



The Honourable Alexander Leslie, Chief of Clan Leslie

From A Good Lunch to a New Vision



For a long time, the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs (SCSC) was considered a lunch club for Chiefs attending the annual Garden Party at Holyrood. While the AGM of the SCSC is still held on the date of the Queen's Garden Party and while many Chiefs will attend, a lot has changed in the last two years or so.

First, there is an increasing recognition within the Scottish Parliament that an organisation that is composed of the heads of the families and clans of Scotland is quite important. This may sound strange. Of course, the heads of families and clans of Scotland are important — from fostering an interest in Scotland and its history to encouraging clan based tourism — we have an important role

to play. The difference is that now the perception of Chiefs is changing and now Government acknowledges that we are good for the image and good for the bottom line. Recently we were officially asked to give evidence at a committee meeting whose objective was to identify what had gone wrong with the organisation of events in 2014. As a result we are now in regular contact with senior Government figures.

Secondly, our communications are improving. We are actively making contact with overseas organisations, improving our relationship with COSCA in the U.S, have started a dialogue – with the help of William Leslie – with CASSOC in Canada and will be doing the same with organisations in other parts of the world. Our web site is getting an upgrade (my own personal battle) and we now produce a newsletter for Chiefs and others.

Thirdly, and perhaps most importantly, the day of the green parrot may be ending. For a long time, clan societies and chiefs have been wondering what to do about what is rudely referred to as 'tat from Thailand.' For those who are unfamiliar with that term, it refers to cheap, imported items that are supposed to "look Scottish." Either through using the Three Feathers of the SCSC as a 'kite mark' of quality or through having a number of manufacturers who we promote as having genuinely good quality products, we hope to promote quality and inhibit 'tat.'

All of which is encouraging and hopefully the end point will be a modern, clean, fresh vision of the part that clans can play — wherever their members may live — in a 21st Century Scotland.



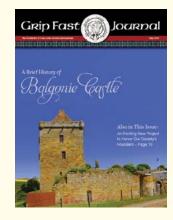
To read *The Three Feathers*, Alex's newsletter for the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, go to http://www.clanchiefs.org/news/newsletter/ and click on the "latest newsletter" link to download.

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ABOUT THE COVER

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William Leslie, Commissioner, Clan Leslie, North America

Hosting Tents at Highland Games



I thought you might like to hear about a few things I have learned by hosting tents at Highland Games and some ideas on which I would like to have your comments. Robert Leslie, a member of the CLSI and a member of the CLSI Council, lives near Acton, Ontario a few miles west on Highway 7 from Georgetown. Robert agreed to help me with the tent and brought along his grandson, Jacob Leslie. I was very grateful for their help on Saturday, June 8th.

Since I was invited to stay at the Leslies' home in Acton, I thought it would be a good idea to make up some small bags with Leslie memorabilia for the three small grandchildren. I thought that if I could give them something that would allow me the excuse to tell them something of their Leslie heritage, of kings and queens, dukes, earls soldiers and churchmen, that I might start them asking questions and help to stir their interest in their Leslie history. I made up three packages of an 8.5x11 inch print of the Leslie Castle in the snow, taken by Lesley Leslie from Leslie, Aberdeenshire,

I added a Leslie Gathering pen to each package, a picture of Noelle Rothes, heroine of the Titanic and one of the little cards of Leslie history. It was not much but it did give me an opportunity to tell them about these people and places.

Some Highland Games, such as the very large and famous Fergus Highland Games and Scottish Festival near Guelph, Ontario, have developed a passport for children that require them to go around to all the clan tents and get their passports stamped by the clans. Last year in Fergus, we were run off our feet stamping passports. I like to ask a skill testing question such as, "Do you know what clan tent this is?" If we were visited by Leslie, Abernathy, Carney, Moore or Laing children, we could give them a little educational package. Do you have any ideas that would make this work? Better yet, do you have any small Leslie items that could be added to a children's Leslie grab bag?

Another thought that occurred to me while I manned the Leslie tent and looked after the vacant Macdonald tent next door while the Leslies and Macdonalds joined the Parade of Clans, was the large number of Leslies who have lived in the area from Georgetown to Fergus to Guelph. Robert took me to visit two churchyards that have the graves of many of his Leslie relatives dating back to the early 1800s. These Leslie families have a long history of family gatherings going back almost a hundred years in the Acton-Georgetown area. There are also large Leslie families in the Guelph area. We all know about large Leslie families in the US, Canada and in Scotland. These family gatherings should be encouraged and we should assist them in any way we can. If you participate in any such Leslie family gatherings or reunions, please let me know about them.

Welcome New Members!

John Leslie St. Augustine, FL

Sandi More Victoria, BC, Canada (Inceptor)

> Margaret Ogilvie Santa Rosa, CA

MEMBERS OVER 85 YEARS OF AGE

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

Contact Linda Flowers

David Leslie White, Chieftain, Clan Leslie Society International

King's Own Scottish Borderers Chronicle



I just received a copy of the annual King's Own Scottish Borderers Chronicle, the Regimental Magazine of the KOSB 1689-2006. This magazine is published by the KOSB Association, which includes the KOSB War Memorial and War Relief Funds and Clubs. They are located at The Barracks,

Berwick-Upon-Tweed, Scotland. It is easy to see how the KOSB has achieved and maintained a high level of esprit de corps and loyalty to the regiment. "Once a Borderer, always a Borderer." Several books have been written about the KOSB. An older one is *All the Blue Bonnets: The History of The King's Own Scottish Borderers* by Robert Woollcombe, published by the Arms and Armour Press, London, 1980 and another more recent one *The King's Own Scottish Borderers: A Concise History* by Trevor Royle, published by Mainstream Publishing, Edinburgh, 2008. The Secretary of the KOSB Association is Captain (Ret.d) Ed Swales.

The 128 page magazine covers too many topics to be covered completely, but I will attempt to summarize some of the more relevant. First, we should look at the functions of the KOSB Association. In addition to maintaining the Home Headquarters (the historic "home" of the KOSB) and the KOSB Museum, the Association has a welfare and benevolence role to relieve suffering, hardship, and distress among former Borderers, their families and dependents. The KOSB Association is fundamentally a network of former Borderers, with welfare and benevolence primary in its aims. It is there also to provide comradeship, networking and the opportunity to stay in touch with former colleagues. The Association preserves its legacy for future generations to look back with enormous dignity and pride, and to retain the Golden Thread. They also organize reunions, publish items of historical interest, and publish obituaries of Borderers who passed away during the year. They do function as a family.

The Association faces a new challenge, in that the Ministry Of Defense (MOD) has drastically cut funding for this organization. All funding for administrative posts has been withdrawn, and the only financial support will be for the Museum curator's post. This has created a need for more

volunteers and I assume donations to keep the lights on. The KOSB website will be upgraded to assist in linking all Borderers in the absence of staff. The Association even held an auction to sell some of the Regimental silver in order to continue its support of former needy Borderers and their families.

Once again, the KOSB Association celebrated the "Immortal Glory" won at the Battle of Minden in 1759. This year, it will be celebrated at Berwick Barracks, Berwick-Upon-Tweed on August 1st. The last Colours of the 1st. Battalion The King's Own Scottish Borderers will be laid up at the Regimental museum as part of the parade.

The Regimental Secretary, Captain (Ret.d) Ed Swales achieved a long time goal of riding a horse across the full length of the Scottish border. He started on the west coast at the Solway Firth near Gretna riding "Chester," a horse 17 hands high and with a small horse "Laura" carrying the supplies. In spite of some heavy rain delays along the way, he completed his journey when he arrived at The Barracks in Berwick. At no time was he ever more than three miles from the border.

The Association celebrated the 323rd anniversary of the KOSB Regiment on Saturday, March 17, 2012. This was to commemorate the raising of the King's Own Scottish Borderers by David Leslie, Earl of Leven in 1689. The former officers of the KOSB and their ladies enjoyed a superb evening, with guests which included the Mayor of Berwick, the Sherriff of Berwick and their ladies.

There has been an archaeological dig in the city of Lod in Israel, located about 15 km southeast of Tel Aviv and a KOSB regimental bonnet badge was discovered. The KOSB was stationed in that area in 1917 when the area was called Palestine. There are KOSB graves in the Ramia Cemetery dated 1947. Four photos of the graves are shown.

Another group of photos shows men of the 2nd Battalion, KOSB and the area around Dthala, Aden, in 1906. Rather surprising is one photo showing four Scots playing banjos and at least one mandolin. I tend to think of banjos being uniquely an American instrument. The landscape shows sharp mountains in the background, the the lower areas seem devoid of any vegetation. Just sand and rocks.

Lastly, there is a photo of six KOSB grave stones in Khartoum, in the middle of the Sudan. All died between 1909 and 1911. It shows how far the Scots in the British Army have served around the world, and in some of the most desolate and hostile locations.

From the Council

The June Council meeting commenced on June 1. Among the more significant actions was the approval of a change in our Bylaws to move the positions of Chaplain, Justiciar (attorney) and Herald from elected officers to appointed officers. As far back as any of the Council members can remember, there has never been more than one person running for any of these offices. As a result, this will simplify our elections.

Frank Leslie, Convenor for the Southwest Region, had requested that we post the CLSI "tent" schedule on our website. A motion was made and carried to do this. Tom Huxtable volunteered to provide the tent schedule to our Webmaster, Brian Lesslie, Jr.

David Leslie from Leslie, Aberdeenshire, presented our proposal to the church board for a memorial plaque to be hung in the Chapel of the Garioch to honor the founders of our Society, The Right Honourable Ian Leslie, 21st Earl of Rothes, and Alexander Leslie Klieforth, LLD. The board supports the principle, but asked that any memorial be in accordance with the guidelines of the Church of Scotland, which is a memorial that would "enhance and resource the daily life and mission

of the church in the present day." It was suggested by the board that a baptismal font with the memorial plaque on the side would be appropriate. The Council approved this proposal.

The Council approved posting a public notice for nominations for this year's election. Only the positions of Chieftain and Treasurer are up for election this year. Email voting will be available this year. This notice is elsewhere in this issue of the Journal.

The Council approved a \$200 donation to the McLaughlin Library, University of Guelph. This library holds and maintains the Clan Leslie Collection, which includes virtually all of our known records, and many of our old publications, correspondence, and books by or about Leslies, Abernathys, and the other Septs.

Additional changes to our Bylaws were made to improve clarity or to change procedures to reflect what has been recently approved policy by the CLSI. These changes will need to be approved at our next Biennial Gathering.

The meeting adjourned on June 17th.

David Leslie White, Chieftain

Justiciar Wanted

Our Society has a need for a Justiciar or attorney. This position is now an appointed position rather than an elected one. Hence, if there is a qualified volunteer, the Chieftain can appoint them to the position. The qualifications are that "The Justiciar shall be an attorney admitted to practice in his/her profession, and shall give advice when called upon by the Society, the Council or the Chieftain."

I know there are some members of our Society who are attorneys, and it would be greatly appreciated if one of you would volunteer. The demands on your time would be few. If you are interested, or need more information, please contact me at clanleslie@earthlink.net

David Leslie White

Minden Day, August 1, 2013

The King's Own Scottish Borderers celebrate "Immortal Glory" won at the Battle of Minden in 1759. The KOSB Association will host a gathering on of all former Borderers and their families to celebrate this significant event in Regimental history. May I suggest that we join in this celebration by either wearing a red rose, or just raising a toast to the KOSB and to the brave men who have served over the centuries.

David Leslie White, Chieftain

Further to the Forbes Leslie article recently in the email which has been circulating I would like to bring to your attention the following information.

If you look up the address **http://digital.nls.uk** you will see the Scottish digital library online.

Enter the name Lesslie with 2x ss and you can read all the history from the old pages complete with NO translations, but are easy to follow. This has corrections by various people but is mostly by Walter Macfarlane 1750 -1751 Vol 2.

It also brings to mind that the double SS in Lesslie came first.

Cheers, Brian Snr

A Brief History of Balgonie Castle

Written by Stuart Morris of Balgonie

The origins of Balgonie Castle are lost in the mists of time as the area has been inhabited for the past eight thousand years.

Balgonie is situated on the border between the Pictish kingdoms of Fib (Fife) and Fortren/Forthrif.

The Castle is built on the south bank of the winding river Leven which flows from Loch Leven (where Mary, Queen of Scots was imprisoned) to the Burgh of Leven and the Firth of Forth. This valley or Strath was erected into the Lordship of Strathleven by King Malcolm IV, who granted it to Duncan, Earl of Fife in 1155.

The first recorded Lairds of Balgonie were the Sibbald family. The Sibbalds held the office of Constable of Cupar in 1120. They would have been responsible for law and order throughout the northeast of Fife. It is unknown when the Sibbalds gained Balgonie. There is record of Sir Duncan Sibbald of Balgonie living here before 1246. Markinch, the town to the north of the castle, was one of the official law centres of Scotland, by decree of William the Lion. With this legal connection, it is probable that the Earl of Fife may have granted Balgonie to his loyal vassal. There is no record of what the early Sibbalds lived in, but there must have been some form of building on the site at this time.

The name Balgonie means "Settlement of the Smiths," the Picts of this area were renowned for their silver work, so Balgonie may have been a residence of a Pictish silversmith. There is a Papal Bull of 1250 mentioning a chapel here, belonging to Sir Duncan.

Although Edward I of England visited Markinch in 1296, his chronicler made no mention of Balgonie. He does mention the existence of three substantial houses and a Minster in Markinch, but no castle.

The oldest part still standing is the great Tower. This is built of finely cut ashlar, quarried nearby. The sheer quality of the masonry, together with the lack of decoration, would point to the construction of the tower being sometime around 1300. The tower is officially accepted as the oldest complete tower standing in Fife and one of the oldest in Scotland. The Tower is on five floors, rising to a height of seventy-five feet. The ground floor is barrel vaulted, making it fireproof, with walls up to ten and a half feet thick. This room was originally used to store food. The only access was via a ladder from the floor above. The present day door was added in the 17th century, probably using the arch of an alcove built to store wine barrels.

The original entrance in to the Tower was an external ladder/ stair to the first floor. The first floor is the barrel vaulted Great Hall, thirty feet long by twenty feet wide and the vault is almost twenty feet high. This would have been the heart of the castle, where everyone ate, seated in a strict order of precedence, were entertained, where guests were received, where the Laird's court was held and where the servants would have slept.

Unusually, there is no built-in fireplace in this room. The fire would have originally been in the centre of the floor, probably some form of brazier. The smoke would eventually escape through the smoke vents in the gable walls.

Because of the unusual fire arrangement, this room was not modernised, therefore, this room has the only original window seats left in the castle. All the others were removed in order to widen the windows in the 17th century. The window seat in the



The Balgonie/Elliot Chief, his two sons and his pipers.

north wall may have been adapted as a mini bedroom, by the use of shutters or a curtain.

We have tried to keep the medieval atmosphere of this room by using the original three sided table arrangement and only using candles for illumination.

We also have banners bearing the Arms of all the families that have held the Castle over the centuries. We have rebuilt the minstrels gallery, which we have also decorated with the Arms of the Lairdly families.

From the northwest corner of this room rises the spiral or turnpike stair, which would have been the only access to the floors above. The next floor is the Laird's Hall, which would have been the main room that the family would have lived in.

There is a fine seven foot wide fireplace in the north wall, next to this is the Guardrobe (a stone seat with a hole in it hanging over the wall.)

We have painted the ceiling with fifty-four shields, mainly of Fife Lairds and mainly connected to Balgonie through marriage. This is based on the ceiling of another Fife castle. The two floors above this room are divided into bedrooms and storage. Above the top floor is a four foot wide parapet walk, from which we can see the Bass Rock, twenty-two miles away in the Firth of Forth. Above this is the lookout tower, from which we can see out to the North Sea. The roof is nineteen tons of stone slabs.

There is very little record of the early activities of the Sibbald family. Though there is a possibility that one or more of the family were Knights Templar. The Arms of Sibbald of Balgonie are almost identical to the Temple Arms, differenced by a square hole in the centre of the cross. There are also many sites around Balgonie that have Temple in their name, so these sites must have belonged to the Temple at one time.

The family often acted as witnesses to documents for the Priory of St. Andrews. Sir Thomas Sibbald of Balgonie was Treasurer to King David II, son of Robert the Bruce. Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Sibbald of Balgonie, married George, 4th Earl of Angus. One descendant from this union was Henry, Lord Darnley, second husband of Mary, Queen of Scots. The senior line of the family ended with Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Sibbald of Balgonie, Sheriff of Fife. She married Sir Robert Lundin, son of Andrew Lundin of Pitlochie (brother of Sir John Lundin of the Ilk). Sir Robert Lundin, now of Balgonie, was very active in the king's court. He held the offices of Lord High Treasurer, First Usher of the King's Chamber, Comptroller, Chamberlain of Galloway, Strathearn, Petty, Brauchly, Menteith and Ballincrief, Governor of Stirling Castle and Sheriff of Fife. He had also been knighted for his military role during the border war of 1497.

Sir Robert managed to find the time to modernise and enlarge Balgonie. He was responsible for building the Hall House that forms the north range. We know that this work was completed in 1496 because, on the 20th of August of that year, James IV visited Balgonie.

The King was so impressed by the work that he gave the masons eighteen shillings (roughly £500 in today's money.) This building incorporates an earlier corner tower, which, in turn, incorporates the chapel.

One interesting feature is that one has to step down in to the chapel. This is indicative of an early Christian structure; which could in turn indicate that this could date from the 13th century or earlier.

We restored the chapel eighteen years ago. The furniture has all been salvaged from redundant churches throughout Scotland. We only use candles in this and the preceding room, one hundred and fifty-five in all, which creates a unique and authentic

atmosphere. This is a working chapel, where we have held a monthly public service for the past eighteen years. We have also had over nine hundred weddings.

The other end of the ground floor housed the new kitchen. The whole ground floor is barrel vaulted, the kitchen vault shows



Arms of Balgonie.

signs of an early 'dumb waiter,' to take food up to the room above. The original kitchen had been a freestanding building in the Courtyard. The original access to the first floor was via an external oak stair and gallery; we have rebuilt part of this. There was then an oak bridge linking the Hall House to the Tower.

The first floor had a new Great Hall, fifty-five and a half feet long by twenty-one and a half feet wide. This room has two

fireplaces which were originally ten feet wide (reduced in the 17th century, to burn coal.) The windows on the south wall look in to the courtyard; the windows on the north wall look out to the Deer Park.

The room next to this was the Laird's own room, with an eight foot wide fireplace. There would have been a spectacular timber beamed roof, similar to the Great Hall in Edinburgh Castle. However this wing was heightened in the 17th century, adding another floor.

At this time, the Hall would have had a spectacular molded plaster ceiling. Oak paneled walls and black and white marble floor. There had been a ten foot gap between the Tower and Hall House, in order that both buildings could be independently defended. This gap was finally filled in during 1666, but more of that later.

There were nine Lundin Lairds of Balgonie and during their period the castle was extended to the size it is today, covering about one acre. The East Range was added to provide family accommodation. A twenty-one foot high Barmkin wall encloses the courtyard. There is a gatehouse in the southwest corner, which would have originally had a drawbridge over a dry ditch, possibly fifteen feet deep.

The gatehouse was modernised in the 17th century. The ditch was filled in and a new round tower was added to the front of the Gatehouse. There are guard rooms on either side of the gate; the north guardroom gives access to the pit prison. The prison is nine feet long by four in width, there is no window but there is the luxury of a built-in toilet, if it could be found in the dark!

The room above the gate would have offered accommodation to the Captain of Balgonie, who was responsible for the maintenance of law and order in the area. There is the base of a

spiral stair which would have given access to the parapet over the gate. There was a secondary gate, with tower, in the south wall. There would have also been a two story building in the northwest corner of the courtyard, also with a corner tower. This building has disappeared but its dimensions are known, through the foundations and marks on the Tower wall.

The Lundin family also added greatly to the Balgonie Estate, which was one of the largest in Fife. They also owned lands and Baronies in Berwickshire, Angus and Strathearn.

At this time, Balgonie would have obviously played host to many important people. The records from this time are sparse but we know that Mary, Queen of Scots visited Balgonie in 1565. She then went on to Wemyss Castle, where she met Lord Darnley for the first time. As I said above, Lord Darnley (or more accurately Master of Lennox) was descended from the Sibbalds of Balgonie. To commemorate this and the earlier visit of James IV, my father carved a door for the Great Hall, bearing the Arms of James IV, Mary, Queen of Scots, Lord Darnley and Lundin of Balgonie.

The Lundin of Balgonie family was clearly a rich, powerful and influential family involved in the affairs of State. Many of the children married into equally powerful and influential families. One marriage produced a line that was to divide into two, each of which was created Earls. Another daughter of the family, Agnes married Sir William Graham of Claverhouse. Their great grandson was John, 1st Viscount of Dundee, who was killed at the height of his victory at the battle of Killicrankie.

In spite of this, the line came to an abrupt end with Robert, 9th Lundin of Balgonie. And like all good fairy tales it involved a step-mother.

She seems to have had a great financial claim on the estate when her husband died, which seems to have bankrupted her stepson. The situation deteriorated so much that officers of the law were sent to apprehend him. Their approaching was seen and Robert and his servant, William Downy, armed themselves with hagbuts and pistols. A chase ensued but they were finally cornered in the churchyard in Markinch. A deputation of the Parish Heritors persuaded them to give themselves up. He was detained in the Tollbooth of Edinburgh.

Balgonie was sold in 1626 to two brothers, James Boswell of Lochgelly and David Boswell of Craigincat. They did not enjoy Balgonie for long. In 1634 their creditors sold the Estate to Field Marshal Sir Alexander Leslie, through John, Earl of Rothes.

Field Marshall Sir Alexander Leslie of Balgonie was the greatest Scottish soldier of the 17th century. He was born around 1582, the son of George Leslie, Captain of Blair Castle and Bailie of the Regality of Atholl. He was foster brother to Sir Coline Campbell of Glenorchy and brought up at Kilchurn Castle in

Argyll, where he received a full education. Shortly after 1600, Leslie was an Officer in the Dutch service. He had clearly made a name for himself because King Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden offered him a Captaincy in the Swedish Army.

This was the beginning of a career that was to last thirty years. Much of his time was spent fighting in the German states, where he never lost a battle, earning the nickname, "Leslie the Great."

In 1622, he raised the Varmlands Regiment for the King. This Regiment lasted until 2000, when it was disbanded under Swedish defense cuts. However the name and Battle Honours carry on in the Varmlands Brigade. He was Governor of the Southern Baltic for a while and Governor of the City of Stralsund, which he had captured. He was present (and wounded) at the battle of Lutzen in 1632, where Gustavus Adolphus was killed.

In the opposing Army was his distant cousin Walter Leslie, later Field Marshal Count Leslie, Knight of the Order of the Golden Fleece.

Leslie returned home on leave in 1635 when he was given several Freedoms, including Kircaldy and Culross. He also took the opportunity to buy Balgonie through his distant relative the Earl of Rothes. He retired from the Swedish Army in 1638. He had Balgonie modernised during these three intervening years, including heightening the Hall House, renovating the east range, remodeling the Gatehouse and enlarging the windows in the Tower.

When Leslie retired from Sweden, he knew that he was probably coming back to civil war. Therefore, in lieu of his pension, he brought back two field guns and two thousand muskets. He also negotiated the right to recall Scottish officers from the Swedish Army.

In 1639, Leslie was given command of the Scottish Army of the Covenant, in what was called the First Bishop's War. So great was his reputation that he was able to take Edinburgh Castle without the loss of a drop of blood. He simply put a petard against the main gate, blew it open and the garrison surrendered. Leslie then marched the Army south to face the King at Duns, on the Border.

King Charles I thought that he could bring the English Army up and subdue the unruly Scots but he had misjudged Leslie. The King's undisciplined Army lined up and faced a professional Army, commanded by an experienced Officer Corps and with uniformed regiments. The King realized that he could not win and sued for peace. This lead to the Treaty of Berwick. This event is the basis for the nursery rhyme, "There was a Crooked Man."

Editor's note: This article is only the first half of this intriguing history. The second half will be forthcoming in the Grip Fast Journal in October, 2013.

Upcoming Festivals with CLSI Tents

AUGUST, 2013

The Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games

August 9-11

Celtic music, crafts for the kids, heavy events championships, bagpipes, drums, bands, Highland dancing, storytelling, singing, clan information and heritage, artisans and vendors galore. Enjoy the best of Scotland...without the airfare.

Hosted by William Leslie

Bracebridge Highland Games

August 16-17

Scot or not, come enjoy a wee bit o' the Highlands in the Heart of Muskoka. Hosted by William Leslie

Virginia Scottish Games

http://www.vascottishgames.org/ The Plains, VA (near Warrenton) August 31-September 1

SEPTEMBER, 2013

Scotfest, Oklahoma's Premier Celtic Music Festival & Scottish Highland Games

http://okscotfest.com/ September 13-15, 2013 Hosted by Linda Flowers

NOVEMBER, 2013

Salado Scottish Gathering & Highland Games http://saladoscottishgames.com/Salado, TX November 8-10 Hosted by Frank and Lynne Leslie

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

North East USA - Laura Messing

Oklahoma - Linda Flowers

Southern and Central

Ontario, Canada – William Leslie

Southern California - Susan Abernethy

Washington - Steve Olling

Georgetown Highland Games, Georgetown, Ontario Saturday June 8, 2013

William Leslie and Robert Leslie hosted a Clan Leslie Tent at the 38th Anniversary of the Georgetown Highland Games. The weather was cloudy all day and it looked like it might rain but never did. There appeared to be a good attendance but the lack of sunshine may have deterred visitors. The Clan Village was very active with several Clans represented. Right next to the Clan Village was the Scottish Dancing competitions



Kate, Robert, Adeline, Jacob and Marguerite Leslie

which had over 300 young ladies participating.

We had a few visitors and two possible membership candidates who each took away a brochure, a membership form and other information. We had a new frame on which we put the Clan Leslie banner above the tent to keep it straight and prevent it from sagging. Robert Leslie built this frame out of electric conduit.

Robert and Marguerite Leslie were kind enough to put me up overnight and invite me for dinner and breakfast. Their grandchildren, Jacob, Adeline and Kate Leslie, were at the tent and Jacob helped in putting up and taking down the tent. These young Leslies whose ancestors in the Acton/Georgetown area date back eight generations are good candidates for the Clan Leslie Society International. Robert and Jacob carried the Clan Leslie banner in the Parade of Clans.

William Leslie

Utah Scottish Festival

This year's Utah Scottish Festival was awesome, and more to the point we touched base with SEVERAL people who had Leslie as their surname. Two of these folks were at the festival with Leslie red tartan kilts. These two also showed up at the Kirkin service on Sunday in kilts. From visiting with them I gathered they are very interested in getting their families involved in the clan activities and more than willing to involve those who were unable to attend the games in joining our Society. When we added one of them to the Clan Leslie society Facebook page, he immediately added 6 of his family members so they could learn more about our group and how active we are.

We also had several groups come by who were Leslies by name. One couple was very excited to show their three children the coat of arms and tartan of our clan. One of their girls was named Alexandra which I found to be very proper for a Leslie, and she got a kick out of seeing the Leslie's in History with a name on it that was close to her own. I gave them a couple of the Leslie buttons, as I thought it a cool keepsake for the children and a good outreach tool. I gave everyone who dropped by the information about us and our place in history.

I did not get filled out registrations, but did visit with all of them a lot about who we are and made sure that each of them was given the information on the Clan Leslie Society. Hopefully we will see some active new members added in Utah in the not too distant future.

Jordan R. Hinckley

Chaplain's Corner Samantha Gray, Chaplain, CLSI



Since writing the last Chaplain's Corner essay, summer has come to the Northern Hemisphere bringing with it wild, unseasonable weather of all kinds. Through it all, plants go about their yearly cycles. Some years they are slower to bud and bloom, some years they appear quite early, but by the summer solstice, no matter what the weather, the trees are all in full leaf. In our last issue we

considered our ancestors beliefs about trees and examined the ancient calendar named with letters from the "tree' or Ogham alphabet. We looked at the first three months, beginning with Beth or Birch. In this addition we will cover 3 more.

March is a rainy month, and low areas often become swampy. March is also a time of early Easters or Lenten observances for Christians, although most of the world's religions observe rites of renewal as spring approaches. The alder tree was chosen to represent the month of Fearn ("Fern"), (March 18 through April 14) by our ancestors, and it seems appropriate that they did so. Alder lives happily in low, wet regions and in thickets by the water, salt or fresh, with its dark green seersucker leaves and tiny fruits that look like miniature pine cones.

Alder is a symbol for resurrection, spiritual teachings and new beginnings. It also was the source of a protective quality. For a people who lived surrounded by water, often earning their living by fishing and frequently fending off invaders from the sea, wind was very important. Green alder shoots are easy to clear of their soft pith, which comes out cleanly. The green wood was used to make whistles in order to "whistle up the North Wind' for sailing to safety or for the confusion of the invading sea forces. Whistles could be heard a long way off and warn the village of approaching marauders, and so Alder became known as one of the great protective trees. The more musical folk might push the pith out of stems cut to different lengths which were then bound together to make shepherds pipes - a very early instrument, easy to carry and water proof besides.

From April 15th to May 12th, Saille (SHEE-lee), or Willow was thought to be the major influence of that time.

Willows are also a water-loving tree, and are happiest with a good source of water near their roots. Willow was considered a tree of healing magic. Long-ago shamans and healers in many parts of the world where willows grow all discovered that

boiling willow bark and offering the cooled water to febrile patients would break the fever. It also could cause stomach ulcers and bleeding. In 1897, Bayer Pharmaceuticals finally figured out how to make this safer and learned how to buffer the product of boiled bark which today we call aspirin, or acetylsalicylic acid, hence the medical abbreviation: ASA. The wands of the willow trees were used to make furniture, withy baskets and small, lightweight fences called wickets. "Willow" comes from the same stem word as wicket, witch, and wicker - the Anglo-Saxon 'Wicce' (WEE-cha), meaning both to bend and to be wise. It's smart to be flexible, and our ancestors knew that! The Gaidhlig/Erse/Gaelic word Saille was not used except by apothecaries by the middle ages. Willow wands and small bouquets of leaves were kept in the home by women for help in conception. And even today associations to a tree that lives with its feet in the water persists - but not in Scotland. In the Netherlands, clogs are still carved out of willow wood as they seem impervious to wet or damp conditions and do not dry and split as most other woods do with repeated drenchings.

Hawthorne, also called May, from the month of its blossoming, ruled the time between May 13th and June 9th. Huath (HOOth or Ooo-ath) was considered by our ancestors to be a 'fairy tree', and as such, no one ever took naps under the hawthorne unless they wished to be kidnapped by fairies. Upon being returned, the unfortunate snoozer might find that many years had passed and all their friends and relations had long since departed this world. It was popular to gather branches of the lovely white flowers at Beltane, and then, in a christianized Scotland, at Eastertide, as the tree blooms in April and May. Hawthornes are actually related to roses, and just as rose hips have a high vitamin C content, so do the little red berries (or 'haws') that look like tiny red apples. These ripened quickly, and were gathered and cooked into a thick mush which was then spread on a board and sun-dried - an early and nutritious (if somewhat sour) fruit leather. Eventually, honey was added for flavor. After months of living on bread and meat, fresh greens and "tonics' such as this were not only welcome to the taste buds, but essential to restore health caused by a lack of proper nutrition. Asian food stores still sell Haw candy. It's a wicked good way to get kids to eat their vitamin C!

The final tree for early summer is Duir (DO-IR) or oak, which is assigned the period of June 10th to July 7th.

The oak tree was given the name of Dui, or 'door' as it was believed by the ancient peoples to be a doorway into the spiritual world. The massive trees appeared to live forever, and their size suggested something all-encompassing. Oak was the Druids' tree of wisdom in Great Britain and carried the same aura of awe and respect across Hadrians Wall in the north

country. It is also seen as a tree of sustenance because the earlier peoples - the Picts, and Scots who came from Dalriada, were hunter-gatherers before true herding and agriculture were adopted, and acorns were a prime source of flour/meal once leeched of their tannin in water, then roasted and ground fine. Women who wished to conceive, and men who wished to increase their reproductive prowess often wore necklaces of acorns because of their phallic appearance. The Oak is also the Solstice tree of the Druids and also of the Vikings, whose influence was so keenly felt in the Shetlands, Hebrides and north coastline of Scotland. Mistletoe also grew in the oak, with

no visible means of support, so the oak became the symbol of powerful masculine energy and magic. Sleeping under an oak was thought to give one prophetic dreams, and oak groves were thought to be holy, the abode of all wise and powerful spirits, and so became the Druids' temples.

May you each find a shady tree to rest under, may the weather be moderate and may the magic of June twilight and fireflies bring sweet evenings and tranquility to each worried soul. Summer is here! Take time to rest, refresh, relax and enjoy its blessings!

Election Nominations Announcement

Election time for CLSI is approaching and nominations are encouraged for two very important positions. CLSI must elect a Chieftain and a Treasurer.

According to our Bylaws, the Chieftain shall be a fully qualified adult lineal CLSI member over twenty-one (21) years of age, and a member of the Society in good standing. The Chieftain shall have general supervision of the Society, and preside at its Gatherings and meetings, appoint officers as specified in the bylaws and carry out other duties as may be determined by the Society. The Chieftain shall be elected for a term of two years, and no Chieftain may serve more than two consecutive terms.

The Bylaws state that the Treasurer shall:

- Collect all dues and income and have charge of all other funds of the Society except as designated by the Council. He/she shall deposit the funds in a bank designated by the Council, and disburse funds as directed by the Chieftain, Vice Chieftain or Council.
- Maintain accounts of the Society and submit a semi-annual Financial Statement to the Chieftain.
- Submit annual statements to the Society. Within one month prior to this statement, an auditor designate by the Council may examine the accounts.

The Treasurer shall be a voting member of CLSI for at least two years, be elected for a term of two years, with no term limits, and can be a non-lineal member of CLSI.

Persons interested in running for either of these offices, please contact Christine Johnson, Secretary/Registrar of CLSI at 1113 Foxhaven Dr. Greensboro, NC 27455 or 336-656-4971 or cejohnson@triad.rr.com. Any member can, with the permission of the nominee, nominate a qualified member for either of these offices.

The election shall take place by email or mail and those elected will take office January 1, 2014.

Tom Huxtable

I am placing myself before you for the position of Chieftain of the Clan Leslie Society International. I have been retired for about 3 years from BG Products, in the traffic department. Prior to being with BG I was in traffic (the trucking business) for about 30 years, and am a veteran of the United States Marine Corps.

My membership in the Society goes back to the 90's sometime. Then I dropped out for a while and have been back for 6 or 7 years. The last four years I have been on the Council of the Society, the last three as Vice-Chieftain.

If you should chose me as your next Chieftain, I will work to improve the Society the best I can.

Linda Flowers

My name is Linda Flowers and I have been treasurer of Clan Leslie Society International since 2004. I was a high school business teacher for 30 years until my retirement in 2006. Now I teach collegiate management courses for four universities. One of my greatest joys in life has been my two trips to Scotland; the first in 2002 and the second in 2009. I would like to continue serving Clan Leslie Society International as your treasurer.

CLSI News

An Award Well Deserved

Adam Flowers, a member of Clan Leslie Society International, is a Lieutenant for the Canadian County, Oklahoma Sheriff's Office. On Friday, June 14, he was awarded the Executive Director's Award at the Oklahoma Sheriffs' Association 2013 Awards Banquet. Adam is only the third recipient of this award.

This award is presented to an individual who has made a major contribution to the Office of Sheriff. The responsibility give to Lt. Flowers is to investigate computer crimes and recover forensic evidence. His name is synonymous across the state as an investigator of child pornography and sexual predators of our children. He also works with The Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation's ICAC Unit (Internet Crimes Against Children) in solving these crimes.

Lt. Flowers has taken into custody dozens of distributors of graphic child pornography and child predators and has solved many internet crimes perpetrated against the citizens of Oklahoma. He has also analyzed numerous computers for other agencies such as the U.S. Marshall's Office. He has convinced predators to come to Canadian County thinking they were going to have sex with a fourteen year old girl. One predator



had in his possession a box knife and duct tape, another had condoms and a video camera, and another had a loaded firearm. One predator he arrested had 60,000 images on his computer of four and five year old children engaging in sex acts with adults. He also had a file on his computer titled "How To Have Sex With An Infant and Get Away With It".

These are the people Lt. Adam Flowers has taken off our streets.

The OSBI commended Lt. Flowers for his willingness to assist in their investigations and several local children have been identified as victims. Lt. Flowers' tireless work has helped save many lives and children's futures.

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 clnsman@ 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 Linda Flowers, Treasurer

NEXT PUBLICATIONS TO MEMBERS

July – Grip Fast Journal August/September – Grip Fast Online 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.

CLSI News

Grip Fast, The Leslies in History by Alexander Leslie Klieforth

A lady from New York was looking for a copy of this book. She wanted this booktogiveherboss (a Leslie) as a birthday present. She found a used copy advertised for \$313.72 but thought it too expensive. She started contacting book sellers in Scotland and they all told her it was out of print. One of them contacted Chief Alexander Leslie and gave him this lady's email address. He emailed her and told her to contact me. She did and is buying a book. She couldn't believe she could get one, postage paid for \$66 and signed by Chief Alexander Leslie. She is going to include a membership application and try to get her boss to join. This is an amazing story! Can you imagine that your copy could be worth \$313.72? This book could be an excellent gift for your Leslie relatives! We accept PayPal (use lflowers1954@yahoo.com as the PayPal address), check in \$US funds drawn on a US bank, money order, International Postal Money Order, Visa, MasterCard, and Discover. If you pay by credit card, I need the card type, name on card, card number, expiration date, and 3 digit CVS code on the back. To order a book, contact me and when payment is received our quartermaster will ship you the book.

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

Linda Flowers, Treasurer

"Lang May Your Lum Reek"

(Long may your chimney smoke) is a traditional birthday wish for long life, meaning that the recipient of the wish will live a long time to tend his or her hearthfires. In this edition of Grip Fast we say Happy Birthday to CLSI members with birthdays in the mid-summer months.

June: 1st - Lori Hoopes; 2nd - Bart Moore; 4th-Dan Leslie; 6th - Jessica Leslie; 7th - Linda Jones, Charles Leslie, Rodney Leslie and George Pravaz-Leslie; 10th - Olivia Phillips; 11th - Frances Greer; 12th - Bruce Leslie; 13th - Timothy Sering; 14th -Jordan Hinkley; 15th - William Leslie; 16th - Roy Abernathy, Gary Dabb and Robbie Leslie; 20th - Phyllis Amstutz, Betty Biggs and Roy Bingham; 22nd - John Luedecke; 24th -Leslie Seich: 25th - Tait Goos; 27th - Doris Lee; 28th - Douglas Wilcox; 30th Donald Leslie and Emily Leslie. July: 2nd - John Leslie; 4th - Donald Abernathy; 5th - Glenn Abernathy; 7th - Leslie Burkett, Ginny Carlson, Walter Leslie and William Leslie; 8th -George Alexander and Chester Harbert; 13th - Arthur Leslie; 16th - Kent Regling; 17th - Sarah Stegall; 18th Barbara Bruce and Leslie Weaver; 20th -Melanie Cave and Rhonda Hambright; 21st-Moreita Leslie; 23rd -David Leslie and Gary Leslie; 25th -Paul Leslie, Sharon Nichols, and Ruth Storrow; 31st - Nancy Bitterling and Robert Leslie. Health, happiness and many blessings to each and all!

CLSI Library Fund

The second Objective of our Constitution is "To promote, foster, collect and preserve historical and genealogical records and information about descendants of Clan Leslie throughout the world."

The donation of the book by Thomas G. Leslie titled *The Remarkable Mr. Jerome*, written by Anita Leslie (1954) prompted me to do a search of books by and about Leslies that were for sale by ABEbooks and Amazon. I was pleasantly surprised to discover many such books for sale, and many at very low prices. I did some further research and discovered that most of these books had been in public and college libraries, and had been sold for pennies on the dollar to various antiquarian book sellers. Libraries do this when there seems to be no further interest in the book. And the antiquarian book sellers post a price, and if the book doesn't sell, it may be offered with free shipping. And then if it doesn't sell, the book is sent to the trash.

Another discovery was that a number of the Leslies (and also probably Abernathys, Moores, and other Leslie septs) have written many books. Shane Leslie, the father of Anita, wrote or translated 60 books, and Anita Leslie wrote at least 12 books. Shane's brother Lionel, in addition to being a sculptor also wrote books and poems. Anita's brother, Desmond Leslie, an RAF fighter pilot in World War II also wrote books, and this is just one branch of the Leslie family! Some of these books are very inexpensive, while some of the older books are somewhat rare and are rather expensive. *The Gilt and the Gingerbread* by Anita Leslie (1981) with approximately five copies for sale worldwide is available from \$50 to \$294. *Wilderness Trails in Three Continents* by Lionel A. D. Leslie (1931) with approximately four copies available worldwide is price from \$100 (Switzerland) to \$134 (USA).

The bottom line is that some of these books will disappear in the trash soon, while the price on others continues to rise to higher and higher levels and I haven't even identified all of the books from this one branch of the Leslie family. In order to "collect and preserve" at least some of these books, the CLSI has created a Library Committee to identify books to add to the Clan Leslie Collection at the University of Guelph, and to purchase the most significant or most in danger of "disappearing." To make this happen, we need funds to make these purchases. I am asking for donations specifically for the "CLSI Library Fund." If you would like to contribute, please send your check to our Treasurer, Linda Flowers, and mark the check for the CLSI Library Fund." Your donations will be sincerely appreciated.

David Leslie White, Chieftain

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 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

Clan Leslie Items From the Quartermaster, Peter M. Leslie

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

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

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

Peter M. Leslie



CLSI Officers Contact List

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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, Iflowjingo@sbcglobal.net

Griffin Reprints Available

Alexander Leslie Klieforth was not only our first Commissioner and first Chieftain, he was also a prodigious researcher. The early issues of Grip Fast contained many articles that he wrote, and his wife Gloria was the editor. In addition to Grip Fast, in 1979 they published the first issue of a booklet titled The Griffin. The Griffin was conceived by Alec and the Right Honourable Ian Leslie, Lord Rothes, to be a publication on the history of the Leslies and the septs, and to broaden the knowledge of the membership about our ancestors and Scotland. Alec and Lord Rothes were the primary authors

I am amazed that these two gentlemen, along with some articles from the membership, were able to discover and research so much without the benefit of computers and the Internet. Nevertheless, they managed to produce seventeen issues, the last issue being 1997–98. The last page of this issue contained "An Afterword" from Alecand Gloria, bidding farewell as the primary researcher and editor, but noting that the Clan Leslie Charitable Trust would be making the information available again in the future.

The best articles from The Griffin series were selected, and in some cases edited as appropriate, and republished in four volumes of The Griffin Reprints. These were published by the Clan Leslie Charitable Trust, printed in Edinburgh, and sold to the membership. The four volumes had the sub-titles of No. 1: The Clan Society, Some Leslie History and Heraldry; No. 2:

Some Leslie Places and Family Branches; No. 3: A Leslie Miscellany; and No. 4: The Diaspora America. These four booklets were priced at about \$17 each, sold out quickly, and have not been available for over ten years. The members who still have these Reprints treasure them.

The CLSI Council was concerned that our history was no longer available to the membership. After much consideration, we agreed to have these four volumes professionally scanned and the information recorded on a CD. This has been completed and is now available to the membership. I am exceedingly pleased that we can offer this CD of our history for \$30. The articles are excellent, and contain information that may no longer be available anywhere else.

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, and Discover to Linda Flowers, CLSI Treasurer, 302 SW 3rd, Tuttle, OK 73089 USA or contact her by email at lflowjingo@sbcglobal.com If you pay by credit card, she needs the type of card, name on the card, card number, expiration date, and the 3 digit CVS code on the back of the card. Linda also accepts payment by PayPal. In that case, use the email address lflowers1954@yahoo.com

David Leslie White, Chieftain

