



LESLIE.

Crest Badge: A Demi Griffin,
proper.
Motto: Grip Fast.

The family takes it's name from the lands of Leslie in Aberdeenshire, and the name became famous not only in Scotland, but in Germany, France, Russia and Poland. In the 12th century Bartholomew, a French noble, obtained the barony of Lesly, and from him are descended the Earls of Rothes. Sir Andrew de Lesly was one of the signatories to the letter to the Pope in 1320 asserting the independence of Scotland. Walter, his son, married the daughter of the Earl of Ross, and his death without issue led to the famous battle of Harlaw in 1411.

The title of Earl of Rothes was conferred on George de Lesly of Rothes. His grandson, George, 2nd Earl, was killed at Flodden. The Lesliees were concerned in the murder of Cardinal Beaton, and George, 4th Earl, was tried for his part in it, but acquitted. Andrew, 5th Earl, succeeded his father in 1588. He was intimately concerned in the affairs of Mary Queen of Scots. John the 6th Earl, was one of the most powerful leaders of the Covenanters. John, 7th Earl, was created Duke of Rothes in 1680.

General Alexander Leslie, of the Balgonie family, served under Gustavus Adolphus, King of Sweden, with great distinction and rose to be Field-Marshal. Invited back to Scotland to command the Covenanters, he captured Edinburgh Castle with 1000 men. In 1640 he entered England with the Scots army, routed the Kings troops at Newburn, and after the Treaty of Rippon, he was created Earl of Leven by Charles I to conciliate the Scots. David, 3d Earl of Leven, and second of Melville, distinguished himself at the Battle of Killiecrankie.