

GRIP FAST



JOURNAL

The Newsletter of Clan Leslie Society International

July 2021

THE HISTORY OF CLAN LESLIE'S SEPTS

Pages 9-11

Abernathy
Bartholomew
Cairney
Lang
Moore

Plus: A Recap of 2020 News

The Honourable Alexander Leslie, Chief of Clan Leslie



It is difficult, perhaps, to look objectively at 2020. Who would have thought, as we went about our lives this time last year, that terms such as ‘Zoom’ and ‘virtual meetings’ would be such a part of our lives? Or that facemasks would become something of a fashion item. Or that Facebook would be full of memes (I discovered what one of those was this year) that make light of our current situation. It is difficult, too, to remember that 2020 is the anniversary of really important Scottish events. The most important is that the Declaration of Arbroath happened 700 years ago.

This is how I described it in the speech I gave at the memorable (water up to our knees) Fergus Games in 2016:

‘In 1320, the Scots demanded full Independence. Eight earls, 31 great barons and major clergy sent a powerful letter in Latin to Pope John XXII at Avignon. Andrew Leslie was amongst them. It was the Declaration of Arbroath and it asked the Pope to urge the English king Edward to leave us in peace.

‘For As long as but 100 of us remain alive’, it read, ‘will we not, under any condition, be brought under English rule’. It is not for Glory, nor Riches, nor even Honour that we fight – but for Freedom alone – which no true man surrenders, except with his Life!’

Stirring words and, of course, the Declaration itself inspired your own Declaration of Independence – independence from us pesky Brits. How times change.

Now that the vaccine is here and let us hope that we can genuinely look forward to a better, brighter 2021.

Very best wishes

Alex and Miranda Leslie

Alex Leslie

Clan Chief, July 2021.

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A Note About The Grip Fast Journal...

2020 was an off year by many accounts. It has been no different regarding the GF Journal. We are publishing this “Recap of 2020 News” and will have another issue directly on the heels of this one. We know there has been a lapse in publication but we are getting everything back on track. If you don’t see something in this issue it will be in the next. Thank you for your patience!

Christine Johnson, Genealogist



As genealogist for Clan Leslie Society International, I wanted to introduce myself. I am Christine Johnson and I have been researching family trees for our members for several years. I bring over 30 years of experience to this position. I am currently working on a septs project. For this project, I am documenting the immigrants (connections) between the Leslies and the septs of Bartholomew, Abernethy/Abernathy, Lang, Carnie, and Moore. I hope that this project will help identify people with connections to these septs determine if they are a part of Clan Leslie. If anyone has information that I could add to this project, please contact me at cjohnson355@gmail.com.

DECLARATION OF ARBROATH

By Lord Charles Bruce, a friend of our Chief Alex Leslie

THE Declaration of Arbroath – as it has passed into history – was devised essentially as a diplomatic initiative to persuade Pope John XXII to withdraw a further act of excommunication against King Robert the Bruce. It creates a compelling argument to convince the most important court of arbitration in Europe of Robert Bruce's legitimacy to rule as King of Scots, and the right of Scotland to self-determination. Originally consisting of three letters – from the King, the clergy and the nobility – only the latter survives.

Taken in a European context, however, the Declaration, signed on April 6, 1320 and with its 700th anniversary on Monday, is a fascinating example not only of medieval statecraft, but also of the evolution of constitutional law. What sets it apart from contemporary documents is a deposition clause which requires a King to rule in the best interests of his principal stakeholders, who retain the right to depose him if he should prove deficient. This was perhaps the first attempt to define civic humanism, where the right to rule is a conditional grant of the people.

Thus it can be argued that the Declaration is one of Europe's most important state documents of the medieval period. Although its relevance is clearly cast in the context of Scotland's desire for peace and security in a period of great turbulence, it is also a work of profound scholarship, drawing on a wide sweep of European history to provide an unarguable case for self-determination. Indeed, the senior Scottish clergymen who composed the Declaration were well aware of the most up to date thinking on constitutional theory which emerged from theological scholars teaching at the University of Paris in the 1280s. Foremost of these was John Quidort, a follower of Thomas Aquinas who wrote, that "Kingly power is from ...the people who give their consent and choice".

But above all it proves the power of rhetoric. It draws on speeches made in classical Rome. It also demonstrates the way in which language should be used to give inspiration for all time, such as Churchill's wartime speeches which mobilised "the English language and sent it into battle, a spearhead of hope for Britain and the world". Perhaps this is how we should recognise the importance of the Declaration: it was conceived primarily as a diplomatic weapon, but potentially with more firepower that the Scots could ever hope to deploy on the field of battle.

Although the Declaration clearly was composed in the context of 1320 as a masterpiece of political rhetoric, its influence can be traced over subsequent centuries through the writings of Scottish chroniclers or constitutional scholars such as George Buchanan or Andrew Fletcher of Saltoun. Its timeless expressions of liberty and opposition to tyranny were repurposed by the Covenanters in 1638 and again in 1689 when the Scottish Parliament enacted the Claim of Right.

It is argued that these documents were scoured for suitable phrases by the drafting committees of the American Declaration of Independence, and the constitution of the United States. Almost 40 per cent of the 56 signatories of the Declaration could claim Scottish ancestry. Indeed, over half of the delegates attending the convention in Philadelphia in 1776, representing 10 of the 13 fledgling states, were of Scottish birth. In 1998 the United States Senate acknowledged the circumstantial evidence of this connection passing Resolution 155, which declared April 6 to be celebrated forever as Tartan Day.

CLSI SCHOLARSHIP

Clan Leslie Society International has awarded a \$750 academic scholarship to one of our inceptor members, Ariel Jane Harmon. Ariel wrote this about her future goals:

Since the age of 5, I wanted to be a marine biologist. Going to A&M Galveston will help me achieve that goal. I will get my Bachelor's and Master's degrees in oceanic sciences. This can help increase my chances of working with sea turtles, dolphins, and other oceanic creatures. This can also help me start an organization that protects not only oceans, but other forms of life as well.

I've wanted to protect the sea turtles and sea lions from getting caught in fishermen nets, so they won't drown and die. I've wanted to teach dolphins, sea lions, and seals to learn sign language so divers and other marine biologists can understand their emotions, thoughts, and feelings. I've wanted to study the ocean corals and possibly find a way to increase their growth rate. I have ideas on how to stop fishermen from overfishing, whaling, or shark hunting such as sending out armed rangers on robust boats to stop the people who are abusing the sea. If the person doesn't comply, they will be arrested or have their boat, or their fishing license confiscated.

I am planning to start my organization during college. The organization is called Daughters of Mother Nature. It is an all-female non-profit organization that helps protect all manners of wildlife including oceanic creatures. Half of our fund raising will go to different organizations supporting our cause while the other half will go to our college. Occasionally, we will spend some funds on field trips to the zoo, aquarium, and other places dedicated to ocean conservation.

In conclusion, A&M Galveston college would be wonderful to learn and grow into an adult conservationist. I will study hard on my subjects and work on making straight A's. I will earn my Bachelors and MBA to earn the degree of marine biology. I will work with some of the best oceanic scientists in the world. I will never stop fighting for the life of the world until my own life ends. Thank you for your consideration.



Congratulations to CLSI inceptor member Ariel Jane Harmon, recipient of a \$750.00 CLSI Scholarship!

CLAN LESLIE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

CLSI is offering scholarships to our members. We have two different types of scholarships. They are the **Alexander Leslie Klieforth Memorial Scholarship** (Scottish and Celtic Activities) and the **Sherry Huxtable Memorial Academic Scholarship** (Academic Studies) The academic scholarship valued at \$250 and the Scottish or Celtic Programs scholarship is valued at \$200 and both can be applied for at any time. The Scottish and Celtic Activities scholarship 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.

Welcome New Members!

Cory Leslie
Boise, ID

Arden Lusignan
Port Orange, FL

James "Jamie" Leslie
Wales, UK

Carol Leslie Garmon
Callahan, FL

Kimberly Leslie-Spitzer
Centennial, CO

Aerial Harmon (Inceptor)
Humble, TX

Bruce Leslie
Kendal, UK

Lewis Nisbet-Ballantine
Sverige, Sweden

Linda Sparks
Phillips, ME

Ryan Rowe
Dumfries, VA

Tracey Ziener
Glencoe, IL

Elizabeth Poulsen
Marietta, GA

Beatrix McGee
Mountain City, TN

Kent Miller
New Knoxville, OH

Philip Leslie
Melbourne, Australia

Jonathan Moore
Lifetime Member
Wayne, NJ

Jessica Adamson
Louisville, KY

Donna Leslie-Abbey
Renton, WA

James Lashley
Chester, SC

Marilyn Bartos
Marshfield, MA

Laura Leslie
Rehoboth Beach, DE

Robin Swope
Menard, TX

Leslie Joan Simon
Vermilion, OH

London Riley Weiner
Inceptor
The Woodlands, TX

Liana Leslie Snyder
Columbus, GA
Inceptor

Richard Leslie
Superior, CO

Kate-Lyn Leslie
Quebec, Canada

Elizabeth Anderson
Laramie, WY

Zelma Leslie
West Brisbane, Australia

Amanda Clark
Adrian, MI

Janet Leslie
Saline, MI

Adam Rosenblum
Longmeadow, MA

Lisa Fox
Cedarburg, WI

Robert F. Leslie
La Grange, KY

Avery Stone
Belfast, ME

Katherine Anne Milazzo
Hammonton, NJ

Victoria Gomez
Rutherfordton, NC
Inceptor

Nancy Anderson
Beaufort, SC

Paola Bonanno
Darlington, SC

Peggy Abernathy
Massillon, OH
Associate Member

DONATIONS *Thank You!*

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BALL GROUND, GA

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SANDUSKY, OH
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95TH BIRTHDAY*

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Beaks, body-snatchers and brews.... Scotland in Time of the Plague.

Because the pandemic is on everyone's mind now, it seemed appropriate to write about the one that affected Scotland so profoundly several centuries ago. I allowed the nurse practitioner to take the upper hand over the minister for this edition of Grip Fast, and pray that you, my gentle readers, will not be fatigued by further talk of the plagues. We all know by now (unless we've been hiding in a cave since last Christmas or thereabouts) that our current pandemic (defined loosely as an epidemic of extraordinarily wide geographic proportions affecting millions of people) is viral in nature. And we all know the effects Covid 19 has had across the globe as well. The difference in this and historical pandemics is that we have vaccines on the near horizon to ensure herd immunity, and means of preventing the spread right now if we employ them. This was not the case in Europe centuries ago.

The word "Pandemic had not been coined yet, but the populations of every country on the ancient maps of Europe knew and feared the word "plague". According to most sources I read, the plague existed from the 6th through the 17th centuries. Several noted minor outbreaks in the 18th century as well. But their plague was quite different than our present pandemic. Their plagues were caused by the *Yersinia pestis* organism carried by fleas which infested rats. And rats in those days were common where many humans lived in very close proximity. Early sanitary measure in cities were non-existent. Germ theory was barely evolving even as late as 1860, when Florence Nightingale returned from the Crimean War and began writing her famous book *Notes on Nursing* (still in print!). She frequently debunked the germ theory which was increasingly popular among scientists and physicians of the day. Then she published a scathing letter in the *London Times* stating that those who believed disease was caused by tiny animals that one needed a microscope even to see were just short of delusional. She went on to say that every sensible person knew that disease came from miasms brought by bad night air. And

this from a woman who had stopped a sometimes fatal dysentery epidemic in the Scutari Barracks by ordering the removal of a skeletonizing horse who had fallen into the Barrack's only well and died there... She was a hero and much celebrated so many listened to her and not Dr. Semmelwise. She did advocate strongly for keeping rats and mice out of one's house and storerooms. She also said that miasms did not affect clean water. The plague in Europe came as a perfect storm. The first recorded case in Scotland was either 669 or 1349. Again, sources differ. 1349 seems most likely. By then town had arisen with narrow streets in between buildings and people living cheek by jowl. Garbage and human waste was simply tossed out of the windows and into the gutters and rats thrived on the scraps. The rats' natural predators, cats, were scarce on the ground; this was the period of Medieval history referred to in some texts as "The burning times", when the witchcraft paranoia gripped northern Europe and was managed most brutally in Scotland. So-called witches – people usually not much liked by neighbors – were accused of implausible acts and were frequently burned at the stake. Cats had gained association with the devil by then and were often also burned when caught. With no cats to decimate the rat population, the rats thrived and the fleas they carried thrived as well. So did *Yersinia pestis*. Fleas multiplied in unsanitary household conditions and flea bites were an everyday occurrence. It was a perfect set-up for a pandemic. And it carried horrors which we do not see with Covid 19, nor did we see in 1918.

There were two types of plague with which the Medieval and early Renaissance Europeans had to contend, although the source was the same. First was the "Black Death", or Pneumonic plague. This primarily affected the lungs on outset, leading to massive internal hemorrhages which turned the skin of the sufferer black. The second, the best known sickness, was called the Bubonic plague after the huge pus-filled boils, or 'buboes' which covered the victims body. These had to be lanced and sealed with a hot poker or they would break and cause fatal blood infection. The diseases were horrifying to behold, easy to catch, and by 1349, had killed a third of Europe. Scotland did not fare any better. People prayed for release, believing that the plague was sent for some terrible sins they must have committed. Many herbs were boiled up into medicines – or "brews" – which were mostly ineffective. Some, in proper combination made a mildly antiseptic concoction that came to be named "Thieves oil". When suspended in a sweet oil and rubbed on the hands and under the nose across the upper lip it was said to protect thieves from contracting the plague as they stole from others who had it. Thieves oil is still sold today as a homeopathic preventative for common colds. People hung white cloths from their windows to signify they needed help, water, food, a doctor... and the physicians of the time knew no more than the general populace about treatment. Finally, in 1645, Edinburgh's only Plague Doctor (John Paulitius) died. The Town Council quickly hired Dr. George Rae, after promising

him an enormous salary, to be the new 'specialist'. They offered so generously because they did not expect any plague doctor to survive long enough to collect his owed fees. But Dr. Rae had some thoughts of his own about safety from the deadly disease he'd just signed on to combat. Instead of the traditional physicians' robes, he wore boots and a long, voluminous leather cloak which did not attract – and in fact actually prevented – the bites of fleas. He wore long gloves. Ditto. And he invented the classic Plague Doctor's mask. This covered his head and face in leather, again preventing infestation and bites, and he added a huge 'bird beak'. The beak pointed downward as it was meant to be a receptacle for the herbs used to prevent infection: thyme, rosemary, rue, rose petals, marigolds, basil, holy thistle, mint... we know some of these have mild antiseptic properties from research today and are used in modern cleaning products. They were placed in the beak of the mask for the doctor to breathe in and surround himself with what were thought to be healing properties. Did they work? Not really. But at the very least, they gave Dr. Rae and others who copied him something better to smell than the odors of the sick rooms and the massive infections with which they dealt.

As the population thinned and cities became less crowded by attrition the plague began to disappear. A disease will not thrive without victims to infect.

And as the superstitions about 'witches' began to wane, cats began to breed and their numbers also increased, reducing the rat population. The Great Fire of London was a cleansing factor in clearing the tenement-like closes of fleas as well. Gradually, very gradually, "normal" life returned until 1918 when "Spanish Flu" struck with disastrous results. There were still no antibiotics – they were almost 30 years away in the future. And viruses cannot be treated with an antibacterial medicine. Now, here in 2020, a year which will forever carry a taint for this "plague" of our own time, we have some real hope of prevention so that similar situations do not bother future generations with this virus. Every now and then, an illness rears up and creates havoc: Bird flu (H1N1) of a few years back. Ebola in 2013. Virulent disease that is easy to contract and can easily be fatal. We are not without hope or recourse. When Jesus said "Ye shall do greater things than this" after healing a leper, perhaps he was referring to a future only he could see at that time, when treatments, preventions and cures for all sorts of maladies would come through scientific research. This is not incompatible with belief and Grace. Be well, my cousins, and stay safe. Remember the precautions and use them. Meanwhile, let us be thankful for the health, family and blessings we have right now. We will get thought this eventually, so Grip Fast!

Samantha Gray, Chaplain, CLSI

Lang May Yer Lum Reek

"Lang may yer lum reek!" is a traditional Scottish birthday greeting. Literally translated it means "Long may your chimney smoke". The idea is that you will live many years to keep your own hearth fires burning. It is your Chaplain's privilege and pleasure to wish the following members of CLSI happy past (since our last edition), present and future birthdays.

April: 4/1: Trent Leslie; 4/1: Nikita Eike; 4/4: Joan Eike, Scott Leslie; 4/5: Melissa Cargile, Bonnie Gleason, Samuel Leslie; 4/6: Michael Abernethy, Diana Gay, Linda Flowers; 4/7: Timothy Pannone; 4/9: Ann Musmanskay; 4/11: Dakota flowers, Leila White-Vilmouth; 4/12: Sammie Rainey; 4/13: Craig Allen Leslie, Rufus Leslie, Tomas Leslie; 4/18: Donald Leslie; 4/19: Robert E. Leslie; 4/22: Stanislaw Macak; 4/23: Clement Hoffman; 4/24: Daniel Leslie; 4/25: Lesley Craddock; 4/26: Doris Derrington, John Leslie, Nora Mayer; 4/29: Karen Ingersoll, Jo Lawrence, Thomas Leslie, Donna Noyes Spankles; 4/30: Barbara Seeley.

May: 5/1: Kenneth Leslie; 5/2: Linda Leslie McNamee; 5/3: Craig Cairney; 5/5: Vera Denny, Sonya S. Stewart; 5/6: James Leslie, Matthew Maynard; 5/8 Martha Leslie Kissack; 5/14: Lisa White; 5/16: Adam Flowers, Margaret Kelly, McKenzie Flowers; 5/18: John Benz, Virginia Brandt; 5/19: Peter Bristow Gray, Jonathan Leslie, Priscilla Roderiguez; 5/20: Leslie Davis, Orrin Gould; 5/22: Robin Denny; 5/23: James Arnaud; 5/24: Lynn Dingley Topar; 5/25: Brenda Meyer; 5/27: Barbara Leslie Gessaman; 5/29: Richard (Rick) Leslie; 5/30: Susan Abernethy. Lillian Green, Dean Wilberforce Martin Leslie; 5/31: Benjamin Harris, Leah Leslie.

June: 6/3: Tammy Lacey-Asterlind; 6/4: Dan Leslie; 6/5: Michael David Duce; 6/6: Ariel Jane Harmon, James Donald Leslie; 6/7: Linda Jones, George

Pravaz-Leslie; 6/8: James Abernethy, Bruce Leslie; 6/11: Frances Greer; 6/12: Bruce Leslie; 6/15: William Leslie, Roy Abernathy; 6/16: Lucy Hop, Ryan Rowe, Elaine Wood; 6/18: Luekket Becket Reed; 6/20: Kevin Leslie; 6/22: John Luedecke; 6/25: Tait Goos; 6/28: Doris Lee; 6/30: Douglas Wilcox.

July: 7/2: Landon Aveling; 7/3: Cheri Collins; 7/4: Donald Abernathy; 7/5: Glen Abernathy, Carol Law; 7/7: Peggy Abernathy, Kathryn Leslie Challenger, William Leslie; 7/8: George "Joe" Alexander, Chester Harbert, John Hoenstine; 7/13: Arthur Leslie, Renee Leslie, Thomas Leslie IV, Chester Maritz, Linda Schroder; 7/15: Carole Hudson; 7/16: Kurt Regling; 7/17: Sarah Jo "Jody" Stegall; 7/20: Melanie Cave, Dale Leslie; 7/21: Alyson Leslie, Moreita Leslie, William "Bruce" Leslie; 7/22: Karlyn Leslie Shedlowski; 7/23: David Richard Duguid; 7/25: Karen Green; 7/26: Ann Leslie, Patrick Masson; 7/27: Richard Leslie; 7/31: Nancy Bitterling.

August: 8/2: Peter Evangel, 8/3: Stephen Leslie; 8/4: Leah Nicole Leslie, Michelle Smith; 8/6: Glen Torrens; 8/10: Sheila Auten, Margaret Brown; 8/11: Dean Messing; 8/13: David Abernethy; 8/14: Robert Abernathy, Bruce Leslie; 8/15: Betty Starr; 8/18: Jennifer Green, Erik Quist; 8/19: Simone Sprenger; 8/22: Robert Abernathy, Riley Lanier; 8/24 Julie Bolin, Anne Maret; 8/26: Loren Leslie, Leslie Short; 8/27: Michael Earl Leslie; Jean Suarez; 8/31: Lorena Leslie.

September: 9/2 Thomas Huxtable; 9/3: David Lasley, Terry Leslie; 9/4 Jeffrey Kern; 9/5: Jamie Leslie, Tom Leslie, Judy Stubbs; 9/7: Bruce Eike, Brendan Stubbs; 9/8: Heather Crouner, Virginia Moore; 9/10: David Hanson, Michael Leslie; 9/11 Samantha Leslie Gray; 9/12: William Fiet; 9/13: Jane Roe; 9/14: Kirk Leslie; 9/16: Elizabeth Johnson, James Lessley, Abigail Vetter; (continued next page)

Lang May Yer Lum Reek (cont'd from page 6)

9/17: Rose Marie phillips; 9/18: Howard Dobko, Michael Gearman; 9/19: Brent Carpenter, Lori Leslie Slaney; 9/20: David Leslie, Jacqueline Moore; 9/21: Cheryl Hughes; 9/22: Martin Brown, Juba Kainulainen, Steven C. Leslie; 9/23: David Charles Abernethy, Brandon Matthew Wolfe; 9/26: Charles A. Moore, Janet Pyatt; 9/28: Anna Grimm, David Lasley; 9/29: William Leslie.

October 10/3: Gregg Leslie, Stephen Lessley; 10/4: Brian Leslie; 10/6: Ruth Dittman, John Updegraff; 10/8: Rollin Abernethy, Stephen Talley; 10/9: Lewis Johnson; 10/10: Debbie Manos McHenry, Kay Shutty; 10/12: John Lessley; 10/13: Thomas Allen; 10/14: Dane Gay, Peggy Stull; 10/16: Tom Leslie, William Leslie; 10/17: Karen Leslie Handley; 10/20: John Abenethy, Donald Leslie; 10/21: James Darrin Leslie; 10/22: Dwight Leslie, Kimberly Cherie Leslie-Spitzer; 10/23: Florence Leslie, Helen Leslie, Norene Leslie; 10/24: John Lessley; 10/26: Mark Weller; 10/28: Rachel Darian, Richard Leslie; 10/30: Susan Quillman; 10/31: Kenneth Leslie, Melva Wheelwright.

November 11/2: T. Ashley Leslie Fodroci, Margaret Leslie-Peacock, Anne Hooper; 11/3: Bonnie Simmons; 11/4: Carolyn Linebarrier, Mary Anne Reg-

ling; 11/5: Robert L. Stevens; 11/6: Maggie Carr, Kristina Nellis; 11/7: Craig Leslie, Steve Olling, David Leslie White; 11/9: Bonnie Rudinsky; 11/11: William G. Leslie, Murna Nason; 11/12: Leslie Evans; 11/13: Heidi Hanson; 11/14: Robert E. Leslie, Karen Leslie; 11/17: William F. Leslie; 11/19: L. Leslie; 11/20: Sarah Lessley; 11/21: Richard Leslie, Monica Roderiguez; 11/26: Charles "Mark" Abernathy, Cillian McKenzie Moore, Elizabeth Christy Livingston "Libby" Gray, Harold Wilcox; 11/29: Janice Abernathy.

December 12/1: Peggy Allen, Samuel Reid; 12/2: Sharon Eastwood, Alesia Johnson; 12/3: Matthew Allen; 12/7 Duncan Moore, Sandi Moore, Max White-Vilmouth; 12/8 Mary Margaret Allen; 12/9: Beryl Leslie; 12/11 Christine Johnson, Ruth Trombetta, Dale Young; 12/12: Vicki Dodson, Leslie Hicklin, Eric Leslie; 12/15: Damon Herbal; 12/18: Harriet Esham, Lauren Thompson; 12/19: Rennly Williams; 12/20: Steven Leslie; 12/23: Shani Abernathy; 12/26: Elizabeth Henry; 12/29: Russel Lessley; 12/30: Janique Leslie-Calderone; 12/31: Kristen Barr.

In Memorium



Harold Leslie

Harold Emerson Leslie 1932 - 2021

Harold went to Heaven on February 10, 2021 at the age 88 years. He has now joined his youngest son, Tom. Harold will be lovingly remembered by his wife of 70 years, Valda; two sons William and Mark and their wives; numerous grand and great-grandchildren. Memorial tributes may be made directly to Streetsville Historical Society at 4415 Mississauga Rd. Mississauga ON L5M 7C6.



Marty Brown

On February 26, 2021, MARTIN K. "MARTY" BROWN, beloved husband of Margaret I. Brown; cherished stepfather of Mary Margaret Allen, Sue Anne Slaughter, Diane Lynn Sadler, and Carol Jean Welk; loving grandfather of seven, great-grandfather of 10, and great-great-grandfather of one; dear brother of Beverly, Joann, Bernard, Barbara, Patti, and Mary Beth.

Marty was a member of the Civil Air Patrol and the Elks.



In Memorium



Frank Leslie

Frank Wallace Leslie, age 66, of Kempner, Texas passed away on Friday, October 9, 2020. Frank was born October 6, 1954 in Newark, Ohio to parents Henry and Elsie Leslie.

Frank served his country honorably in the United States Army for 21 years before his retirement. During his time served, he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, and several others. After his retirement from the Army, Frank worked as a Test Support Specialist for Civil Service. Frank was also active in the Mount Hiram Masonic Lodge and the Eastern Star. In his free time, Frank liked to participate in competitive shooting, watching the Highland games, war gaming, learning history, and especially enjoyed his Single Malt Saturdays.

In 1977, Frank married the love of his life, Wynona Lynne. Together they shared 43 years of marriage.

A poem from the family-

A patriot who was intelligent and trust worthy. He was dedicated and loyal to family and friends. He was faith filled with integrity and honesty, Knowledgeable about himself and welcoming to new people. A happy, fun-filled, dapper, gentleman- A compassionate and kind husband, father, and grandfather

Slainte



Tim Abernathy

Timothy Glenn Abernathy of Massillon, Ohio passed away on August 10, 2020. He was born on January 16, 1934, in Charlotte North Carolina, and raised in Gastonia, North Carolina. He served his country in the United States Marine Corps in 1953-55 as an ammunition technician and in the Marine Reserves in 1955-61. He was a 17-year member of Joe Barr American Legion Post 194 in Mason, Ohio.

He met and married his wife of 62 years, Peggy Lou (Henry), while a student at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, North Carolina. They were long-time residents of Monroe, Ohio. Timothy worked in the pulp and paper industry as an engineer, technical expert and inventor, holding two patents regarding improved image transference to paper. He was well-read in the fields of science, politics and history, and admired the works and thought of Salvador Dali, Buckminster Fuller, and Picasso. He was a volunteer EMT and firefighter and an avid bridge player. Timothy loved classic country music, watching college basketball, and attending Scottish Highland games, especially those at Grandfather Mountain, North Carolina. After retiring, Tim and Peggy enjoyed traveling to his ancestral home of Abernethy, Scotland, as well as England and China.

*As long as hearts remember
As long as hearts still care
We do not part with those we love
They're with us everywhere*

In Memorium



Helen Leslie Harkness, PhD

On Sunday, February 21, 2021, Helen Leslie Harkness, PhD passed away in peace with her family only days shy of her 93rd birthday, leaving behind a celestial legacy of love, countless acts of kindness, and wisdom through the discovery of living your best life path.

Dr. Harkness was an entrepreneur, career consultant, writer, speaker and researcher. She was a pioneer in the field of career development and the author of four books, all penned after age 67. Through her lectures, workshops and counseling sessions, she provided more than 10,000 people with an ageless perspective on meaningful and profitable work in an evolving career climate. She inspired everyone from all walks of life to create careers they were better suited for, and that they loved.

And Helen practiced what she preached. Her own career shattered the ageist myths about vocation and longevity, demonstrating her proclamation that “functional age is more important than chronological age.” Helen believed – and showed through her actions – that the best anti-aging strategy is to identify your purpose and pursue it with passion and a plan. As Helen would say, she “walked the talk,” operating her business until age 91. In her final years she was dedicated to education reform, founding a nonprofit to help young people better understand themselves and design their lives with intent. She exuded ambition and curiosity throughout her entire life.

Helen was also a futurist and long-time member of the World Future Society. She efficiently coordinated the career counseling sessions at the organization’s annual conference for many years. Her intellect shined through her humor and intuition, exhibiting her innate ability to connect with people.

All of her interests served her life’s purpose. Helen loved trees so much that she turned her 7-acre property into a tree farm resembling that of her beloved childhood home. She also had a keen knack for nurturing a variety of houseplants, which kept her spirits high and vibrant even until her final days. Her house was open to individuals who were willing to put in the work to truly redesign their lives in the beautiful environment she created. As she often said, “I am a grower, I grow trees, and I grow people.”

A child of the Great Depression and a true matriarch, Helen listed her mother as the person she most admired. Dr. Harkness was the youngest of eight. She grew up in a lively household on her family farm in the West Virginia mountains. Always a lover of learning, she went away to college at the ambitious age of 16 and never ceased reading, thinking, writing, intuiting, and doing. She received her undergraduate and master’s degrees in Speech and English from Columbia University and West Virginia University.

A natural educator, as soon as she received her undergraduate degree Helen became a very enthusiastic high school teacher, particularly passionate about instructing theatre. As her professional life evolved from teacher to professor, taking her from the mountains of West Virginia to California and eventually to Texas, her love of the importance of theatre never waned.

Helen married in the 1950s and eventually moved to Garland, Texas to raise her three children, John, Ann, and Jane. During that time she continued to be a beloved teacher and professor at schools and universities throughout the Dallas area. After years of volunteering her strengths as a wife and mother and to her community in Garland – including the cherished Nicholson Memorial Library – Helen honored her ability to listen to her intuition and redirect her life, going on to earn a PhD in Adult/Higher Education and English from The University of North Texas. She founded her groundbreaking career consultancy, Career Design Associates, Inc. at age 50, which she presided over in Garland, Texas until 2019.

Helen was preceded in death by her son John, her eight siblings, and her parents, John and Ivery Jane. She is survived by her daughters Ann and Jane, her son-in-law Scott, her grandchildren Milo, Bonnie, Leslie, Lucas, and Laura, her dear extended family in West Virginia – the Leslie clan – a myriad of beloved friends, former students, and clients, and the many trees she planted for the future.

TENTS, GAMES & EVENTS

2020 WAS A CHALLENGING YEAR. SO MANY SCOTTISH EVENTS WERE CANCELED INCLUDING OUR CLSI GATHERING IN SCOTLAND. OTHERS HELD VIRTUAL EVENTS WHICH IS NICE BUT DEFINITELY NOT THE SAME. DESPITE OUR DISAPPOINTMENT WITH 2020, WE ARE CERTAIN THAT SCOTTISH FESTIVALS WILL GET BACK ON TRACK IN 2021 AND BE IN FULL SWING IN 2022! WE WANT TO THANK ALL OF OUR CONVENORS AND TENT HOSTS FOR THEIR HARD WORK AND LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING EVERYONE'S PHOTOS MOVING FORWARD!

2019 Grandfather Mountain Highland Games LINVILLE, NC*



CLSI hosted two tents at the GMHG. Brenda Meyer and her daughter Lesley Craddock and her family members hosted the hospitality tent and provided delicious snacks and drinks for the visitors to watch the games in comfort. We were fortunate to have the tent located at mid-field opposite the reviewing stand so visitors had a great view of the field.

Directly behind the hospitality tent across the walkway, Christine and Lew Johnson, along with family members hosted the informational tent. There was a steady stream of visitors to the tent with some traveling from as far away as Alabama.

The record-breaking number of visitors to the games this year enjoyed great weather and lots of exciting events. Thank you to all CLSI members who visited with us during the games.

Chris and Lew Johnson

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Due to an oversight before the COVID pandemic, we failed to publish this tent report from the 2019 Grandfather Mountain Highland Games. Sadly, the 2020 games were canceled but we will have a new report and photos from tent hosts Lew and Christine Johnson for the 2021 games in an upcoming issue of the Grip Fast Journal! We apologize for the oversight and look forward to their next report.

**Want to know where the Leslie tents will be?
Visit our website at: <https://www.clanlesliesociety.org/events>
to view our calendar!**

Clan Leslie SEPTS

Clan Leslie Society International Genealogist Christine Johnson takes a in-depth (and fascinating!) look into the history of the families that make up Clan Leslie.

ABERNETHY/ABERNATHY FAMILY

The name Abernethy dates back to the Picts and refers to a place not far from Perth. Ancient records designate a religious center in the 12th-century. The famous and still standing round tower was built c. AD 850. Mary Abernethy married Sir Andrew Leslie the 6th Baron Leslie to join this sept to the Leslie Clan.

Here are some of the Abernethy/Abernathy lines:

1. William Abernathy was the first recorded Abernethy in America. He arrived in CT before 1650.
2. George Abernethy de Barrie (b.c. 1581 in Saltoun, Scotland) married Sarah Doolittle (parents Abraham Doolittle and Joan Allen). George's parents were George Thomas Abernethy and Margaret Elizabeth Stewart. His son Robert Alan Abernethy (b.c. 1624 in Abernethy, Scot) was a prisoner of war who was given the choice of the Tower of London or indentured servitude in America. In 1651, he arrived in VA. George's other son William Abernethy de Barrie (b.c. 1630) married Sarah Doolittle and settled in CT. This line settled in VA, NC, CT, SC, TN, IL, MO, MS, CA, VT, IA, NE, WA, MI, OH, PA, OK, GA. I have a lot of information on this line.
3. Captain James Abernathy (b. c. 1748 in VA) married Elizabeth Cox. They moved to NC. This line settled in NC, AL, MO, IL, AR, Mexico.
4. James McCrea/McRay Abernethy (b. c. 1810 in Romney WV) married Rhoda Conner, Elizabeth ?. and Lucy Robertson. His parents were William Abernethy and Rebecca Dunkel. They settled in OH.
5. William Henry Abernethy (b. c. 1795 in Tipperary, Ireland) married Eleanor Horsman. His parents were William David Abernethy and Isabella James Spinner. His children stayed in Ireland, moved to Oakland CA, Wallace Australia, and South Africa.
6. Other Abernethy families: William to CT in 1718, William to America 1804, William to NY in 1812, Abel to NY in 1812, William to NY in 1818.

BARTHOLOMEW FAMILY

The Bartholomew name first appeared in Berwickshire, Scotland.

Here are some families in the Bartholomew line:

1. John Richard Bartholomew (b. c. 1500 in Oxfordshire, England) was the son of William Bartholomew and Alice Johanna Scutter. Their children were Richard, Thomas, John, Robert, Margaret, and several more. They settled in Warborough, England.
2. Henry/Heinrich Peter Bartholomew (b.c. 1728 in Germany) married Hannah Zimmerman. They settled in Kreidersville, PA. Henry was a private in the Revolutionary War. His son Henry/Heinrich (b.c. 1758 in Kreidersville PA) married Catherine Hicker/Hecker. This Henry also fought in the Revolutionary War. Children stayed in PA.
3. Other Bartholomew families: Mary to VA in 1634, Hen to VA in 1643, Henry to CT in 1643, Richard to MD in 1672, Josiah to Long Island, NY in 1679, Johan to Germantown, PA in 1730, Christina to PA in 1733, Matthias in 1738, Robert to Nova Scotia in 1783.

CARNIE/CARNEY/CARDNEY/CAIRNIE/CAIRNEY FAMILY

The Cairney family likely joined with Clan Leslie in the 14th-century when the Barony of Carney came into the Leslie family by marriage. The name is of Pict origin with lands of Cardney in Perthshire.

Here are the families that I documented:

1. James Carnie (b. c. 1791 in Newhaven, Scotland) married Jane Leslie (b. c. 1795 parents William Leslie and Elizabeth Johnstone). His parents were James Carnie and Jean Pargiven. James and Jane stayed in Scotland. Their children and grandchildren lived in Scotland, England, and Wales.
2. Robert Carnie (b. c. 1812 in Newhaven, Scotland) married Elizabeth Dores and Jane Ramsay. Robert's parents were Robert Carnie and Mary Greathead. His family stayed in Scotland until Robert Carnie (b. c. 1905) who married Georgia Baxter moved to Bonita, CA and Liston Carnie (b. c. 1923) married Hannah Foster moved to Memphis TN. Catherine McKenzie Carnie (b. c. 1924) married Raymond Lester Burt and moved to Centreville, VA.
3. Charles Ferrier Carnie (b.c. 1862 in Scotland) married Mabel Cuthbert (b. in Canada). His parents were Alexander Carnie and Allison Ferrier. They lived in Canada and Kansas City, Mo.
4. John Cairney came to NY in 1836.

LANG/LAING/LAYNG/LANGE FAMILY

The Laing connection to Clan Leslie was due to a 16th-century marriage. The name means long or tall. The first Lang in America was John Laing from Aberdeenshire to New Jersey in 1685.

Here are other Lang/Laing families:

1. Robert Lang (b. c. 1867 in Motherwell, Scotland) married Janet Campbell Montgomerie. His parent were William Hunter Lang and Janet Ferguson. His son William married Mary Louise Edwards and Margaret Hall and lived in Youngstown, OH. William arrived in America in 1923.
2. Alexander Lang (b. c. 1811/1815 in Ireland) married Sarah Hunt (her father was Samuel Hunt). They lived in Belfast, NY. Son Alexander died as a prisoner of war (Civil War) in Andersonville, SC.
3. William Laing (b. c. 1806/1808 in Birse, Scotland) married Susan Strachan. His father was John Laing. William's son Joseph Reid Laing married Janet "Jessie" Crow and they lived in Hobart, Tasmania.
4. Other Laings are:
 - Robert Laing to Maryland in 1722.
 - Alexander Laing to Philadelphia, PA in 1775.
 - Gilbert Laing to NY in 1822.
 - Alexander Laing to America 1834.
 - Betty Laing to America in 1834.
 - James to Missouri in 1840.
 - Thomas Laing to PA in 1840.
 - Alexander & Ann Laing with children to Quebec in 1815.

CONT'D ON PAGE 13

About a year ago, I received an email from the daughter of the previous Clan Leslie Society International Genealogist. She wanted to know if I was interested in the records that her mother and previous genealogists had collected on the Leslie family trees. When the boxes arrived, I was overwhelmed with the amount of family tree charts, written family histories, copies of important records, handwritten letters from CLSI founders, and tons of floppy disks! What was I to do with these items? This was Clan Leslie history!

In mulling over this problem, I thought of the questions asked by people who have stopped at our Clan Leslie tent during highland games. I recalled the number of Moores who have questioned whether they were affiliated to the Leslie, Campbell, or Grant Clan. Septs began in the Middle Ages in Scotland when family groups of other names joined with a clan for protection or by marriage. The Moore Sept is the largest Leslie Sept. I decided to sort out of the genealogy files belonging to the Clan Leslie Septs and start recording these families.

Of the thirteen Moore/More/Muir/Moir/Moar/Mor families listed in the Irish Landed Gentry, only one had native Irish roots (O'More). The other twelve were from Scotland or England. In one of the early Moore connections to the Leslies, Catherine Muir who was heiress of Taces in Fife married Norino Leslie c. 1250. Norino was the son of Norman Leslie.

Here is what I found in the files:

1. Sir John Crogham Moore (father Sir John Moore) b. c. 1605 in Crogham, Armagh, Ireland married Jane Coruthers. He was the first Baron of Mellifont and first Viscount Moore of Drogheda. His son John Moore (b. c. 1666) came to Londonderry, New Hampshire. This John married Ann Evory (daughter of William Evory and Joan Richardson). Their offspring stayed in NH, ME, and CT.
2. Ann Moore (b. c. 1755) of Antrim, Ireland married James Tweed in 1779. Their daughter Ann (b. c. 1798) married Andrew Matthew Young/Yongue and settled in Fairfield, South Carolina.
3. Charles Moore (b. c. 1727/1732) was the son of Edward Charles Moore and Margaret Mary Barry. He settled in Mecklenburg, NC and Spartanburg, SC.
4. Deacon John Moore (b. c. 1603 in Hertfordshire, England) married Abigail Pinney in 1639. They were Puritans who emigrated to Windsor, CT in 1630. John was the Deputy Governor of CT. He was the son of Thomas Moore and Ann Scarlet Grafton. John and Abigail's son Deacon John Moore (b. 5 Dec 1645 in Windsor, CT) married #1 Hannah Goffe and #2 Mary Farnsworth.
5. Deacon John Moore (b. c. 1602/1610 in Henham, England) was the son of John Moore and Dorothy Barber. He married #1 Elizabeth ? and #2 Elizabeth Rice Whale (daughter of Henry Rice and Elizabeth Frost). He arrived in Sudbury, MA in 1642/43. Family lived in MA, NY, and PA.
6. Edward Josiah Moore (b. c. 1850 on Isle of Man) married Laura Jane Clark (b. c. 1856 in Toronto, Canada). He was the son of Edward Moore and Margaret Kelly. They lived in Florida and California.
7. William C. Moore (b. c. 1790 in VA) married Sarah "Sallie" McKinney (b. c. 1810 in Yanceyville, NC). They lived in North Carolina.
8. William Moor (b.c. 1756 in County Down, Ireland) married Mary Hamilton Parmer. They owned a farm in Boone's Mills, VA and then moved to Hiram, OH. Family lived in MI, OH, and VA.
9. Samuel "Patrick" Cheeky Moore (b. c. 1708 in Ulster, Ireland) was the son of Andrew Moore and Isabella Baxter. He married Sarah Jean Morrison (daughter of James Morrison and Janet Gilchrist). Their children and grandchildren lived in MD, PA, NH, OH.
10. Dr. John Moore (b. c. 1741/1745 in Dublin, Ireland) was the son of Thomas/Adam Abraham Moore. He married Hannah Armstrong. Their children lived in PA, WV, and OH.
11. Benjamin Moore (b. c. 1799 in Vermont) was the son of Fairbanks Moore and Elizabeth Davenport. He married Harriet Goodenough. The family lived in NY and moved to Michigan.
12. John Nevius Moore (b. c. 1823 in VA) was the son of William Moore and Mary Nevius. He married Christian Jane Parsons/Carson. Their children stayed around Spottswood VA.
13. Aaron Moore (b. c. 1720 in Scotland) married Catherine Kindle/Kendell. He arrived in US c. 1740. They settled in PA and son moved to Winchester, OH.
14. Ada Amanda Elizabeth Moore (b. c. 1872 in Roanoke AL) was the daughter of Henry Richard Moore and Sarah Ann Weaver. She married William Anderson Elijah Almon. They settled in AL, but their son Dewey Lee Almond moved to Columbia, SC.
15. James C Moore (b. c. 1804 in SC) married Cynthia Ann. They lived in Smith County, TX.
16. Other Moore families: Richard to MA in 1620; Isaac to Norwalk, CT in 1635; John to Cambridge, MA in 1636; James to Salem, MA in 1637; Dorothy to VA in 1637; Cornelius to VA in 1705; Aaron to VA in 1744; William from Ireland to New England in 1745; Colin was banished to America in 1747.

Please let me know if you would like more information on any of the above Moore families. If you have more information on the families or if I have errors in the information, please let me know cjohnson355@gmail.com. I will continue with the family trees of the septs Moore, Abernethy/Abernathy, Carnie, Bartholomew, and Lang in future articles.

Christine Johnson
CLSI Genealogist

Laird Tom Leslie

Well, my birthday was September the 5th and my darling, Myra, decided on a lovely gift for me.

Sitting here in the wacko capitol of the USA (California), with not much to do because of our ridiculous shut down, she went online to an entity called establishedtitles.com and purchased a parcel of land in Aberdeenshire (near Huntly) for me - as a birthday present.

The GPS coordinates are 57deg.27'36.5N2deg.43'40.9'W ...which is along the east side of the A97 just north of the A96 (1.9 mi.) and just east of the Huntly A96 roundabout (1.2 mi.) only 2.7 mles. from the Huntly train station.

This is part of the Scottish preservation of woodlands, etc. and cannot be improved. It must also be passed along as an inheritance and cannot be sold.

This is a tongue in cheek endeavor, having purchased 1 square foot of the property -but thrilled to own a minute part of the land of my forefathers. Included in this fairytale is the ability to use the title "Laird" of plot# E484608, Aberdeenshire.

Therefore, I encourage any/all of my fellow Clansmen, whether they be local or worldwide to stop by (get ready for this) enjoy the view and visit with all the little woodland creatures on ' Laird Tom Leslie's Nature Preserve'. (I'm thinking of having a sign made to put alongside the A97).

Leslie: Ship-owners, Shipmasters & Shipbuilders of Aberdeen

By Stan Bruce, the Bard of Banff

Preface is by Barrie Leslie, Sydney, Australia. It is thanks to www.electricscotland.com that I got to know Barrie. I have communicated with Barrie for 11-years now. I occasionally sent him Leslie related items for the Leslie Clan Down Under newsletter, which Barrie made such a good job of writing every 3-months.

When I was writing my Walter Hood & Co., Shipbuilders book, I came across Aberdeen ship-owner George Leslie many times and noted down the Aberdeen built ships he owned so I could pass the information on to Barrie. However my original list of 24 ships that I sent him kept growing and became this book. Because of this I have dedicated the book to Barrie, simply because if I hadn't been corresponding with him over the years, this book wouldn't have been written.



Better still, go online to establishedtitles.com and become my neighbor!! Let me know if you do this at tomleslie1@msn.com .

An online map reference for this property at the entrance road to BlackBlair Farm is as follows (there is even a local bus stop at the corner), <https://goo.gl/maps/PtzcbDzsAAYbMQ2g6> This will be a google map view.

So who were those know-it-alls who stated that you couldn't have fun during the Covid shutdown?

We sincerely hope that you are all doing well during this pandemic and look forward to visiting with you in Scotland.

Alba Gu Bra'th !
Tom & Myra

P.S. I'm still looking forward to using my B.A. voucher to hopefully attend our Clan Leslie gathering, perhaps next year, as well as visiting my newly acquired estate - thanks to Myra !



The Leslies and Judah Benjamin's Escape

By Donald W. Leslie

Judah Philip Benjamin is one of the most interesting individuals of the 1800's. He possessed unusual intelligence and was able to enter Yale at the age of 13, achieving grades that placed him in the top of his class. Though he grew up in Charleston, S.C., at the age of 17 he chose New Orleans as the venue for proving his natural abilities and succeeded spectacularly. He wrote a book on law in his twenties that was used by that profession for decades. He became a lawyer, claiming clients in the top echelons of business and government, and was qualified to represent clients before the U.S. Supreme Court. He owned a huge plantation along the Mississippi River, specializing in sugar production and became a leader in that industry. Also, he was elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives and then as state Senator. He married the daughter of a leading Creole dignitary and became a US. Senator and while a member of that body, challenged Jefferson Davis to a duel. When the War Between the States broke out, he resigned his senate position and joined the Confederate Government, first as Attorney General, then as Secretary of War and finishing the war as Secretary of State. He did all this as the only person of Jewish ancestry in every activity he was involved in.

His photographic memory made it possible for him to quote passages from books, plays, poetry and historical events at will. His pleasant personality made him a favorite among his peers in the Senate – friends and enemies alike. At social gatherings his affable personality and legendary good humor made him a valuable addition to any kind of gathering.

As the war was coming to a close, he accompanied Jefferson Davis and what remained of the Confederate Cabinet on their way out of Richmond, Virginia. Varina Davis, wife of the President, departed earlier with their children, intending to make her way back to their home in Mississippi. On her way, she stopped to spend several days with Armistead Burt and his wife in Abbeville, South Carolina. Her husband intended meeting her there but news of a Federal Cavalry unit approaching the town, and fear of being discovered in a friend's house forced her to leave earlier than planned. When Jefferson Davis and his party arrived finding his wife gone and anxious to have her with him, spent only the remainder of the day there, leaving later that evening. Shortly after arriving, President Davis held a Council of War, meeting in the parlor as the last official act of the Confederacy.

After the Council meeting Davis spent the day resting while members of the group went around the town, meeting the local residents. Benjamin's buoyant personality attracted a

crowd wherever he went and this day was no different. Among the crowd that day was William Lesly, nephew of David Lesly, builder of Burt's house. Among the topics of discussion, Benjamin stated that he was anxious to get out of the country. Lesly mentioned two relatives that lived in Florida and would be in a position to be of assistance if he needed it. The two were brothers and had moved from Abbeville in the 1830's, settling in the community of Madison, located a few miles south of the Georgia/Florida state line. Leroy, the oldest brother later moved to Tampa and became a Methodist minister and very effective militia leader during the Seminole Indian Wars.

Benjamin's determination to get out of the country was because of his activity as Secretary of War. He had been responsible for forming spy organizations and was familiar with other Confederate spying activity. Because of this knowledge, Benjamin was convinced he would be subject to intense and possible brutal interrogation if captured. His fears were not unfounded for the US government tried for two years to have him extradited after he reached London. After several unsuccessful attempts, the pursuit was discontinued.

The evening of their arrival in Abbeville, the group left the town, heading south. Some were on horseback; others rode in the several wagons filled with the remaining gold and silver from the Confederate treasury. Shortly after crossing the Savannah River, the wagons and most of those on horseback continued toward Washington, Georgia, while Benjamin and his friend Colonel Leovy, fellow New Orleans resident, took a different route, still south but further west. Shortly after they left the main party, Benjamin purchased a buggy so he could avoid riding horseback. As he and Col. Leovy traveled through Georgia toward Florida, skirting the larger towns. Benjamin assumed a disguise as a traveling Frenchman that spoke little English with Leovy acting as his interpreter.

Soon after crossing the state line, the two travelers arrived at Madison, home of James Thomas Lesly. At this time Col. Leovy left Benjamin to travel west toward his home in New Orleans and Benjamin needed a new disguise. Mrs. Lesly made him a suit of clothes from her own weaving loom called linsey Woolsey, a cloth familiar in the farming communities, made from a combination of linen and wool.

With his new set of rustic clothes, Benjamin assumed the role of a South Carolina farmer looking for land to purchase. The information William Lesly had given him back in Abbeville was that Leroy Gilliland, the brother of James Thomas lived in Tampa but now was given information that Leroy had moved to Brooksville about fifty miles north of Tampa.

Two days after leaving Madison, Benjamin walked up on the porch of a cabin a few miles from Brooksville. When Leroy came to the door, Benjamin introduced himself as Mr. Howard and asked for Leroy Lesly. When Leroy acknowledged that he was that person, Benjamin changed his identity to that of Judah Benjamin. Leroy had been active in Confederate government affairs and recognized the name and invited him in. Benjamin explained that he needed to get to a port where a boat could be found to get him out of the country. Leroy dispatched a servant to find his son, John Thomas, a Major in the Confederate Calvary and now in charge of a unit known as the Cow Calvary. Florida, at this time in history was similar to western states where cattle roamed on free range (no fences) and those cattle were a vital part of the military's diet. Union forces had begun raiding the cattle herds to disrupt that source of food. John Thomas had been appointed to lead a special force to protect the valuable herds of cattle. At this time, the war was effectively over, but John Thomas and his men were still in the field when his father's servant located him. John Thomas arrived at Brooksville and huddled with his father and Benjamin. It was decided that the best chance of arranging for some type of boat that could take him to the Bahama Islands would be the Gamble Mansion on the Manatee River. The owner would have to be consulted but the father/son team felt confident there would be no problem. The real problem was the Union garrison occupying Tampa that made periodic patrols around the city outskirts. John Thomas started joining his father's militia unit at an early age and because of that and his activity as leader of the Cow Calvary, he knew the land and the available roads to take safely around Tampa.

John Thomas and his men were successful in getting Benjamin to the Gamble Mansion, now called the Judah P. Benjamin Confederate Memorial, in good order. Shortly after arriving., a Union patrol came to the front door on a routine patrol and as the soldiers came in the front, Benjamin and the owner went out the back and were forced to hide in the scrub palmetto for over an hour. The

next day, a boat was secured that sailed down the Florida west coast, hugging the coast as closely as possible but it was stopped by a Union patrol boat. Benjamin had some experience with disguises on his trip south, so this time he hurriedly donned an apron and posed as the ship's cook. The disguise was successful again but before they reached their destination, the boat started taking on water and every effort to bail it out proved futile. Benjamin and the crew just barely made it to the life boat and were forced to remain in an open boat without water or provisions until a passing boat rescued them. Benjamin finally reached the Bahamas where he was able to board a ship to England. Three days out, that ship caught fire and had to return to port. Benjamin finally made it to Cuba and from there to England. One of the first things he did upon arrival was the purchase of a bolt of black silk and all the incidentals necessary to create a dress for Leroy Lesley's wife

Because there was no reciprocal agreement between The US and Great Britain, Benjamin found it necessary to start over in his education in order to resume the practice of law. Fortunately, he had shipped a number of bales of cotton to England during the war and their sale allowed him to pay for his upkeep while attending the English law school as well as the schooling itself. In England, the term of solicitor or barrister is used rather than lawyer or attorney and Benjamin rose to the very top of that profession, active in business and industrial matters of law. When it came time to retire, the English High Court and solicitors gave him a formal dinner to express their admiration and affection for him. This was the first such dinner given to an individual on any occasion.

There have been at least seven books written about Judah Benjamin by different authors and a portion of this writing was taken from them. There was also an account of the Florida portion found in a Florida history publication.

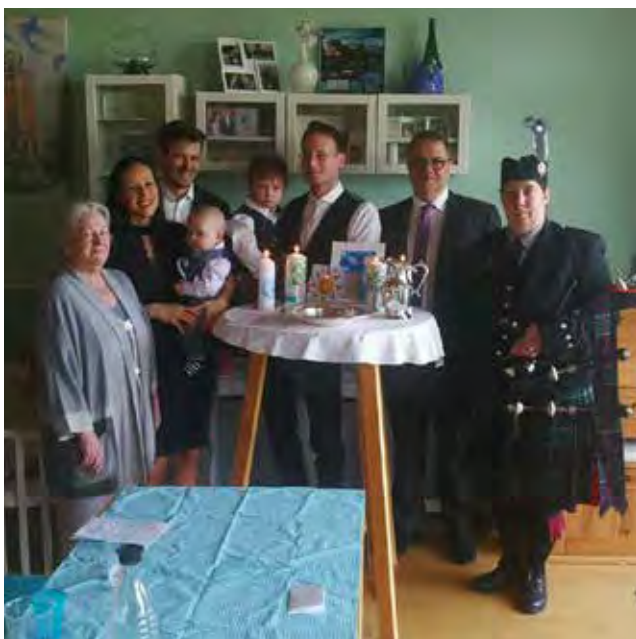


GERMANY MEMBERS

As some may have noticed, we are new members of the Clan Leslie Society International since October last year. We are from Germany and we wanted to take the opportunity to introduce ourselves briefly.

We, that is Christian and Simone, have been playing in a pipe band, the “Sound of Scotland Pipes and Drums” for several years, Christian as the bass drummer and Simone as piper. In our band, each member can choose which clan tartan he or she wants to wear. When it was time for us to choose, we chose the Clan Leslie Tartan. Firstly, because we liked the pattern and secondly because we liked the motto of the clan “Grip Fast”.

After that we informed us a bit more about the Clan Leslie and the history of the Clan and so we decided to join the Clan Leslie Society International, and to represent the Clan Leslie as two of the few (or even only?) members in Germany.



CLSI OFFICERS CONTACT LIST

CLAN LESLIE

Chief of Clan Leslie

The Honourable Alexander Leslie
Auchenflower
Amisfield, Dumfries
DG1 3LS
Scotland
alex@leslieandbaggot.com

Commissioner of Clan Leslie, North America

William Leslie
70 Creighton St.,
Orillia, Ontario, L3V 1B2
Canada
Phone 705-326-6791
w.leslie@rogers.com

CLAN LESLIE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL ELECTED (COUNCIL) & APPOINTED OFFICERS

Chieftain

Dr. Loren R. Leslie
17710 Old Excelsior Boulevard
Unit 7203
Minnetonka, MN, 55345, USA
Phone 952-938-3595
lreslie1@aol.com

Vice-Chieftain

Laura Messing
12 Dennis Dr.
Burlington, MA, 01803, USA
Phone 314-440-6951
designinvasion@gmail.com

Treasurer

Linda Flowers
302 SW 3rd,
Tuttle, OK, 73089, USA
Phone 405-381-3577
lflowjingo@sbcglobal.net

Secretary/Registrar

Dane Gay
15307 Winding Ash Drive
Chesterfield, VA 23832
804-223-0559
dane_gay@disciplefish.net

Ex Officio

David Leslie White
Tom Huxtable

Council

Bob (Robert C.) Bailey
6113 El Toro Court,
San Jose, CA, 95123, USA
Phone 408-224-1190
rcbailey3056@sbcglobal.net

Council

Jordan Hinckley
535 S 300 E #2,
Salt Lake City, UT 84111, USA
Phone 802-550-2080
dragonfyre99@gmail.com

Council

Christine Johnson
1113 Foxhaven Dr.
Greensboro, NC 27455, USA
Phone 336-656-4971
cejohnson@triad.rr.com

Council

Gale Walker
30 Calder Bay
Winnipeg, MB
Canada R3T 5L9
204-269-5577
galew259@shaw.ca

Council

Susan Abernethy
5643 Limerick Ave.
San Diego, CA 92117
858-576-8293
sabernet@sbcglobal.net

Council

Karen Lessley Ingersoll
1133 N. Valley St.
Burbank, CA 91505
412-915-3767
kareningersoll61@gmail.com

Chaplain

Rev. Samantha Gray, ANPC
61 Robinson Avenue,
Glen Cove, NY, 11542-2944, USA
Phone 516-676-5719
riognach@aol.com

Co-Editors, Publications Grip Fast, Journal of the CLSI, Griffin

Linda Flowers
(See Treasurer Address Listing)
Laura Messing
(See Vice-Chieftain
Address Listing)

Genealogist

Christine Johnson
(See Council Address Listing)

Herald

Susan C. Abernethy
5643 Limerick Av.,
San Diego, CA, 92117-1526, USA

Phone 858-576-8293
sabernet@trexenterprises.com

Historian

Karen Lessley Ingersoll
(See Council Address Listing)

Justiciar

Vacant

Piper

Gale Walker
(See Council Address Listing)

Quartermaster

Lew Johnson
1113 Foxhaven Dr.
Greensboro, NC 27455, USA
Phone 336-656-4971
ljohnson355@gmail.com

Webmaster & Web Site

Laura Messing.
(See Vice-Chieftain
Address Listing)

Clan Leslie Society
International Web Site:
www.clanlesliesociety.org

REGIONAL CONVENORS

Canada (Vacant)

Central Region, USA (Vacant)

Europe/Asia

Brian Lesslie, Sr.
4 Albany Terr.
Perth PH1 2BD,
Scotland.
Phone 07138 563050

Mountain, USA

Jordan Hinckley
(See Council Address Listing)

NE, USA

Laura Messing
(See Vice-Chieftain
Address Listing)

Pacific NW, USA

Steve Olling
3909 - 242 Avenue SE,
Issaquah, WA 98029, USA
Phone 425-557-7672
ollings@comcast.net

Pacific SW, USA (Vacant)

SW, USA
(Vacant)

VIRGINIA, NORTH CAROLINA

Lew and Christine Johnson
(see quartermaster listing)

SOUTH CAROLINA

Leslie Craddock
100 Cobblestone Rd.
Greenville, SC 29615
Phone 864-419-9700
llcraddock@gmail.com

MISSOURI

Joe Thompson
615 N. Gibbs Ave. Apt. 9
Mount Vernon, MO 65712
Phone 417-489-1900
thompsonjo@bbmngmnt.com

Australia & New Zealand Commissioner

Malcolm Wallace Leslie. D. Ua
Clan Leslie Society of Australia
and New Zealand (CLANZ)
4117 / 303 Spring Street.
Kearney's Spring
Queensland 4350 Australia
61 7 4635 8358
malncol@icr.com.au

Leslie Tartan

At the Grandfather
Mountain Games, we
found a vendor who
has 13 oz. wool, Leslie
Ancient tartan 54 inches
wide for \$55 per yard.

The vendor is:
Grandfather Scottish
PO Box 1132, Linville,
NC 28646
perrys@charter.net
phone 828-733-3476

visit us at clanlesliesociety.org

AMAZON SMILES

Clan Leslie Society International now has an **Amazon Smiles** account. Amazon Smiles is a system where Amazon donates a portion of your purchase to your designated charity. This does not cost you extra when you make a purchase. We are a tax-free organization so we are eligible for Amazon Smiles. To use Amazon Smiles, simply shop at **smile.amazon.com**, login using your regular login information and choose Clan Leslie Society International. Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase to us. If you are a Amazon Prime member, that works with Amazon Smiles as well.

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INFORMAL GATHERING IN SCOTLAND

We know many of you had plans/reservations to attend the Gathering in Scotland last summer. Unfortunately, it had to be cancelled due to Covid. We have had questions from members about when/if you plan to use your reservations and maybe a small group could meet in Scotland. If you have plans or would like to be a part of this informal gathering, email Lew Johnson, ljohnson355@gmail.com.

NEW ITEMS IN OUR STORE!

We have many new items for sale in our store on our website. We have added engraved leather coasters, ball caps, Clan Leslie stickers and The Shipbuilder's Book. Check out our new items!

Coasters!



Ball Caps!



Stickers!

Visit: clanlesliesociety.org/shop



Leslie
Clan Leslie Society
International

302 SW 3rd
Tuttle, OK, 73089
USA