

# Grip Fast



# Online

The Online Newsletter of Clan Leslie Society International

August-September, 2013



## Tents!

See where CLSI  
members hosted  
tents this summer

# David Leslie White, Chieftain, Clan Leslie Society International

## The Battle of Flodden



The Battle of Flodden, sometimes called the Battle of Branxton (Brainston Moor) was a battle between the Kingdom of Scotland and the Kingdom of England. The battle was fought in Northumberland, England on September 9, 1513. The Scottish army was led by King James IV and the English army by the Earl of Surrey. The conflict arose when England attacked the French, an ally of Scotland under the Auld Alliance with France.

Plus, the king of England, Henry VIII was claiming to be the overlord of Scotland, which of course angered the Scots and King James IV.

In accordance with the medieval code of chivalry, King James had informed the English a month in advance of his intent to invade England. Apparently it was ungentlemanly to launch a surprise attack. Hence, this gave the English time to assemble an army and to move north to halt the Scottish invasion. The two armies met near the village of Branxton. Through a series of blunders, the Scottish army suffered a devastating defeat with a great loss of life. Scottish losses were estimated at 10,000. Among those killed were three Highland chiefs, twelve earls, thirteen barons, five heirs to titles, three bishops, two abbots and even King James himself.

Among the Leslies, “only William, 3rd Earl of Rothes is known to have died. Leslie survivors include William, 7th baron of Balquhain and his bailie George Leslie of the Cults (who died of wounds on this return to the Garioch); John, 2nd baron of Wardis, Sheriff of Aberdeen, and his sons William (first laird of Warthill) and Andrew (first Goodman of Buchan); David, 3rd baron of Pitcaple, and Alexander Leslie, 3rd baron of that Ilk”\*

Memorial services on the 500th anniversary of this battle will be held at the battlefield and at St. Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh.

\*page 84, Grip Fast: The Leslies in History by Alexander Leslie Klieforth, published by Phillimore & Co., 1993

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## ABOUT THE COVER

Cover photo of William Leslie, Clan Commissioner North America; Jacob Leslie; Robert Leslie and the Clan Leslie Banner at the Bracebridge Scottish Festival and Highland Games.



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## Into the Geerie

The Spring 2013 issue of *Whisky Advocate* carries an interesting article titled "Into The Gerrie," which is actually about the Garioch region of Aberdeenshire. The Garioch, which includes a number of Leslie castles and houses, is a 150 square mile area of agricultural rich farmland stretching along the rivers Don and Ury. The Garioch, known to the locals as "The Geerie," is a land of thick black soil, mostly long low mountains, except for Bennachie, and an area that most travelers pass through. Even the whisky pilgrims pass through on their way to Speyside and the Islands. With the rich soil, the quality of the barley is excellent, and there is a source of peats from New Pitsligo about half way between Peterhead and Banff. Ah, a great location to make whisky! And there in Oldmeldrum, formerly the home of "Mussel-mouth'd" Charlie Leslie, is the Glen Garioch distillery. Glen Garioch may be the oldest distillery in Scotland, and its official license was granted in 1798. There are strong claims that this should be 1785. For many years it provided the base for Vat 69. But more recently this distillery has made its own brand of whisky, including some outstanding single malts.

The master blender is Rachel Barrie, who is also the master blender for Morrison Bowmore, (and who is from Inverurie), who notes that Glen Garioch after a few years maturation "develops a honeyed sweetness, butterscotch, and a hint of spice that is reminiscent of my grandmother's wild honey spread on malted toast." Also, "mature Glen Garioch develops complexity with a floral heathery, spice, and dessert-like flavors, pancakes and golden syrup, spiced poached pears, apple crumble with cream, and heather on the hills" Wow! Poached pears?

Meanwhile, the July 2013 issue of *Whisky Magazine* includes some tastings from a whisky from "home." Virtually all of these are "Glen Garioch (A Rare Find)" and different only in which cask they came from and the year distilled. I find it interesting that all are priced between \$110 and \$190 US. The tasting scale is from 1 to 10, with 10 being "unbelievably outstanding." I have never seen a 10 awarded. Generally any whisky above a 7.5 is "OK," but those of 8.5 and above are very interesting.

<b>1978, 33 years old, cask 10997</b>	<b>8.5</b>
<b>1986, 26 years old, cask 1807</b>	<b>8.0</b>
<b>1997, 15 years old, cask 828</b>	<b>7.8</b>
<b>1998, 14 years old, cask 663</b>	<b>8.5</b>
<b>1999, 12 years old, cask 2906,</b>	<b>7.6</b>

David Leslie White

## A Gathering of a few Leslies

Friday evening, Aug. 9th, Marguerite and I had the pleasure of hosting a small gathering of Leslies. Our commissioner, William Leslie came to stay with us for the night in preparation for our hosting a Clan Leslie tent at the Fergus Highland games the following day.

Joining us for the evening were Vera Denny, a long time CLSI Member, her daughter Joyce Marshall, CLSI member Sharon Porterfield, Leah Youngblut (both Sharon and Leah are my sisters), and my grandsons, Jacob Leslie, Gabriel Hermann and Noah Hermann.

Although not closely related, Vera and I have the same great great grandfather, James Leslie. James was one of the four children of John Leslie and Letty Ann Boke. John and Letty Ann were both born and married in County Tyrone, arriving with their children in the Glen Williams, Ontario area in 1819.

We had a pleasant evening sharing stories of our Leslie history, and look forward to the possibility of a larger gathering of Leslie kin sometime in the summer of 2014.

Jacob and I very much enjoyed our day in the Leslie Clan tent at the Fergus Games. It was encouraging to meet the several Leslies who stopped by, and hear about their stories.

The following is a picture of Lydia Leslie (nee Williams) and James Leslie. They were married in 1828, probably at Glen Williams. James was born in County Tyrone, Ireland in 1800 and died at Acton, Ontario in 1873.

Robert Leslie, Acton, Ontario



James and Lydia Leslie

# A Chair of State

## A Link with Historic Leslies: The Famous Duke of Rothes

David Leslie from Leslie

A historic chair of state is featured this week. Its story is interesting. It was the chair of office used by John Leslie, seventh Earl and first Duke of Rothes, who was Commissioner of the Exchequer in 1681. He was also Lord High Commissioner and President of the Privy Council for Scotland and Lord High Treasurer for Scotland for life.

Mr. John Fraser, Union Street, Aberdeen, is receiving instructions to dispose of the valuable antique chair, and much interest will be taken in the ultimate destination of so historic a relic which, in our judgement, should be acquired for our own regional museum- when it matures.

The great family of Leslie took its name from the existing parish of Leslie in the Garioch. The earliest known ancestor was a certain Bartoff whose son, Malcolm of Leslie, was Constable of the Castle of Inverurie, which he held for David, Earl of Huntingdon (1143-1219) third son of King David 1, who was also Earl of the Garioch and Lord of Strathbogie.

Malcolm's great-grandson, Sir Norman Leslie of Leslie, acquired Fythkill in Fife about 1292 and changed the name to Leslie, which it still bears.

The third son of Sir Andrew Leslie, son of Sir Norman, was ancestor of the Earls of Rothes, a title created before 20th March 1457-1458. The title was taken from possessions on Speyside. The fourth son, Walter, was Earl of Ross in right of his wife. The fifth son, George, was ancestor of the existing family of Balquhain- long holding the rank of Counts Leslie.

George Leslie of Rothes and Leslie in Fife was made a Lord of Parliament in 1445 as Lord Leslie of Leven, and later, in 1457, Earl of Rothes. He owned lands in the Sheriffdoms of Aberdeen, Elgin, Perth and Fife which were united into the Barony of Ballinbreich.

The third Earl was killed at Flodden. The eldest son of the fourth Earl was that famous figure of the Reformation, Norman Leslie, Master of Rothes, who was one of the principal murderers of Cardinal Bethune and the victor of the Battle of Ancrum Moor. Norman died of wounds received in action in France in 1554. He had no legitimate children.

John Leslie, seventh Earl, and first and last Duke of Rothes, succeeded in 1641 when a minor. His mother was a daughter of the Regent Mar. He carried the sword at the coronation of Charles II (at Scone) and was taken prisoner at Worcester.

For a comparatively short time towards the end of Charles's reign he was omnipotent in Scottish affairs; and in 1680 was created Duke of Rothes, Marquis of Ballinbreich, Earl of Leslie, Viscount Lugtoun and Lord Auchmontie and Caskieberrie. He died in 1681, when the Dukedom expired and the Earldom passed under a new patent, which he had obtained in 1663, to his daughter, Margaret. Since then the

Earldom of Rothes, and the Baronies of Leslie and Ballinbreich have gone to a series of female heiresses. They still exist, but the Leslie blood of the present Earl must be diluted almost to vanishing point. A great part of the estate of Leslie in Fife was sold a good many years ago, and the Rothes have now little land in Scotland.

Charles ordered the Duke a most expensive funeral. The heirs, however, were left to pay and had ultimately to sell the lands of Rothes to defray the cost – in 1700.

The Duke was an able man, but an excessive drinker – excessive even for that period. His morals were so bad as to be notorious. Towards the end of his life much scandal was excited by the daughter of the Marquis of Huntly (sister of the first Duke of Gordon) openly accompanying him on his progresses through the kingdom dressed in male clothes.

Like the Dukedom of the Lindsays (Montrose) and the Maitlands (Lauderdale) the Leslie Dukedom, as pointed out, died with the original patentee. At one time different lines of the Leslies held the following titles – Duke of Rothes, Earl of Leven, Lord Lindores, and Lord Newark. The two last Baronies are dormant or extinct. Leven was carried by a female heiress to the Melvilles, Earls of Melville.

In addition, there were the Counts Leslie of Balquhain, and the Leslies, Baronets of Wardis (Warehouse) in Aberdeenshire. The family long continued to own various estates in the country. Like Balquhain, Warthill passed by an heiress.

The fourth Earl of Rothes (father inter alia of Norman, Master of Rothes) married first in 1517 Margaret, illegitimate daughter of William Crichton, third Lord Crichton, and the Princess Margaret, daughter of James III. He divorced her in 1520, and married twice afterwards. On the death of the third wife he remarried his first, Margaret Crichton. Andrew, the fifth Earl, was the eldest son of the third marriage with the widow of the second Lord Fleming.

Henrietta Leslie, Countess of Rothes, in her own right, married in 1806, when only sixteen, a youth named George Gwyther, who had been employed as a gardener in Regent's Park, London. The Countess was then a schoolgirl. Details of the romance will be found in Mary Russell Milford's Literary Recollections, though correct names are not given. The son of the Countess and George (Gwyther) Leslie, as he afterwards became, was the twelfth Earl, but since then the Earldom has passed twice to heiresses.

Leslie in Fifeshire was the principal residence of John Leslie, Duke of Rothes, but he may have had a residence at Rothes, which remained for centuries in the family till sold, in 1700, as already stated, to one of the Grants.

*Copied from the Bon-Accord Paper 07/12/1929 page 4 column 2-3 (over two pages)*

# 180th Anniversary at Union Presbyterian Church

Robert Leslie,  
Acton, Ontario

On Sunday, May 26, 2013, my wife Marguerite and I attended a service and celebration of the 180th anniversary of the congregation of Union Presbyterian Church. The church is located in the country, a short distance from the beautiful village of Glen Williams, Ontario. The service was officiated by Rev. Brian Fox. The present building erected in 1884, is a lovely stone structure, very well maintained inside and out. Behind the church is a cemetery where the gravestones of many Leslies proudly stand.

The Frasers and the Leslies were among the very first permanent settlers in the Townships of Chinguacousy and Esquesing. (the village of Glen Williams is located in Esquesing township). They built log cabins and settled down in this new land, which was later to be called Canada.

During the early years, there was little opportunity for public worship, so families gathered together to offer praise to our Lord. The nearest churches were 8 to 10 miles away, so the fellowship of public worship was enjoyed only occasionally. Through the efforts of James McAuley, a Probationer on the roll of the Synod of Upper Canada, George Leslie and James Fraser, a local congregation was established in 1833. (the Presbyterian Church of Canada had not yet come into existence) The first service was in the barn belonging to James Fraser. In 1835, a log church was built on land that was a gift from James Fraser. Through the efforts and shepherding of the congregation by James Fraser and George Leslie, the congregation continued to grow. In 1848, a new frame church was built.

In 1884, the beautiful stone building that exists today, was erected – debt free! John S. Leslie and Joseph Leslie were on the building committee. Robert S. Leslie and Robert Leslie were on the board of management. George Leslie and John Leslie were elders. Joseph Leslie turned the first sod. Leslies have always been a part of this congregation, even to this day.

From 1926 to 1935, the Rev. Ewen Macdonald was the minister for Union Presbyterian Church, as well as its nearby sister church, Norval Presbyterian church. He and his wife, Lucy Maud Montgomery, famous as the author of *Ann of Green Gables*, lived in the church manse in Norval. According to a local visitor's guide that talks about Norval, Lucy Maud taught Sunday School at the Norval church (and quite possibly at Union) Occasionally she filled in for Rev. Macdonald during Sunday morning worship.



Union Presbyterian Church, Glen Williams, Ontario

During our visit, we had the pleasure of meeting with Gordon and Marion Lookman and Terry Leslie, members of Union Presbyterian Church. Marion and Terry are descendants of George Leslie, one of the founders. George Leslie was a brother of my great, great grandfather, James Leslie. When we introduced ourselves to Gordon, he said that he was just a newcomer to the church. He had only been a member for 35 years, while Marion was a 5th generation member! After the service, we enjoyed delicious sandwiches and desserts while chatting with various people. All in all, it was a very enjoyable event.

The historical content of this article was gathered from an article prepared by Billie Young for the 1967 Leslie reunion, as well as from an announcement of the special service written by Emma Rock of Union Presbyterian Church and printed in the Georgetown Independent and Free Press newspaper.

# Bill Leslie's Starlite Coupe

For those of you who watch the TV series *Chasing Classic Cars* on the Velocity Channel, you may remember several years ago when the "star" of *Chasing Classic Cars*, Wayne Carini, discovered an old hot rod that started life as a 1931 Ford Model A coupe. At some time in the past, this car had been a dragster, with an Oldsmobile V-8 engine, a 3-speed Buick transmission, and hydraulic drum brakes.

This car was bought in 1964 by Bill and Don Leslie of Buffalo, New York which they then constructed to compete on the show car circuit. It was "chopped" (the top was lowered) four inches, with a blue and white Naugahyde interior (do any of you remember Naugahyde?), custom bucket seats, and painted a striking 1957 Buick Starlite blue metallic paint. Door and trunk handles were removed and hidden releases installed. In addition, it had a custom tinted glass roof insert, allowing the occupants to be able to view the night sky (star-light?).

We must remember that such hot rods were unique, in that there were no two exactly alike. And there were virtually no commercial shops constructing hot rods like the late Boyd Coddington who founded Boyd Coddington Hot Rods in 1978. Most were used until they were wrecked or eventually fell apart. Few survived and even fewer survived as they were originally built.

After Leslie's Starlite Coupe won Best of Show at the Buffalo Autorama in 1964, and 2nd place at the 1964 Rochester Auto Review, the Leslies "retired" their Starlite Coupe and apparently it was never shown again. It was "discovered" by Wayne Carini of *Chasing Classic Cars* who returned it to running condition after 45 years of storage. This hot rod was thoroughly detailed and sold as an original vintage hot rod and it now resides at the Saratoga Auto Museum's Right Coast Rods exhibit. A sight to warm the hearts of passionate old-car gearheads.

David Leslie White



## CLSI Tents at Scottish Events

### 19th ANNUAL SKAGIT VALLEY HIGHLAND GAMES & CELTIC FESTIVAL JULY 13-14, 2013

This weekend was very pleasant; the sun was out and the temperature was around 80 degrees with a nice breeze (unlike the thunderstorms last year). This year I was joined by my daughter Aiko, my brother David, my nephew Bennett, and my mother Edna. My wife was in Japan, so was unable to attend.

We had visits from two families that had never stopped by the tent in previous years. One family is from north central Washington. Upon visiting with them we discovered they have a very large family which settled in that area in the late 19th century. We are in the process of trying to find some connections to my own family as we also came from the same area. I may just have found another set of cousins! Hopefully we will end up with some new members from this meeting.

We were also visited by another local Leslie who has just started his journey in researching his family roots. He indicated he may become a member as well, but will definitely check out our Facebook page to begin the process.

We will continue to host these games every year, especially since we enjoy it and it's close to Canada. We do get an occasional visitor from there.

Steve Olling



Nephew Bennett (carrying the Clan flag)  
daughter Aiko, and myself



Our tent, David is on the left and me on the right.

## CLSI Tents at Scottish Events

### 67th ANNUAL PACIFIC NORTHWEST SCOTTISH HIGHLAND GAMES JULY 27-28, 2013

Enumclaw Washington (Near Seattle)

The weekend was picturesque and the weather was excellent, 70 to 80 degrees and DRY! The festival was attended by thousands as usual. Several of the world's best bands were in attendance; one being Simon Fraser University's band and also their junior band, Robert Malcolm Memorial. Both are always present in the Pacific Northwest as they are from Vancouver, Canada (just a couple of hundred miles north of Seattle.) It is wonderful to see the world's best bands from all grades at these games every year just before they head off to the World competition!

I was assisted by my daughter Aiko, a friend of our daughters', my brother David, and my mother Edna. My wife was suffering jet lag from her annual Japan visit with her family, so she was not able to attend. Although we did not have as many visitors as in past years, we did generate high interest in those who did attend. We also had our annual visit from our more recent members from Yakima, Nora and Doyle Mayer. They trekked over in their 5th wheeler and camped at the games. I am sure they had a great time!

We were surprised to have a couple of visitors from Texas and one from South Dakota. Hopefully both will become members soon!

Steve Olling



Clan Tent, Aiko is reading about the clan



Closing ceremonies, The Massed Bands!



Aiko and friend ready to go on the parade.  
David in the background



## CLSI Tents at Scottish Events

### BRACEBRIDGE SCOTTISH FESTIVAL AND HIGHLAND GAMES AUGUST 17, 2013

Bracebridge is a half hour drive north of Orillia in Cottage Country where millions of people go to cottages and resorts in the summer. This was my fifth games this summer and since I was on my own I found I needed help in putting up the tent and the banner and sadly had to forgo marching in the Clan parade. This festival is four years old, has a lot of young people working for it but is already becoming a favourite for people vacationing in the area. There were only six clan tents but the favourite event as in many Scottish Festivals was the dancing. The parents and other family bring their tents and equipment and it becomes a family event.

I had some Muir and Leslie visitors. One woman was going from tent to tent asking if anyone knew anything about Peterhead in Aberdeenshire. I had a good conversation with her since Peterhead was my father's home town and I have many relatives there. I even had a visit from a King's Own Scottish Borderers veteran who remembered standing guard at Edinburgh Castle in his Leslie trews. I ran out of applications but emailed them to several interested people.



The highlight of the day was watching Cole Leslie take the trophy for the best overall in Dancers 10 and under in the Premier Division. Cole won 3rd in the Jig, he had never competed in this before.

He was 1st in the Highland Fling, 1st in the Sword Dance, 1st in the Seann Triubhas and 1st overall. At Fergus Cole was 2nd in the Fling, Sword, Seann Triubhas and the Reel. He was second overall in his group. He is very talented. I expect this family to join the CLSI soon.

William Leslie  
Commissioner  
Clan Leslie North America



William Leslie, Jacob Leslie, Robert Leslie and the Clan Leslie Banner



Cole Leslie holding his "Best Overall" trophy!



Back Row, Mom and Dad, Michelle, Andrew, Grandparents, Alexander and Ethel. Front Row, Cole and brother Alexander, Leslies all. Cole is holding his overall trophy and wearing his medals.

## CLSI Tents at Scottish Events

### FURGUS SCOTTISH FESTIVAL AND HIGHLAND GAMES AUGUST 9, 2013

Fergus is a three day event and involves an overnight stay in order to get to the park early in the morning. I opted to attend the Saturday only and Robert and Marguerite put me up for the night at their home in Acton. Fergus is one of the biggest Scottish festivals in Canada and on Saturday there were over 17,000 people in attendance during the afternoon. There were 35 clan tents, the most of any festival where I have hosted a tent. Fergus is also the only festival which charges the Clans. The charge is \$50 and they include the tent, parking and two weekend tickets. Robert Leslie and his grandson, Jacob Leslie helped with the Tent. Jacob also marched with me in the Parade of the Clans.

The Festival has rearranged the Clan Village and it is more accessible to the thousands in the park. I think our new Clan Leslie banner and the frame that Robert built for it made our tent much more visible to people in the stands watching the heavy Scottish athletic competitions. We had many visitors, Leslies, Laings and Muirs. In fact I have never seen and talked to so many potential CLSI members at my tent before. There was also a young lady



visiting from Scotland whose first name was Lesley. She was delighted to learn the history of the name which was first created by King Malcolm III. We gave out many application forms and colour brochures. I expect to see some new members from Fergus. Jacob had the job of stamping the kids' passports with the Clan Leslie stamp. Sue contributed chocolate covered Peek Freans shortbread cookies and these ran out early in the day. This was my third time at Fergus but by far the most satisfying in terms of meeting new Leslies.

William Leslie  
Commissioner  
Clan Leslie North America

### CLAN LESLIE TENTS

#### **Aberdeenshire,**

**Scotland** – David Leslie from Leslie

**Iowa** – Chris Chamberlin

**Kansas** – Tom Huxtable

**Michigan** – David Leslie from Canton

#### **North Carolina**

**and Virginia** – Lew and Christine Johnson

**Southwest USA** - Frank Leslie

**Oklahoma** – Linda Flowers

#### **Southern and Central**

**Ontario, Canada** – William Leslie

**Southern California** – Susan Abernethy



William Leslie in front of his CLSI tent at the Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games

## CLSI Tents at Scottish Events

### GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN HIGHLAND GAMES AUGUST 9, 2013



Lewis and Christine Johnson hosted the CLSI tent at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games and greeted many visitors interested in learning about their Leslie history. Friday and Saturday the weather was great with very pleasant temperatures. However, on Sunday everyone was greeted with torrents of rain and gusty wind that had all of the clan tents packed up and gone by 11 in the morning.

Five people, all interested in tracing their Leslie family tree joined CLSI. Christine was very busy helping these members identify a place to start in their search for long-lost relatives. Lew was busy talking to visitors about traveling Scotland.

A woman came to the tent and told Christine that she was researching her Leslie ancestor who came from Pennsylvania via Ireland. As the woman shared her

information it became apparent to Chris, who has been working on the same family, that the woman is a direct relative of our own CLSI treasurer, Linda Flowers!

Don and Janice Abernathy hosted the CLSI hospitality tent which provided front-row seating for our visiting and new members to view all of the activities on the field. Their tent provided a welcome place to rest, have a cool drink and chat with other CLSI members.

The Abernathy's daughter Elizabeth, grand-daughter Mary (now a member of CLSI) and son-in-law Shawn were on hand to assist in the tent and enjoy the events. The family had a wonderful time in the mountains of North Carolina and look forward to next year's Biennial Gathering at GMHG.

Lew Johnson

**Join us at the  
Grandfather Mountain Highland Games  
for the 2014 CLSI Biennial Gathering!  
Details coming soon!**

## Chaplain's Corner

### Samantha Gray, Chaplain, CLSI



As I write this, most of my neighborhood has gone to bed. It's a little before the witching hour in the cool of a starry August night. One would think the cicadas would have given up long ago. But since the crickets continue to fiddle and chirp, they continue to whirr. Tiny tree frogs whistle and buzz. Somewhere, a nightbird calls. Across the street in the dilapidated old barn way

back of Mark's house, raccoons churr and yip. And overhead, the stars still fall - the final scattered debris of the Perseid meteor shower. No lights in the windows. The teens on my hill-top neighborhood are all at the big beach shindig at the end of town, which accounts for the unusual quiet of a summer Saturday night. Faint voices and snatches of tunes from the live band float up on the breeze from the harbor. This is their last Youth Board-sponsored beach party of the summer with school just around the corner here on Long Island. A quiet, peaceful August night. The crickets and cicadas sing a new day into being while stars fall silently down the sky.

How many of my neighbors pay any attention to these small miraculous events? I am so blessed to hear and see them. I hope the kids at the beach are somehow aware of them also. Our ancestors lived close to the land, and followed these everyday miracles carefully, awaiting their cyclic occurrences to tell them when to plant, to harvest, to hunt, to expect rain or frost, to calculate expected arrival and depth of snow and to understand the tide's patterns and the run of fish within it. Without watching and listening to nature, life could be disastrous. Observing the patterns of the seasons told our ancestors how to live - what to do and when to do it. The natural patterns they observed and followed were reflected in religious rituals of each tribe and, later, with written language, in religious verse. Consider Ecclesiastes 3:2: "To everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under Heaven." We have lost our connections to the natural world, and most people living in American suburbs do not correlate the Perseid Meteor Shower to the middle of summer, the approach of the school year or the second harvest.

Our ancestors, sitting on their hillsides and watching for danger to their sleeping flocks knew how to interpret this seasonal flight of falling stars; knew the regular return of the meteor shower was not to be feared, but attended to as a yearly harbinger of a seasonal marker. We cannot ignore nature and

be healthy. As Carl Sagan, the famous astrophysicist, used to remind us "We are made of star stuff." So is the earth we walk upon which sustains us. To ignore the seasons and the small incredible details and shifts in the world around us is to ignore oneself, one's distant starry origins, to lack the appreciation and awe of how one is made, shaped, nurtured by the planet - indeed the universe - in which we live. Unplug this computer on which I write and it cannot function properly; the human being is no different when we are unplugged from our energy source or Source.

There is an old story in medicine about a patient who lived in New York City and had various complaints and ailments, but no physician she visited could find a cause or give her relief. Finally she went to a physician who practiced holistically. He took away many of her medicines, told her to go into Central Park and dig up a few cups of earth. These she was supposed to put in a sizable container, and at least twice a day she was to put her feet into the container and sit with them on the soil for 20 minutes or more. She could read, she could knit, or engage in other calm pursuits but she was not to watch television, speak on the telephone or listen to the radio while sitting with her feet on the soil. In a few weeks her symptoms began to resolve and eventually went away. I do not necessarily advocate going barefoot in Central Park, but I do believe we lose a great deal if we ignore the vast and remarkable beauty around us, because we are part of it and it is part of us. We must make sure never to forget this, because we do respond to seasonal cycles whether or not we are aware of it. So we may as well be aware. Our ancestors knew this and taught their children to pick out the seasonal signposts so they could read the earth like a book.

Some years back, we had a magnificent aurora that lasted two nights. I was driving home after dark and, not wanting to miss a second of the glorious show above, each time traffic stopped (frequently - this IS NY) I would look up to get a glimpse of the colors dancing across the sky. As I looked around me, the other drivers were oblivious, irritated with one another and totally unaware of the miracle overhead although it was easily seen. I wanted to shout at them, "LOOK UP!!! There's something incredible up there!!" I hope, on arriving home, that at least a few of them were able to notice this wonder. And so it is with the sounds of an August night. Our windows are open to let in the cool breeze and the song of the nightbirds and the creatures who celebrate this summer season. I'm hoping that elsewhere in our neighborhood other windows are open and someone somewhere is also listening, and perhaps watching for the rainbow streak as a meteor skips off the edge of the atmosphere. We are all made of star stuff. That's a wondrous, incredible reality. Let's appreciate it to the fullest.

### Clan Leslie Christmas Ornaments

Clan Leslie Society International is having Clan Leslie Christmas ornaments produced. We are considering designing a different ornament each year. The first one is in production. These ornaments can be displayed year round--not just at Christmas. This one will feature the words Clan Leslie and 2013 on one side and the Clan Leslie crest on the other side. Ornaments are \$15 which includes shipping. Quantity will be limited so order yours early! To order contact Linda Flowers, lflowjingo@sbcglobal.net, 405-381-3577. We accept checks, money orders, PayPal to the email address lflowers1954@yahoo.com, and Visa, MasterCard, and Discover. If paying by credit card, I will need the card type, card number, name on card, expiration date, and 3 digit security code. We are very excited about these ornaments and they will make a wonderful addition to your Clan Leslie items.



BACK



FRONT



FULL WRAP ART

## Membership Dues Now Due

Members owing 2013 membership dues should have received an invoice by email or mail in the middle of July. Dues are now due. Please pay your dues as soon as you can. Dues can be paid by check, money order, PayPal, Visa, MasterCard or Discover card. 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.

## MARK WELLER, JD, JUSTICIAR

I am very pleased to announce that Mark Waller of Wapakoneta, Ohio, has been appointed as the Justiciar (attorney) for our Society. Mark has had a long career as a county prosecuting attorney, a county public defender and as an attorney in private practice. Mark is a member of the Ohio Bar and the Federal Bar, Northern District of Ohio. The Justiciar will give advice to the Council or the Chieftain when called upon.

David Leslie White



## A NEW CLAN MEMBER!

Bonnie Leslie Rudnisky is excited to report the birth of her first grandchild, a grandson, Edson Blair Rudnisky, born June 17th in Kitchener, Ontario, Canada. His parents are Mark and Amanda Rudnisky.

Bonnie reports; “Jim and I are enjoying all the privileges that come with being grandparents and are looking forward to the opportunity to involve him in Clan events when he’s older.”

Welcome Edson...we look forward to meeting you!

## “Lang May Your Lum Reek”

(Long May Your Chimney Smoke) is a phrase our ancestors used to wish someone long life on a birthday. This wish meant that the person should live many years to tend their own hearth and thus keep their chimney smoking for a long time. In this issue, we celebrate CLSI members whose birthdays are in August and September:

**August:** 8/3 - Stephen Lessley; 8/10 - Margaret Brown, Patricia Grossman, Harold Leslie, Rosemary Leslie, Richard Lynch; 8/11 - Wayne Seich; 8/14 - Robert Abernathy; 8/15 - Betty Starr; 8/18 - Marilyn Leslie; 8/22 - Robert Abernathy, Stephen Lanier; 8/24 - Anne Maret; 8/25 - Irene Bush, David Olling; 8/26 - Loren Leslie, Timothy Leslie, Marguerite Pope, Leslie Short.

**September:** 9/1 - Marcia Ellington; 9/2 - Thomas Huxtable; 9/4 - Jeffrey Kern, Robert Storrow; 9/7 - Bruce Eike, Roger Moore; 9/8 - Virginia Moore; 9/9 - Nell Bonaparte; 9/10 - David Hanson, Michael Leslie; 9/11 - Samantha Gray; 9/12 - Susan Eiteljorg; 9/13 - Elaine Jamerson, Jane Roe; 9/16 - Elizabeth Johnson, James Lessly, Abigail Vetter; 9/17 - Rose Marie Phillips; 9/18 - Michael Hadley; 9/19 - Brent Carpenter; 9/22 - Martin Brown, Phyllis Dubois; 9/26 - Thomas Goos, Janet Pyatt; 9/28 - Anna Grimm; 9/29 - William Leslie.

May each and all celebrating birthdays in the harvest season reap happiness, health and many blessings.

### Project to Honor Our Society's Founders

In the May issue, I informed everyone of the Council's approval to purchase and install a Scottish oak plaque honoring the founders of our Society, The Right Honourable Ian Leslie, 21st Earl of Rothes, and Alexander Leslie Klieforth, LLD, our first Commissioner and Chieftain. Our intent was to have this plaque hung in the Chapel of the Garioch in Aberdeenshire, which is also named the Clan Leslie Chapel of North East Scotland. However, we needed the approval of the church board before we could proceed. David Leslie from Leslie, Baron Bailey of Balquhain, presented our request to the board. The board approved our request in principle, but also advised David that the memorial should be in accordance with the guidelines of the Church of Scotland. Part of this guidance is “This means that the best memorial may not be a plaque, which records the past, but something to enhance and resource the daily life and mission of the church in the present day.” In further discussion with the board, it was suggested that an oak baptismal font would be welcome, as the church does not have one.

David recommended, with the concurrence of the board and the Council, that the oak baptismal font shown here would be appropriate. In place of the carved dove would be the CLSI badge, and on the side a plaque that would honor both the 21st Earl of Rothes and Alexander Leslie Klieforth.

I am confident that we can do this. It is right and proper that we honor those who gave so much of their time and talent to bring our Society into existence. Please send your donations to our Treasurer, Linda Flowers, at 302 SW 3rd., Tuttle, OK 73089 USA and mark your check for the “Founders Font Project.” You may also pay by PayPal to [LFLOWERS1954@YAHOO.COM](mailto:LFLOWERS1954@YAHOO.COM) or pay by Visa, MasterCard or Discover. If paying by credit card, you need to send the card type, number, names on the card, expiration date, and the 3 digit security code on the back of the card. Listed below are the names of the members who have already given a donation to this worthwhile project.



Don and Janice Abernathy  
Bob Bailey  
Damon Burns  
Adam Flowers  
Linda Flowers  
David Leslie from Leslie

Gloria Klieforth  
Brian and Petra Lesslie  
David Leslie White  
Samantha Gray  
Laura Messing  
Stephen K. Leslie

Bonnie Simmons  
Leslie Weaver  
Bonnie Rudnisky  
Robert E. Leslie  
Dale S. Young  
Lois Leslie

Julia Lessley Elliott  
Dr. Duncan Moore  
Robert G. Leslie  
Richard Ross Leslie  
Tom and Sherry Huxtable  
Lewis and Christine Johnson  
Donald Leslie

**GRIFFIN REPRINTS AVAILABLE**

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



**No. 1:**

**The Clan Society,  
Some Leslie History  
and Heraldry**

**History:**

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

**Heraldry:**

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

**No. 2:**

**Some Leslie  
Places and  
Family Branches**

**Introduction:**

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

**No. 3:**

**A Leslie  
Miscellany**

**Introduction:**

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

**No. 4:**

**The Diaspora  
America**

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

**A Collection of Notable Leslies:**

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

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



### Clan Leslie Items From the Quartermaster, Peter M. Leslie

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

- 1) **Grip Fast** - The Leslies in History, a beautifully hardbound book, detailing the Leslie clan from its inception (290 pages), authored by Alexander Leslie Klieforth and autographed by our Clan Chief, The Honourable Alexander Leslie. Price \$66.00
- 2) **Post Cards** - Two styles. One style contains King Malcolm's promise to Bartolf and the origin of our clan name; and the other style provides open space for your personal notes. Please specify which style you prefer. \$5.00 for a package of 25 post cards.
- 3) **Grip Fast Pin** - \$3.00
- 4) **Grip Fast Patch** - \$3.00

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

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

Peter M. Leslie



### Kilts Available

We have the opportunity to order acrylic kilts in the Leslie red tartan. They are \$69 each or with accessories \$169. Also available are hostess kilts for women. These are longer and suitable for dressier occasions. If you are interested in ordering one, please contact Ralph at the Clansman at 412 276 3242. His email is [clnsmn@aol.com](mailto:clnsmn@aol.com). He said the best way to contact him is through email. For measurements he needs following: (a) waist around belly button (b) hips at widest point (c) length from belly button to top of knee. I also have a picture that shows how to measure for one. You can email me and I will send it to you. For a hostess kilt, you would need to measure longer as the kilt is longer. Several members have these kilts. We are very pleased with the quality and they are made in Scotland. The acrylic is much cooler and less expensive than wool. You can also contact Linda Flowers 405-381-3577, [LFLOWJINGO@SBCGLOBAL.NET](mailto:LFLOWJINGO@SBCGLOBAL.NET)  
Linda Flowers, Treasurer

### NEXT PUBLICATIONS TO MEMBERS

#### October – Grip Fast Journal

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

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

The Griffin will be published when we have enough stories to warrant a printing. We do need Griffin stories. These are usually well researched stories which include references and sources preferably illustrated with some photographs. Deadline for articles and photos is the first of each month.

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## Clan Leslie Society International Scholarships

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

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