U. of Guelph was eagerly awaiting their arrival as he wanted to do a paper on Sir John. Also included were some more books by Anita Leslie. This should now be a complete collection of her books. This shipment also included some more books by Desmond Leslie, and his works should now be complete in our collection.

I had asked Melissa McAfee, the Special Collections Librarian and Archivist, McLaughlin Library, if there were any more “voids” in the collection that she would like to see filled. She will get back to me later.

At the August Gathering, we were very impressed at the outstanding exhibit of our Clan Leslie collection at the University of Guelph. Very well done! Our collection shows well, and is a point of pride at the McLaughlin Library.

I would like to thank our Society members who have contributed to the Library Fund. Without the cash donations, this collection would not be possible. We probably have about 90% of all of the books published by our Leslies, plus some published by Leslies that were unknown to us. Some of the Canadian members have donated books. But, there are still publications out there that don't appear on the used book market. Books published outside of the North Ameri-

can and United Kingdom market are difficult to identify and acquire. But, one discovery usually leads to others. A good example was Melissa McAfee buying a reproduction of Sir John Leslie's Cube. Frankly, I was unaware of this famous mathematician until Melissa was showing his cube. That led me to Books on Demand that would print his four books at a low cost. Other books, such as Sir Jack Leslie's book *Never a Dull Moment*, 2009, a collection of his memoirs, no copies are yet available on the used book market.

I find that a review of some of our old publications gives clues and information on Leslies that most of us don't know about. In reviewing the 1984 issue of *The Griffin*, there is an article (probably by Alexander Leslie Klieforth) about “Mary Isabel Leslie: Author and Poet (1899-1978).” She was the daughter of Rev. J. M. Leslie, later Dean of Lismore. She was born in Dublin, raised in County Tipperary, and was a rather prolific author. It appears that her works are worth a pursuit, as she is the only other known female Leslie author, the other being Anita Leslie. Mary Isabel Leslie often wrote under the pseudonym of “Temple Lane.”

Our collection is impressive, but it is not complete. Until more donations to the Library Fund are received, additional purchases will have to be delayed. To donate, please send your check marked “Library Fund” to our Treasurer, Linda Flowers. All donations are a charitable tax deduction for donors.

David Leslie White

Wee Folk

Most of us are familiar with the Irish legends of the “wee folk,” or leprechauns. The little people who wear green clothing and protect the pot of gold. The leprechaun also can play tricks on those who insult them.

This may be a Celtic legend or fairy tale, as it also exists in the Highlands and western Islands of Scotland. In Scotland, they are called the *sithein*. The *sith* (Gaelic for “little people”) have both good and evil, being kind to those who treat them well and devising unhappiness to people who treat them badly. The *sith* (pronounced “shee”) knew cures for diseases, played the small pipes, and ate heather. The women could assume the shape of deer.

These “little people” wore conical green caps, green coats and green kilts and had a swarthy skin.

* With thanks to John Angus McPhee who wrote about them in his book *The Crofter and the Laird*, 1970, pages 137-139.



Join Chief Alex and Clan Leslie Friday, August 11th at the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo for “A Splash of Tartan!”

Clan Leslie will take the Esplanade, along with Clan Moffat, at the unforgettable display of color and pageantry of the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. A few tickets are still available. Contact Chief Alex at: alex@distrutiveviews.com

Leslies Buried in the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery

Leslies

Ernest Francis Leslie, b. April 28, 1920, d. March 3, 1978

Francis D. Leslie, b. October 10, 196, d. June 14, 1978. Spouse of Willis Dewey Leslie

Johnny Walters Leslie, b. December 8, 1940, d. June 30, 2006. A2C US Air Force, Vietnam service

Samuel Felix Leslie, Jr. b. October 22, 1948, d. August 19, 2015, Corporal, U.S. Marine Corps, Vietnam service

Walter T. Leslie, b. February 24, 1923, d. November 10, 2002. Major, U.S. Air Force, service in World War II, Korea, Vietnam. Purple Heart

Willis Dewey Leslie, b. May 15, 1898, d. November 3, 1956. Spouse of Francis D. Leslie. Willis was a Tech. Sergeant, U.S. Army

Mary Evelyn “Mickie” Leslie Pate, b. April 9, 1923, d. January 29, 2016. She was the wife of John Pate. Her parents were Jessie Edwin Leslie (1881-1942) and Evva Ellison Leslie (1889-1964)

Abernathys

Fred Abernethy, b. June 24, 1905, d. January 7, 1993, Staff Sergeant, U.S. Army, World War II

Lyle E. Abernethy Sr., b. August 31, 1896, d. June 19, 1954, Michigan, Sergeant MTC, World War I

Gilmore Margaret Abernethy Chzan, b. 1939 d. June 8, 2015
Alan J. Abernethy Sr. b. March 20, 1921, d. November 27, 2000 2Lt, US Army, World War II

Ignatious Ernest “IE” Abernathy, b. February 1, 1919, d. November 4, 2005 Master Sergeant US Air Force

John William Abernathy, b. January 24, d. April 11, 1986 PVT World War II, husband of Stella M. Abernathy

Lorenzo Abernathy, b. June 10, 1930, d. June 29, 2007

Louis Madison Abernathy, b. November 4, 1918, d. April 21, 2005 Lt Col US Air Force. Husband of Nola Mae Abernathy below.

Mary M. Abernathy, b. September 6, 1920, d. Mary 11, 1999 Wife of Alan J. Abernathy above

Nola Mae Robinson Abernathy, b. Jan. 5, 1920, d. Sep. 25, 1976 Wife of Louis Madison Abernathy above.

Ophelia Mae Abernathy, b. Jan. 25, 1922, d. Jul. 22, 1997 Wife of Ignatious Ernest Abernathy above.

Patricia Jo Abernathy, b. Mar. 1, 1948, d. Jun. 2, 2005 Wife of Alan J. Abernathy JR.

Ruth N. Abernathy, b. Jan. 30, 1924, d. May 17, 1996 2LT US Army, World War II

Stella M. Abernathy, b. Feb. 2, 1906, d. Nov. 30, 1999 Wife of John William Abernathy .

William Lynch Abernathy, b. Jan. 4, 1915, d. Sep. 29, 1957 Master Sergeant US Air Force, World War II, Korea

Opal Abernathy Sarro, b. Jul 9. 1928, d. May 11, 2002

Chaplain's Corner Samantha Gray, Chaplain, CLSI

Pookas, Kelpies and Selkies – the Faeries of Scotland



Autumn again, with cooler nights, bright leaves, apple cider and harvest fairs – at least in the Northern Hemisphere. And a host of holidays all coming within this wonderful season. Our ancestors told time by the sun, moon and stars; they celebrated and lived seasonally, keenly aware of the world and its changes, even if they had no scientific explanations for what they experienced around them.

It was unique, mysterious and awe-full. Maybe they had a point.

Eldon Haas, MD, author of the book “Living With the Seasons”, thinks so. He writes that we are so out of touch with nature in general that we are losing, among other things, our sense of wonder. How do we hold on to it when we can buy fresh strawberries in January this side of the equator and see the sky of any season at our local planetarium? Where is the special, the rare, the mysterious? Most of you know by now that the other “cap” I wear is ‘Nurse Practitioner.’

As such, I’m all for science. My colleagues in the clergy are all for science, too. But most agree that we humans pay a spiritual price for our overly factual, scientific, data-driven world view. We too often lose sight of the spiritual within the natural world. Our ancestors, on the other hand, had magic. Their world was peopled with otherkind. And what more appropriate time to look at that than in the Grip Fast Journal coming out just before Halloween – or Samhain, as they called it. (It’s pronounced SAH-wen or SAH-ven in Scots Gaidhlig.) We lay claim to magic for one or two nights a year growing up and then remember with fondness the dress-up fun and seemingly limitless supply of candy from neighbors and friends. Our ancestors lived with magic, the wonder-full, the unexplainable, daily for their entire lives, even after Christianity became the main religion of Scotland. Their world was imbued with magic, sparkled with it, it fascinated and terrified them by turns. The unseen presences that walked with them had powerful causal effects on every aspect of life and the world in which they lived.

These spiritual presences were called by several names: Tuatha de Dana (the children of the Mother Goddess Dana), The Aos Sidhi (A SHEE, the fair folk), Daimons (DAY-mons), People of the Mound (faerie mounds where they dwelled), and People of Peace. These groups were divided into the benign and the malicious called the Seelie and the Unseelie Courts, each having its own king and queen. Shakespeare wrote about a Seelie Court in “A Midsummer Nights Dream” ruled by Oberon and Titania. They were also called the Fey, which comes from the Old French faeries – according to Wikipedia,

the earliest spelling for fairies. The spelling changed to ‘fairy’ during the Victorian era when the Unseely Court disappeared and the Little People were seen as cute and harmless, a role reinforced by many artists and writers of that day. And they were often all referred to from earliest times simply as the Sidhi (SHEE) – the Shining Ones.

The best known are the Brownies. Brownies were generally benign and were known – for the price of a bowl of milk or other treat - to help with the housework at night, tidying up after the human homemaker had gone to bed. But if the Brownies were not respected and treated well they became tricksters, pranking the families who did not appreciate them or, in some cases, being harmful chaos makers. It is rumored that Dobby, of Harry Potter fame, was modeled by author JR Rowling on Brownies. Brownies loved human clothing but had to receive it as a gift if they were to own any. Once given clothes, the Brownie often felt free to withdraw help from the family. Dobby won his freedom from the cruel Malfoy family when he was mistakenly given a sock.

Kelpies, whose origin is the lowlands of Scotland, were the inspiration for the huge, magnificent twin sculptures in Falkirk. Kelpies were “water horses”, definitely of the Unseely Court! They lived in marshes, streams, rivers and edges of lakes, and appeared tame. But anyone foolish enough to get on their backs were drowned in short order. Selkies, the Seal People, were benign, and often were found helping humans after shipwrecks and those who were carried away from shore by currents. When a Seal Woman came to shore she could take human form by shedding her skin. This she hid nearby until she was ready to regain her true shape and return to the water. If a man wanted to marry a Selkie, he could find her skin and hide it from her, prohibiting her from returning to the seals. In the Shetland Isles, according to old folklore, there were a People called Wulvers – similar to werewolves, but also of the Seely Court – who helped people and left food for hungry poor humans. Pookas were tall and could take on frightening or friendly aspects as they chose; some sources say they are mischievous, some say helpful. What is known is that unlike Jimmy Stewart’s Harvey, they were not six feet tall white

rabbits! And then there was the Cailleach Bheur (CAY-leek VER)– Old Lady Winter. She appeared on Winter’s Eve, September 28th, according to author Natalia Belting’s excellent children’s book of that title, and influenced the land until Beltane on April 30th. A final well-known presence was the Ban Sidhi (“woman spirit”), spelled today Banshee. This was the female spirit who foretold death by loudly keening at the home of the one soon to die. While not of the Unseely Court, they became thought of as malefic because of their unhappy role in human affairs. All these various spirits could best be seen on Samhain – November Eve, when the veil between the worlds was thinnest. Humans wore disguises on that night in order to be “invisible” to any of the Unseely Court who might be out and about

with mischief on their minds. This is why we wear costumes and masks today. We leave our daily life to join the parties of the Seely Courts, becoming fantastic, mythical, fey other. We touch – if only briefly – the magic they lived with continuously. Next morning, we put on our very human roles again. But while we borrow the magic of our ancestors, we know that each leaf, each stone, each star, has a presence of its own. This world is a gift to us, and this autumn may we each be grateful for and increasingly aware of the beauty and mystery in the universe that surrounds us by the Grace of God.

RECIPES

Clan Leslie Society International would like to produce a cookbook and we need your help! Please send your favorite recipes with complete instructions to our Chaplain, Samantha Gray. If we can produce the cookbook, it will then be available to sell. Samantha's email is riognach@aol.com If you have any questions, email Samantha or Linda Flowers at lflowjingo@sbcglobal.net

Lang May Yer Lum Reek

Lang May Yer Lung Reek can be loosely interpreted as the Scots Gaelic version of “Happy Birthday”. It means “Long may your chimney smoke”, and is a wish that one may live many years to keep one’s hearth fires burning brightly. It is your Chaplain’s privilege and pleasure to wish all of our kith and kin a happy healthy year. The following members birthdays will occur or have fallen since our last Issue of Grip Fast Journal.

AUGUST: Stephen Lessley – 8/3; JoAnn Wilcox – 8/8; Robin Coffman – 8/9; Margaret Brown, Harold Leslie, Jimmy Leslie, Rosemary Leslie and Richard Lynch – 8/10; Dean Messing and Wayne Seich – 10/11; Robert Abernathy – 10/14; Betty Starr – 8/15; Robert Abernathy and Riley Lanier – 8/22; Cindy Flora – 8/23; Margaret Hibbs and Anne Maret – 8/24; Irene Bush and David Olling – 8/25; John Leslie, Loren Leslie, Timothy Leslie and Leslie Short – 8/26.

SEPTEMBER: Thomas Huxtable – 9/2; Jeffrey Kern – 9/4; Tom Leslie – 9/5; Bruce Eike and Roger Moore – 9/7; Virginia Moore – 9/8; Nell Bonaparte – 9/9; Christopher Childers, David Hanson and Michael Leslie – 9/10; Samantha Gray – 9/11; Marlene Poches – 9/12; Jane Roe – 9/13; Kirk Leslie – 9/14; Elizabeth Johnson, James Lessly and Abigail Vetter – 9/16; Rose Marie Phillips – 9/17; Brent Carpenter – 9/19; Martin Brown and Phyllis Dubois – 9/22; Stephen Leslie – 9/23; John Gaffney – 9/24; Janet Leslie Pyatt – 9/26; Anna Grimm – 9/28; William Leslie – 9/29; Jerry Anderson – 9/30.

OCTOBER: Brian Lesslie – 10-4; Harvey Leslie – 10/5; Ruth Dittman, Frank Leslie and John Updegraff – 10/6; Mathilda Gould and Lewis Johnson – 10/9; Eugene Leslie – 10/10; Melody Kirk and Robert Leslie – 10/12; Thomas Allen and Jeffrey Dorsey – 10/13; Dane Gay, Judith Grigor and Valda Leslie – 10/14; Robert Abernathy and Jack R. Lesley – 10/15; William Leslie – 10/16; John Abernathy, Donald Leslie and Sandra Leslie – 10/20; James Leslie – 10/21; Dwight Leslie – 10/22; Florence Lesley and Helen Lesley – 10/23; Jean Brannon – 10/24; Mark Weller – 10/26; Wanda Lucas – 10/27; Kenneth Leslie and Melva Wheelwright – 10/31.

NOVEMBER: Darrell Abernathy, T. Ashley Leslie Fodroci and Anne Hooper – 11/2; Jamie LaBoda and Bonnie Simmons – 11/3; Carolyn LineBARRIER and Mary Anne Regling – 11/4; Kristina Nellis – 11/6; Craig Leslie, Jack Merrill, Steven Olling and David Leslie White; Bonnie Rudinski – 11/9; William G. Leslie and Murna Nason – 11/11; Leslie Evans – 11/12; Brian Byrnell – 11/13; Robert Leslie and Karen Leslie – 11/14; William F. Leslie – 11/17; Cal Leslie and L. Leslie – 11/19; Richard Leslie and Monica Roderiquez – 11/21; Fredrick Lang – 11/25; Libby Gray and Harold Wilcox – 11/28; Janice Abernathy and Alexandra Pettigrew – 11/29.

DECEMBER: Peggy Allen, Katherine Brynell and Samuel Reid – 12/1; Sharon Eastwood and Brian Lesslie – 12/2; Matthew Allen – 12/3; Mark Abernathy – 12/4; Duncan Moore, Sandi Moore and Max White-Vilmouth – 12/7; Beryl Leslie and Robert Leslie – 12/9; Christine Johnson and Dale Young – 12/11; Vicki Dodson – 12/12; Harriet Esham – 12/16; Lauren Thompson – 12/18; Nathan Carlson – 12/25; Elizabeth Henry and Richard Leslie – 12/26; Petra Leslie and Dana Reeves – 12/27; Nena McNeely – 12/28; Russell Lessly – 12/29; Janique Leslie-Calderon and Stephen Leslie – 12/30; Troy Moore – 12/31.

Rose Leslie



Rejection is a massive part of acting.

GRITTY, raw, brutal. Not words you'd associate with the incredibly polite and well-spoken Rose Leslie. On screen it's a different matter. The Scottish actress is best known for playing the fantastically feral Ygritte in *Game Of Thrones* and as for her turn in ITV'S Edwardian period megahit, *Downton Abbey*, her standout memory is heaving a horse out of the mud with Lady Sybil.

A woman who doesn't mind getting her hands dirty then, which is just as well as she's up to her armpits in blood and body parts in the BBC's *Luther* this week. A series not known for holding back on the grit in its previous three outings, this two-parter doesn't disappoint its massive following and will dutifully serve up gore and guts, violence, car chases and a higher body count than a *Downton* shooting party.

Leslie plays DS Emma Jones, Idris Elba's sidekick and a no-nonsense detective with a score to settle, whose tenacity is tested as the story unfolds. "She's is a brilliant character because she's incredibly professional and good at her job. She's loyal and determined in the face of brutality. She has so many layers," says Leslie.

Rather than a spoiler, we'll go for a taster, with a snippet of Leslie's dialogue: "He bit the tongue out guv".

Speaking from her flat in north London, Leslie is sanguine about *Luther's* hard-hitting style. After all this is the woman who did two seasons in the role of bloodthirsty Ygritte, a Wildling woman and spearwife with a blunt Lancashire accent. It was Ygritte's love affair with her nemesis that gave the series one of its catchphrases, "You know nothin' Jon Snow", before she was killed off at the end of series four.

Does she get a lot of people shouting it at her?

"I do! I do! And it's a lovely thing. I feel fortunate to be part of it because the fan base is extraordinary and incredibly vast. Having that catchphrase thrown at me now and then, it's a lovely thing."

Leslie still has an affection for the character. "She was fairly ferocious and when her world was threatened you saw how committed she was to the Wildlings and her tribe, to saving her people. She was a warrior, very self-reliant, ballsy."

But she's unlikely to be making a comeback. "Yes, Ygritte is definitely dead. She's been burnt. I think she's very dead. She's not coming back," says Leslie, dashing the hopes of many *GoT* fans hoping for a resurrection. "I think it's important to change and not be associated with your character too much. I adored my time on that show, but all good things come to an end," says the 28-year-old.

Leslie is grateful for the spotlight the success of the series internationally has shone on her work and the opportunities it has opened up to her.

“The phenomenon that is Game Of Thrones has propelled many actors associated with it into the minds of directors and producers and it’s a fabulous position to be in. It’s because it’s so adored and respected, of such high quality with such amazing cinematography. The gap between film and TV is narrowing and that’s great for us all,” she says.

“It’s popular because it’s the best escapism in the world, with the fantastical element, family, friends, war and brutality. It’s so compelling, the locations, costumes, and it’s visually stunning. All of that makes for fabulous TV.”

The demise of the doughty Ygritte also meant Leslie was available for new projects and had the freedom to swap her bow and arrow for a gun, and fantasy for crime, in Luther.

“Being given a gun stopped me pining for a bow and arrow. I got to shoot blanks, clumsily, and had to make sure I didn’t close my eyes when I pulled the trigger. There were some car chases too. They asked me at the audition if I could drive and I can, so I said yes, but I learned to drive in Scotland on lovely big country roads. Then you find yourself going round the Elephant and Castle roundabout with an entire crew, several in the back of the car and more in another behind you filming, and you’re hunting a killer... Oh my days, wow!” she says.

Luckily the plucky Leslie loves a challenge and throwing herself into diverse roles that pique her interest and wrestle her attention to the floor.

Whether the two episodes will lead to an extended role in future series remains to be seen.

“That’s up to the BBC. I hope there’s more to come but I’m a tiny cog in a very big wheel. Hopefully, fingers crossed, because that would be fantastic.”

Born Rose Eleanor Arbuthnot-Leslie in February 1987 in Aberdeenshire, much has been made of Leslie’s comfortable background, especially when she was cast as housemaid Gwen Dawson in Downton. She’s the daughter of a laird, and when she heads home for Christmas it will be to a castle.

“I have such a love and affinity for the place. I adore it. We’re north of Aberdeen in the middle of the countryside, all trees and nature. I feel very much at peace in Scotland,” she says.

The third of five children, two boys and three girls, she’s the only redhead, or “kissed by fire” as the GoT Wildlings have it.

“Yes, I’m the only ginger,” she says. “The rest are all dark-haired, but I think my dad’s beard would have come in ginger if he’d let it grow. So that proves I’m one of them.”

She’s also the only actor in the clan, as one sister is a teacher, one brother works in the media, another is a tree surgeon and her younger sister is in finance. With siblings to roam through castle grounds with, Leslie “had a lot of fun” and grew up with a robust physicality, despite her slim, deceptively ethereal appearance.

“Yes, my brothers love rugby and wanting to impress my older brother I would become his dummy and let him practise on me. I love sport.”

You have to take it in your stride.

“Luther is raw and brutal like Game Of Thrones, but it’s coincidence. If I’m drawn to anything it would be the writing. Choosing a project is an organic process where I’m taken in by the character and storyline, not the genre, whether fantasy or gritty and raw.”

She adds: “I’ve been an ardent fan and admirer of Luther from the beginning in 2010. It really struck a chord with me. I’ve never seen anything like it. I’m hugely privileged to be part of that new cast for two episodes. When you’re working with Sam Miller [director] and Neil Cross [writer] and Idris Elba, you up your game and hope you’re good enough,” she says.

What was it like working opposite actor/DJ/fashion designer and all round pleasingly featured Elba, who has neatly sidestepped the “can a black man play James Bond controversy” in order to rap on Noel Fielding and Kasabian guitarist Serge Pizzorno’s Christmas single.

“You’d think I would be far more professional,” says Leslie, “but on the first day I was like a rabbit in the headlights, thinking ‘what am I doing here?’ He is charming, a gentleman and incredibly professional and welcoming to all new members of cast. Luther is something he’s passionate about and it’s close to his heart, and he’s so brilliant in front of the camera that you just want to nab his skills.”

The Leslie youngsters went to the local primary school in the nearby village of Rayne, which Leslie credits for her Scottish accent, which returns when she’s with her brothers and sisters.

“Yes I was wee Rosie for a good few years at school, and my accent was much stronger. It’s fairly ingrained. I would love to have a character who uses it.”

After primary, Leslie boarded at Millfield in Somerset, where she loved drama and went on to the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA) to study acting.

“It was something I always had a passion for at school. Because I was never heard in my household, with five of us! I wanted to be the centre of attention. I thought it was fun and managed to get into drama school, then realised I had to take it seriously.”

Accents were one of the things emphasised so when Leslie got the part of Ygritte she felt comfortable enough to suggest Northern tones for the warrior. “I said I would love to give her a Lancashire accent because it fitted the character and made sense with her being from North of the Wall.”

Before Game Of Thrones Leslie had won a Scottish Bafta for Best New Talent for her debut role of Rhian in New Town in 2009, the



year after she graduated, then it was straight on to her first major role in *Downton*.

“It was too good to be true. It didn’t feel like work,” she says. “That was my first ensemble piece. It was great to be on camera every day for six months, a real education.”

In the same year Leslie appeared in the Globe Theatre production of *Bedlam*, a performance the *Telegraph* described as “genuinely poignant”, and she’d love to tread the boards again, although the opportunity hasn’t arisen. It was straight into two series of *GoT*, as well as the Channel 4 conspiracy drama *Utopia* and ITV miniseries *The Great Fire*. On the big screen she was also in last year’s *Honeymoon*, a US science fiction horror film that premiered at South by Southwest – and will put you off cabins in the wood for life.

On the big screen her roles have expanded and she was the leading lady in this autumn’s *The Last Witch Hunter*, alongside Vin Diesel, Elijah Wood and Michael Caine. It’s a fantasy thriller that switches between contemporary and historical settings.

How did it feel to be playing a lead opposite Diesel’s immortal witch hunter?

“It felt fabulous, certainly with the character of Chloe. I played a young modern witch who is more than a match for her male contemporaries. She’s essentially a good witch, not malevolent.

“Also, it was my first ever studio film and I was away in Pittsburgh for four months. That’s the first time I’ve been away from home for so long. I had never been to the east coast of the US in autumn and it’s utterly mesmerising. The colour around Pennsylvania was extraordinary. I loved Pittsburgh and went to the ice hockey, baseball and American football. I love sport, so I couldn’t believe my luck.”

After Pittsburgh came New Orleans and another film, this time the forthcoming indie drama *Sticky Notes*, in which she stars opposite Ray Liotta.

“He was great. He plays my father, a cantankerous old fellow. We were estranged but I’m home to look after him because he’s got cancer. It was fabulous to work with him and learn from him. I have been a very lucky lady,” she says.

As well as working opposite Liotta, Leslie enjoyed the delights of New Orleans and the chance to hang out off set somewhere a lot warmer than Aberdeenshire, Iceland or London.

“Oh man, I would love to go back. It’s so vibrant, colourful, the food, the bayous – we went into the swamp and watched alligators. I adored it. It was so full of life, fabulous.”

And what of *Morgan*, the sci-fi thriller that comes out next year in which she plays a young scientist?

“Again it’s the writing rather than the genre that attracted me. It was shot in Belfast early this year and we worked with some phenomenal actors, Paul Giamatti, Toby Jones, and it was Luke Scott, Ridley Scott’s son’s directorial debut. I’m in a secretive world working on genetically modified humans, then lines get blurred and an outsider is brought in. It gets a bit nasty...” Again with the nasty.

Back in London life is much more sedate for Leslie, with downtime spent “going to the pub with friends, and cooking. I enjoy shopping too.”

Although much rumour surrounded her relationship with co-star and on-screen love interest, the English actor Kit Harington, who plays Jon Snow in *Game Of Thrones*, she has always remains tight-lipped about the series heart-throb. When asked if she has a boyfriend, she’s gracious but discreet.

“Yes, I’m in a relationship and I’m very happy.” And that’s your lot.

When we speak she’s just back from an audition that morning, but won’t talk about it for fear of hexing her chances.

“It might mean more travel...” is all she will say. Travel is something she loves. The steamy heat of Louisiana, Pennsylvania in the fall, oh, and for several snowy months, northern Iceland, while the other half of the *Game Of Thrones* cast basked in the heat of Malta and Morocco.

“Yes I remember going into the audition and they asked how I dealt with the cold. I bravely said I don’t mind the cold at all. I was brought up in Scotland in a cold house.”

Apart from a propensity for overstatement, stunt driving, for example, to impress casting directors, Leslie enjoys the process of auditioning and appreciates that she’s now in a great position to attract bigger roles.

“I love going into the room and proving my worth in front of producers and directors. On the same spectrum, rejection is a massive part of acting and you have to take it in your stride. You would be naive in wanting to become an actor and not having to take some knocks. It seeds the fire in your belly and you are able to look into yourself and test out how ambitious you are.”

And then Leslie says something surprising. Usually actors talk about their current projects, their next role and what they want to achieve into the future, unable to imagine a life other than the one they have created in the field of make believe. But Leslie has a sense that acting may not always be where she devotes her energies.

“Hopefully I will be working the next five to ten years and in productions with people I admire and am inspired by, where there are characters who resonate with an audience. I love that feeling of

leaving the cinema unable to think. I just saw Carol and that was inspiring. Cate Blanchett is someone I've always admired. Monica Dolan and Olivia Colman too."

And what else would she like to do, if we're talking a potentially limited amount of time? Straight away she fires back: "Child psychology has always been my plan B. There are seven years' training for that, so it's something that shouldn't be done half-heartedly. If this dries up, that is a real passion of mine that I would like to pursue."

What was it that sparked the interest, was it being one of five? "That yes, but also I have seen through friends how much it can help a child and it's an incredibly admirable job, so I'd like to think about that," she says.

In the meantime, with the auditions flying in and the roles coming thick and fast, her career seems to be on the up and there's no need for a plan B.

"I'm very fortunate to be working," she says. "I'm in a very competitive industry with peaks and troughs and I'm able to live in London and support myself through what I love and aspire to, so I consider that a real blessing. In this industry it's very difficult to find work and keep up the momentum, but I've managed it so far."

Read more: <http://www.scotsman.com/lifestyle/culture/film/interview-rose-leslie-from-wildling-warrior-to-london-detective-1-3974569#ixzz3uGdWWsmd>

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The Purpose of Clan Leslie Society International

To promote, foster, collect and preserve historical and genealogical records and information about descendants of Clan Leslie throughout the world and to promote knowledge of Clan Leslie specifically and the history and culture of Scotland generally.

Our goal is to enhance and increase the learning of Leslie history and gather past and future information that we can pass on to our children to give them a sense of belonging to an ancient family.

These have been our Purpose and Goal since our Society was founded in 1978 as the American Clan Leslie Society. In the past, the collection and preservation of historical records was almost exclusively the role of Alexander Leslie Klieforth. His wife, Gloria, did the research, wrote the articles, edited and published *The Griffin and the Journal*. More recently, since the re-location of our archives to the McLaughlin Library at the University of Guelph, a major program has been in operation to locate and collect many of the books, booklets, songs and other works by or about Leslies and Abernethys. In particular, the Leslies of Castle Leslie at Glaslough, County Monaghan Ireland were prolific writers. We have in our Clan Leslie Collection most of the books written by Sir Shane Leslie (3rd. Baronet), his brothers Seymour and Lionel (author and sculptor) and Shane's children Anita, and Desmond.

In our collection are dozens of other books by lesser known Leslies. Yet, we keep discovering new authors, inventors and academics who have made significant contributions to the world, and whose works we do not yet have in our collection.

To fulfill our obligation to our Purpose and Goal, we need to continue to collect and preserve works for the Clan Leslie Collection. Some of the items in our collection are irreplaceable and if they are not preserved now they will be lost forever. And since this collection will be a rich source for research, we need to provide stipends to students who are able to conduct skilled research and produce scholarly papers which will promote knowledge of Clan Leslie. By contributing to our Library Fund and the Scholarship Fund, we show our pride and commitment in our Society.

At this time of year, there are many charitable organizations asking for donations. In making donations, we would ask that you include the CLSI Library Fund and Scholarship Fund. Your contributions of \$25, \$50, \$75 or more will provide valuable assistance to both of these funds and the Clan Leslie Society International. Donations are tax deductible in the U.S.

Donations should be sent to Linda Flowers, CLSI Treasurer, 302 SW 3rd, Tuttle, OK 73089. Contributions by credit card can be sent to her by email, lflowjingo@sbcglobal.net

SNAL Conference

Fellow Scots:

The registration for the 2017 conference is now open. This is a premiere opportunity for us to gather as a diaspora, to share our common history and heritage and to plan ways to engage our youth so that our traditions and spirit can be carried forward to future generations.

Our Keynote speaker will be Chris Maskell. Chris is the Head of Scottish Affairs in Canada. The program is posted on the website as are the bios and photos of the confirmed speakers.

The website is available at: <http://snal2017.ca/>

And registration at: <http://snal2017.ca/registration/>

A Century of Superiority in the Use and Control of Fluids

It has been one hundred years since Canadian born John Leslie advertised his first major product, a steam powered snowplow for railroad locomotives. By 1905 The Leslie Company was operating a foundry, machine shop and small office in Lyndhurst, New Jersey, and building a reputation for producing reliable steam pressure valves and regulators. The company was a major supplier of steam control equipment for military and merchant ships during both World Wars and has continued as a supplier of military/commercial marine service products. Leslie's product line grew over the years to incorporate equipment for industrial and utility customers, and in 1968 the company moved into a larger plant in Parsippany, New Jersey.

In Parsippany, Leslie built on decades of experience manufacturing high quality valves for military and industrial markets to solidify its reputation as a premium quality manufacturer, with products such as the venerable "Super G" Series regulators and the Class DLO control valve line.

After moving our headquarters to a newly built 150,000 sq. ft. facility in Tampa, Florida, Leslie broadened its scope to encompass a comprehensive array of products for total fluid management of steam and other fluids. In 1990, Watts Industries, Inc., one of the world's largest independent valve manufacturers, purchased Leslie Controls, Inc.

1994 marked the introduction of Aeroflow, one of the most innovative and diverse family of control valves in the world. The

Watts acquisition provides a broader scope of fluid control products distributed throughout the global marketplace. Watts and its subsidiaries design, manufacture and sell an extensive line of valves to the plumbing and heating, municipal water, power, chemical, petrochemical, industrial, and oil and gas markets. Our 1995 acquisition of the K&M Valve Company added the widely recognized K-Max Rotary, GTB Top & Bottom Guided, GTW Three Way, and Synflow Sweep Angle control valve lines to our Process Chemical and Oil & Gas Industry offerings. With 250 employees, Leslie Controls, Inc., has grown to serve power generation, oil and gas, petrochemical, chemical process, HVAC, food processing, commercial marine, and military marine markets through a network of over 100 manufacturer's representatives worldwide.



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 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.

Weapons of the Highlands

PART 3: THE DIRK

The Dirk, or biodag is a long knife that is worn on the right side. Though we do not see wearing of the dirk as often in Modern Scottish dress, this weapon has had quite the role in Scottish Martial History. The Dirk was your indoor weapon, the one you use for quick and sudden attacks. It was the weapon that solemn oaths were sworn over, and the one most objectionable when the Scottish people were banned from keeping their traditional arms after Culloden. It was a sign of manhood, and one that was embraced by both the high and low born of the Clans as they were not as expensive to come by as a Broadsword was.

Historically, it is thought that the Dirk came from an earlier traditional weapon called the Bollock or Kidney dagger. As the name suggests, the grip featured 2 spherical lobes near the blade. It was not always worn on the right hand side but was sometimes worn between the legs, or concealed in the plaid. As to its proper use, it is primarily used in the reverse grip or what some modern Knife fighters call the ice pick grip, this is due to the way that it is drawn from the sheath. Occasionally it could be used in a forward grip if it was being used by itself, but this was less common based on the techniques that one would use it for. The Dirk is similar to modern Bowie knives in the fact that one side is sharpened, it has a sharpened tip, and sometimes the back side is sharpened for a portion of the blade.

This means that it is primarily a stabbing or thrusting weapon, with the ability to cut if needed with the bladed edge. The back edge then was used for parrying or deflecting your opponent's attack thus clearing their blade out of the way for your own attack. The Dirk was also used in concert with the Targe, or Scottish shield. Once you have deflected their blade upwards with your shield it

is possible to hit them with the edge of the shield, or if you are grasping the Dirk in the hand, to then thrust the dirk to the face or what have you.

The Dirk was also the weapon of assassination, as one could get indoors with an enemy, get close to them and stab them before they had the ability to draw their own weapon. While the Sgian may have been something you could keep close just in case, the length of the Dirk at 20 inches at least, allowed it to be much more of a threat than a 3 inch blade would be. If you consider the Sgian as a similar blade length of a Swiss Army knife, the Dirk had closer to the length of a modern hunting or combat knife. This is because the Dirk has its history in such knives and would have been used both in combat but also for use with hunting and cleaning prey.

Why do we wear it? What significance does it have? Whereas the Sgian is a weapon that is a nod back to our Scottish history and the needing of a knife for daily use, the Dirk was and still is, a nod to our highland martial history. While walking the line between being something that can easily be worn both indoors and out, it is also a weapon that would have been used were you inside and needed to defend yourself at close quarters. While modern Dirks often have things like a little knife or fork on their sheath, these are modern things that have been added for functionality or decorative purposes rather than something that was historically placed there. The Dirk was, and in many ways still is a way of saying "This person is a Man, and deserves to be respected as such." The dirk is a part of our shared martial History, or deception, our betrayal and our redemption, and as such deserves a solid place among the weapons of the Scottish Highlands.



& Their Uses: Parts 3 & 4

PART 4: THE SCOTTISH 2-HANDED SWORD

Claymore is. Literally translated, the Claidheamh Mor means big sword, but this translation of the phrase is all from later periods and refer to the broadsword, rather than the two handed sword. (More about this next article) The nearest phrase we have for the Scottish two handed sword may be Claidheamh da Laimh, or literally a 2 handed sword. The word for Sword being Claidheamh. In the case of one handed swords of the time, it is likely that the sword in one hand would simply be Claidheamh.

Where this is confusing however, is that we have been taught that the Scottish 2 handed sword is called a Claymore, when there is simply no evidence for it to have ever being called this until reasonably recently. To clear up this confusion, and for the sake of these articles, I will use the term Scottish long sword, but in the next article will talk about the Basket hilted sword as the Broadsword which is a contemporary name for it and the only time that term is proper for any weapon.

So what do we know about the Scottish long sword?

As to the weapons, what we do know is what is remaining in museums in present day. The Wallace sword, for example, which is presently housed at the National Wallace Monument at Sterling, Has an overall length of 5 feet 4 inches, with a blade that is 4 feet 4 inches, and a weight of about 6 pounds. While it has been argued that this weapon may not be the one that belonged to Wallace himself, it was no doubt this style of weapon was used and practiced in Scotland during his lifetime. It is a two edged weapon, that is used for cutting as much as thrusting or stabbing.

How was it used?

Unfortunately, we do not have much by way texts remaining from Scotland in the period that this weapon was used. What we do know for sure is that it existed and was practiced in Scotland due to remaining examples of this weapon in museums. Shortly after the time of William Wallace for example, we have texts from what is present day Italy, and Germany that explain how to use the 2 handed long sword both on the battlefield and in a dueling situation. What we know from these texts is that the long sword was not the heavy, awkward, weapon that we have been told that it is in books or movies. Having handled a few of these personally, what I know

for sure is that any time you pick up a quality sharp long sword that is well balanced it is easy to move, strike, riposte, and continue to cut and stab with for relatively long periods of time.

This is the weapon I am the most familiar with, having trained with it the most in both the Italian and German styles. When training with these weapons, you use all the parts of the weapon, both edges, the cross guard, and the pommel. It is a dynamic weapon, and not the clumsy weapon you would think it was. In teaching school groups, I have had kids say they thought that a sword weighed 25 pounds, and at that point you have to ask, could you swing a 25 pound weight around for hours and hours on end and not get tired? More to the point, if a sword only needs to weigh 2-3 pounds to kill your enemy, does it do any good to add 20+ extra pounds to it so it is just harder to move while wearing yourself out in the process?

The Italian Espada en de mani, or the German Langschwert were approximately the same size as the Scottish long sword, even if their cross guards would have been styled differently. We know then, from the historical texts that these could be used from the ground against a man on horseback, or to keep enemies at bay from a greater distance with greater control than a shorter weapon would have been. This was a weapon that was used on foot, as it simply does not make sense to use on horseback. The key is to think of this weapon not as something you are swinging around with your hands grasping each other but rather a weapon whose pivot is based in the front, or lead hand and whose momentum and direction is based in the back or trail hand, allowing for quick, almost effortless cuts, and the ability to protect from strikes that will be coming towards you relatively quickly and easily.

In my next article I will be talking about the Broadsword, and how it is that when the rest of Europe went to a longer, thinner, rapier blade in Scotland, we embraced the much wider and thicker weapon, especially when used in tandem with some of the other weapons we have so far discussed and when using the Targe in things like the Highland charge.

Jordan Hinkley



For comments, or questions please feel free to email Jordan directly at Swordsmanjordan@live.com

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

Linda Flowers, CLSI Scholarship Committee, lflowjingo@sbcglobal.net

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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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