

John LESSELS and Margaret GILLIES

Chart 8-9

(Weblink LS Lessels Gillies 1855 England)

(Weblink to John's parents LS Lessels Henderson 1829 Scotland chart 16-17)

(Weblink to Margaret's parents LS Gillies Sommerville 1822 Scotland chart 18-19)

(Weblink to images "Lessels Gallery of Painting" by John Lessels)

John LESSELS

B 22 December 1833 Dawick Peebleshire Scotland

D 25 September 1914 St Peter Port Guernsey Channel Island

M 01 August 1855 London Middlesex England

Margaret GILLIES

B about 1835 Newbridge Peebleshire Scotland

D 06 February 1898 St Peters Port Guernsey Channel Island

Children:

1. John LESSELS born 13 September 1856 Edinburgh Midlothian Scotland
2. John LESSELS born 18 April 1858 Edinburgh Midlothian Scotland
3. George Harry/Henry LESSELS born 06 May 1860 Middlesex London England
4. Eliza Annie LESSELS born 13 February 1863 Middlesex London England
5. **James Smith LESSELS** born 11 April 1865 Lewisham Kent England
6. William Alexander LESSELS born 09 June 1867 Greenwich Middlesex England
7. Laura Eleanor LESSELS born 15 November 1868 Greenwich Middlesex England
8. Louis Ernest LESSELS born 12 February 1870 Greenwich Middlesex England

The family history of John LESSELS and Margaret GILLIES

1833 - John son of John LESSELS Clerk of Works at Dawick house and Mary HENDERSON his wife was born the 22 December 1833 and baptised the 2 April 1834 by the Rev James SOMMERVILLE.

(Reference FHC LDS microfilm 1067905 Drumelzier Peebleshire Scotland [1833] baptisms Old Parish Registers)

John LESSELS, eldest son of the preceding, was born at Dawick. Peebleshire on the 22nd December 1833.

He was educated at Allanton, Berwickshire, and at the same school in Kirkcaldy where his father had been educated, and afterwards at the Edinburgh Institution where he was "dux" of all his classes for two years until 1848 when he entered his fathers office as an architectural pupil, continuing his education by attending a class for modelling in clay, taught by Gourlay Steel R.S.A. and classes for ornamental drawing at the Royal Scottish Institution as the School of Arts for the higher arithmetic, and mathematics trigonometry and natural philosophy taught by the learned Professor George Lees.

He also attended a class at the Edinburgh University for anatomy but only for a few months, as the noxious smells from the dead bodies upset his system.

(Reference Source The Royal Commission on the Ancient & Historical Monuments of Scotland, National Monuments Records of Scotland in Edinburgh 'Architects' file for John LESSELS "A Brief Account of the Ancient Family of LESSELS in Fifeshire)

1841 Census Allanton Scotland – Allanton

- John LESSELS age 32 occupation Inspector of Works Buildings born Scotland
- Mary LESSELS age 34 born Scotland
- Margaret LESSELS age 9 born Scotland
- **John LESSELS** age 7 born Scotland

- Elizabeth LESSELS age 4 born Scotland
- Robert LESSELS age 3 born Scotland
- James LESSELS age 1 born Scotland
- CHECK William LESSELS age? born Scotland

(Reference RGO 1841 Census Allanton Scotland RD 738/00 ED 004/000)

The Scotsman 09 September 1848 page 1
Edinburgh Institution Exam results Prize list for 1847-1848
Maps John LESSELS
SEARCH (Reference source "The Scotsman" 1817-1950)

John LESSELS, Architectural Draughtsman age 17 son of John LESSELS, 7 St Vincent Street. Recommended to Trustees Academy by Charles MCGIBBON. Entered 2nd April 1851 left 12 July 1851.

(Reference RCHM Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland index)

1851 Census – 7 St Vincent Street No 4299
Edinburgh Scotland The New Town

- John LESSELS head married age 42 Architect born Abbotshall Fife Scotland
- Mary LESSELS wife married age 42 born Abbotshall Fife Scotland
- Margaret LESSELS daughter unmarried age 19 born Kilconquhar Fife Scotland
- **John LESSELS** son unmarried age 17 Architectural Student born Drumelzier Peebleshire Scotland
- Elizabeth LESSELS daughter age 15 Scholar born Drumelzier Peebleshire Scotland
- Robert LESSELS son age 13 Scholar born Newlands Peebleshire Scotland
- James LESSELS son age 10 Scholar born Edrom Berwickshire Scotland
- Mary LESSELS daughter age 8 Scholar born Edinburgh Midlothian Scotland
- William LESSELS son age 6 Scholar born Edinburgh Midlothian Scotland
- Isabella LESSELS daughter age 4 born Edinburgh Midlothian Scotland

(Reference National Library Wellington Booklet of 1851 Census Edinburgh Scotland The New Town Volume 3 Part 1 RD685/01 ED137/000)

He made sketches of the old houses in Edinburgh, which have now been pulled down for many years past. He had also a few lessons in watercolour painting from the late John Winton A.R.S.A. and afterwards his sketches were made in watercolours his first painting of Coatbridge near Edinburgh was exhibited in the Royal Scottish Academy Exhibition in 1853 and received a short press notice.

A few years afterwards he exhibited another water colour painting of the Interior of the Chamber Council in Garter Tower Windsor Castle which had a highly favourable criticism in the art reviews, and with the exception of an oil colour printing exhibition at the Art Gallery, Crystal Palace in 1862, he never exhibited more, as he considered it uncharitable to contend with struggling artists, as his profession was that of an architect.

(Reference Source The Royal Commission on the Ancient & Historical Monuments of Scotland, National Monuments Records of Scotland in Edinburgh 'Architects' file for John LESSELS "A Brief Account of the Ancient Family of LESSELS in Fifeshire")

In September 1853 he was appointed Drawing Clerk at Windsor Castle through the flattering testimonial from Professor Lees principal of the School of Arts, who added to his certificate of proficiency the following words "in duty I must add Mr LESSELS is a young man of the most kindly and amiable disposition " and also to the beautiful Architectural drawings he has submitted which were said to be equal to copperplate.

His duties at Windsor Castle were to make plans, elevations, and models in accordance with the ideas of H.R.H. Prince Albert, for the improvement of the

Castle, both externally and internally and to attend during theatrical performance in charge of the Fire Brigade.

(Reference Source The Royal Commission on the Ancient & Historical Monuments of Scotland, National Monuments Records of Scotland in Edinburgh 'Architects' file for John LESSELS "A Brief Account of the Ancient Family of LESSELS in Fifeshire)

Margaret GILLIES was born about 1834/1835 in Edinburgh Scotland. Her parents were Samuel GILLIES and Elizabeth (Betty) SOMERVILLE.

SEARCH (Reference source FHC LDS film)

Margaret GILLIES / GILES was born about 1834/35 Kirkliston Midlothian Scotland

SEARCH (Reference source FHC LDS film)

Margaret GILLIES was born 1835 Newbridge Peebleshire Scotland according to family researcher Living WRIGHT from England.

1841 Census Bailie Fyfes Close Edinburgh Trinity College Midlothian Scotland

Surname located under VILLIER should have been GILLIES

- Samuel GILLIES age 46 Tailor J born Midlothian Scotland
- Elizabeth GILLIES age 44 born Midlothian Scotland
- Robert GILLIES age 17 born Midlothian Scotland
- Helen GILLIES age 12 born Midlothian Scotland
- Elizabeth GILLIES age 10 born Midlothian Scotland
- **Margt GILLIES** age 7 born Midlothian Scotland
- Agnes WATSON age 73 born Scotland

SEARCH original census order film (Reference National Library of NZ Wellington Ancestry.com 1841 Census parish 685/1 order film to see original census details and spelling)

1851 Census 7 Great King Street

Edinburgh Scotland The New Town Volume 3 Part 1 No 6066

- Margaret GILLIES age 16 Kitchen Maid born Kirkliston Midlothian

SEARCH original census order film (Reference: National Library Wellington 1851 Census Edinburgh The New Town Volume 3 Part 1)

1855 Marriage solemnised at the District Parish Church in the District Parish of St John Notting Hill in the County of Middlesex. No. 493 (borough Kensington & Chelsea)

When married	01 August 1855
Name and Surname	John LESSELS and Margaret GILLIES
Age	22 and 20
Condition	Bachelor and Spinster
Rank or Profession	Clerk to an Architect
Residence at the Time of Marriage	3 Dawson Place and 3 Dawson Place
Father's Name and Surname	John LESSELS and Samuel GILLIES
Rank or Profession of Father	Architect and Tailor

Married in the District Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church by Licence by me, Jas H ANDREWS [sic].

This Marriage was solemnised between us John LESSELS and Margaret GILLIES in the Presence of us, Margaret and James ELDER. Everyone signed the registration.

(Reference FLC LDS microfilm 0597798 marriages 1845-65 St John the Evangelist Kensington Notting Hill County Middlesex England volume no P 84 JN 14 page 247 No 493)

John LESSELS married Margaret GILLIES 1855

ORDER (Reference Ancestry RGO UK marriage registration 1855 September quarter Kensington district Greater London Middlesex Volume 1a page 92)

SEARCH and identify the witnesses Margaret and James ELDER to see if they are related to the John LESSELS or Margaret GILLIES or their families. Later in 1891 census in England Edith ELDER age 22 was the visitor of Margaret and John LESSELS. I believe Edith ELDER could have been the daughter Margaret and James ELDER.

On the 1st August 1855 he married Margaret GILLIES, his eldest son John being born 13th September 1856 but died in 1857 from disordered glands, and on the birth of a second son 18th April 1858 he was called John to continue the old precedent.

When at Windsor he made designs for converting the disused theatre into a Mechanics Institute, but this scheme had to be abandoned for want of funds.

He also taught a class for Mathematics and another for drawing for two years at the Institute gratuitously.

During his leisure time and holidays he made measured drawing of all the carvings in wood and stone in St George's Chapel and Cloisters Windsor, also sketches of stained glass at the Old Windsor, and neighbourhood. All then drawings as well as many made in precious years were lost in the wreck of a London and Leith steamboat at Flambore Head.

(Reference Source The Royal Commission on the Ancient & Historical Monuments of Scotland, National Monuments Records of Scotland in Edinburgh 'Architects' file for John LESSELS "A Brief Account of the Ancient Family of LESSELS in Fifeshire)

John and Margaret had a son John LESSELS who was born on 13 September 1856 6Hr 30M AM at 3 Young Street Edinburgh. This was the home of John's grandfather Samuel. His parents were recorded as Margaret formerly GILLIES and John LESSELS Architect Reth [sic]. Samuel GILLIES employed [sic] and grandfather registered the birth on 26 September 1856 at Edinburgh.

(Reference RGO Scotland 1856 Birth registration Heriot and Warriston Edinburgh RD 685/07)

John LESSELS aged 13 months died on 29 October 1857 oHr 30 M AM at 1 Young Street Edinburgh. His parents were recorded as Margaret formerly GILLIES and John LESSELS occupation Architect Clerk. Cause of death was Sabes Megentricos some months as certified by John MOIR MD who saw deceased October 28th. John was buried at Dean Western Bomeley Edinburgh as certified by Charles Dunlop undertaker. The informant was grandfather Samuel GILLIES who was present at the death. The death was registered on 31 October 1857 in Edinburgh. John's name is recorded on his grandfather John LESSELS tombstone in Dean Cemetery Edinburgh Scotland.

(Reference RGO Scotland death registration 1857 Heriot and Warriston Edinburgh RD 685/07))

Often when the first male born to a family dies then when the next male child is born he receives the same Christian name so that the Scottish naming pattern can continue.

John and Margaret second son John LESSELS was born on the 18 April 1858 10Hr PM at 1 Young Street Edinburgh. His parents were recorded as Margaret formerly GILLIES and John LESSELS occupation Architectural Draughtsman. John LESSELS the father registered the birth on the 17 May 1858 at Edinburgh. The (Gleit) registrar's assistant was Maillaud ADAMS.

(Reference FHC LDS microfilm 280529 page 82 line 245 Register of Births Scotland 1858 RD 685/07 Heriot & Warriston Edinburgh Scotland)

The funds provided by the Treasury for Windsor Castle Improvements having become exhausted in 1856, he left there and proceeded to Perth opening an

Office there in partnership with his father, and had many clients for 2 years until a rival firm of Architects finding that Mr LESSELS and father were charging 5 per cent they had circulars printed and sent to Messrs. LESSELS Clients saying they would undertake architectural works at 2 and half per cent.

The builders also received these letters and informed Mr LESSELS that it was the practice at their rival Architects to get the builders to include in their Estimate 5% and in some cases as much as 10% so that the client had to pay a nominal amount of 2 and half % in addition to the percentage 5% to 10% included in the Builders accounts, and suggested that Messrs, LESSELS should do the same, but as they would not demean themselves to carry on work in such a dishonest way and as their clients, Lord Elibank, Director of Murray's Lunatic Asylum, Col. Richardson Robertson, Sir John Richardson and Messrs. Annan Jenrie Coming & Robertson etc. declined to pay more than 2 and half % whilst Messrs. LESSELS felt that they must charge the usual professional fee, viz. 5 per cent, and the result was that the establishment was shut up, to the relief of John LESSELS as he could not conform to the drinking habits which then prevailed. Architects and Builders being in the habit of meeting each other at different Inns to drink whisky and discuss building matters, which he considered very degrading to a professional man.

On his return to Edinburgh he set up as a general designer and lithographer, and soon acquired a lucrative practice in designing furniture, stained glass windows, and book stamp etc.

Having always has a great desire to emigrate to New Zealand as a pioneer in Architecture and join some relatives and friends, he spent every morning in a builders shop working as a Carpenter, to learn the trade, and the rest of the day he was engaged designing in his office, he continued the practice for a year, and then proceeded to London to learn the English methods.

One of Johns father's former pupils a Robert LAWSON emigrated to New Zealand and was the Architect for many of the early Church and School in the Colony of New Zealand. He also designed many buildings in Australia and is well known as the Architect for Larnark Castle in Dunedin New Zealand. Robert may have been the friend that John wrote about.

He was employed by Messrs. Myers (then at the head of the Trade) and sent to one of their branch works at Windsor where he had the pleasure of making some of the ornamental gothic doors, which he had designed for Windsor Castle in 1855. [? 1857 my guess]

At this time he had the offer of an appointment as a professional assistant in H.M. Office of Works in London, but he declined it as he had made every arrangement to proceed to New Zealand and was only waiting for a letter from his friends (who had proceeded him), as to the things he should bring out with him. Shortly afterwards this letter arrived informing him that the Colony was in a bankrupt state, and nothing was being done in the building line, and the only employment they could find was to herd sheep for the Bishop of New Zealand consequently it would be unwise to emigrate until the advent of better days.

(Reference Source The Royal Commission on the Ancient & Historical Monuments of Scotland, National Monuments Records of Scotland in Edinburgh 'Architects' file for John LESSELS "A Brief Account of the Ancient Family of LESSELS in Fifeshire)

John's older married sister Margaret Lessels COCHRANE settled in New Zealand (around 1871) for 7 years and then settled in Victoria Australia for 11 years before

she died in 1899. Margaret's oldest son John Lessels COCHRANE married 1887 in New Zealand and settled in the Dargaville, Northland district of the North Island.

The offer of the Surveyor for the Windsor District being still open he accepted it for a time intending to emigrate to New Zealand when it improved, but the increased in his family compelled him to keep to a certainty and remain a Civil Servant of the Crown.

As a Civil Service Commissioners had than been established he had to pass an Examination in several subjects before the Commissioners, which he did successfully, and was appointed, to the Office of Works in 1860, where he remained until 60 years of age.

(Reference Source The Royal Commission on the Ancient & Historical Monuments of Scotland, National Monuments Records of Scotland in Edinburgh 'Architects' file for John LESSELS "A Brief Account of the Ancient Family of LESSELS in Fifeshire)

Register of Baptisms - Scots Church - London Wall England

George Henry LESSELS born of John LESSELS and Margaret his wife residing at 17 Hawthorne Street Balls Pond Road born on the sixth day of May one thousand Eight hundred and sixty years (06 May 1860) at 54 North Street Edgeware Road was baptised in their house in Hawthorne Street Balls Pond Road on the tenth day of April One thousand Eight hundred and Sixty three years (10 April 1863) by me William Dallautne Minister

(Reference FHC LDS microfilm 0574636 item 4 England London Wallscotch Church christening to 1880 book MS4965-2)

John and Margaret had a son George Harry LESSELS who was born on 6 May 1860 at 54 North Street. His parents were Margaret formerly GILLIES and John LESSELS occupation Clerk to the Board of Works. Margaret LESSELS mother of 54 North Street Marylebone registered the birth on 26 May 1860. The registrar was H C WILSON at Marylebone district, sub district St John County of Middlesex England.

(Reference RGO UK birth registration 1860 June quarter Marylebone district Volume 1A page 449)

1861 Census 17 Hawthorne Street Islington Parish Municipal Ward Highbury England

- John LESSELS head married age 27 Clerk to District Surveyor for the County Office of Works born Peebleshire N B Dalwick Scotland (about 1834)
- Margaret LESSELS wife married aged 26 born Linlithgowobie Newbridge Scotland (about 1835)
- John LESSELS son age 2 born Edinburgh Midlothian Scotland (about 1859)
- George H LESSELS son age 11 months born Middlesex London (about 1860)
- Betsey PATTON sister-in-law married aged 28 born Edinburgh Midlothian (about 1833)
- James LESSELS brother unmarried aged 20 Clerk to the District Surveyor of road office Officer of Works born Allanton Berwickshire Scotland (about 1841)

(Reference National Library of NZ Ancestry 1861 Census Islington parish Municipal Ward Highbury Middlesex England schedule 244 17 Hawthorne Street RG 9/143 page 39)

Betsey PATTON was Margaret's older sister Elizabeth formerly GILLIES. James LESSELS was John's younger brother who also became an Architect.

A few years afterwards he exhibited another water colour painting of the Interior of the Chamber Council in Garter Tower Windsor Castle which had a highly favourable criticism in the art reviews, and with the exception of an oil colour printing exhibition at the Art Gallery, Crystal Palace in 1862, he never exhibited more, as he considered it uncharitable to contend with struggling artists, as his profession was that of an architect.

(Reference Source The Royal Commission on the Ancient & Historical Monuments of Scotland, National Monuments Records of Scotland in Edinburgh 'Architects' file for John LESSELS "A Brief Account of the Ancient Family of LESSELS in Fifeshire)

The artist (1805-1873) Frans Xaver Winterhalter's (1851) painting titled "The first of May" is an oil on canvas taken from Windsor Castle. The first of May is a royal family portrait of Queen Victoria holding her third son, Prince Arthur who presents a bunch of lilies-of-the-valley to his godfather, the Duke of Wellington. May 1 was the birthday of both Prince Arthur and the duke. In the painting Prince Albert looks towards the Crystal Palace in the left background. Winterhalter, a German portrait painter, became the favourite of European royalty during the mid-19th century. Queen Victoria often commissioned him to paint portraits to mark special family occasions. This portrait belongs to Windsor Castle and was exhibited between 1994-1995 at the Museum of New Zealand in Wellington. I visited the exhibition in 1995.

When viewing this painting I felt a strong connection to John LESSELS. The painting linked together John, the Crystal Palace and the Royal Family. In 1862 John exhibited one of his paintings at the Crystal Palace and in 1863 John designing a large temporary building for the Royal marriage of H.R.H. The Prince Of Wales.

Register of Baptisms - Scots Church - London Wall England

Eliza Annie LESSELS daughter of John LESSELS and Margaret his wife residing at 17 Hawthorne Street Balls Pond Road born on the thirteenth day of February One Thousand and Eight hundred and Sixty three years (13 February 1863) was baptised in their house as by me on the tenth day of April one thousand eight hundred and sixty three years (10 April 1863) by me William Dallautbe Minister
(Reference FHC LDS microfilm 0574636 item 4 England London Wallscotch Church christening to 1880 book MS4965-2)

John and Margaret had a daughter Eliza Annie LESSELS who was born on 13 February 1863 at 17 Hawthorne Street. Her parents were Margaret formerly GILLIES and John LESSELS occupation Government Clerk Works. J LESSELS father of 17 Hawthorn Street Islington registered the birth on 4 March 1863. The registrar was from Islington district sub district Islington East in County of Middlesex England.
(Reference RGO UK birth registration 1863 March quarter Islington district Volume 1B page 321)

The first important work he performed after his appointment was designing the large temporary building, porches staging etc. connected with the marriage of H.R.H. The Prince of Wales and H.R.H. The Princess Alexander on the 10th March 1863 at St George's Chapel Windsor. The whole of the buildings were decorated, the walls of the Bride's retiring room being covered with expensive lace.

For this service he received a letter of thanks from the Lord Chamberlain enclosing \$1 and from the Lords of the Treasury also a letter of thanks enclosing the sum of \$20.

(Reference Source The Royal Commission on the Ancient & Historical Monuments of Scotland, National Monuments Records of Scotland in Edinburgh 'Architects' file for John LESSELS "A Brief Account of the Ancient Family of LESSELS in Fifeshire)

John and Margaret had a son James Smith LESSELS who was born 11 April 1865 North West Park in the Registration District of Lewisham in the Sub District of Sydenham in the County of Kent England.

His parents were recorded as Margaret formerly GILLIES and John LESSELS occupation Architect Clerk. The informant was father John LESSELS from North Road West Kent Park, Sydenham. The birth was registered on the 26 April 1865 and the registrar was Edmund Brown.

(Reference RGO England Registration District Lewisham June quarter Vol? page? copy on file)

Perhaps James was named after the Scottish architect James SMITH who had a business in Edinburgh around the same time as James's Grandfather John LESSELS.

1865 Post Office Directory London

John Lessels Office of Works - Official Directory Page 56
Commissioners of her Majesty's Works and Public Buildings
Supplementary Clerks – John Lessels page 87

(Reference Society of Genealogists London Post Office Directory London 186 on microfilm)

John and Margaret had a son William Alexander LESSELS who was born on 9 June 1867 at 16 Warwick Street. His parent's were Margaret formerly GILLIES and John LESSELS occupation Surveyor's Clerk. John LESSELS father of 16 Warwick Street Deptford registered the birth on 21 June 1867 at the registration district of Greenwich in the Sub-district of Saint Paul's Deptford in the Counties of Kent and Surrey England. The registrar was George Richard SCUDAMORE.

(Reference RGO England birth registration 1867 June quarter Greenwich district Volume 1d page 706)

In 1867 John made a small love bench where he caved his initials J L into the top of the backboard plus the initials M G [Margaret Gillies] in the middle and on the left side 18 and on the opposite side is caved 67. On the inside of the sides are carved dragons and on the outside flowers.

(Reference sighted by Lynly Lessels YATES on a visit to a second cousins in Edinburgh Scotland in 2006)

John and Margaret had a daughter Laura Eleanor LESSELS who was born 15 November 1868 at 16 Warwick Street in the district of Greenwich in the sub district of Saint Paul's Deptford in the Counties of Kent and Surrey England. Her parent's were Margaret formerly GILLIES and John LESSELS occupation Surveyor's Clerk. John LESSELS father of 16 Warwick Street Deptford registered the birth on 01 December 1868. The registrar was Thomas MARCHANT.

(Reference RGO UK birth registration 1868 December quarter Greenwich district Volume 1d page 727)

(Reference RGO UK birth registration 1868 December quarter Greenwich district Volume 1d page 727)

1868 Post Office Directory London

John Lessels Office of Works - Official Directory Page 52
Commissioners of her Majesty's Works and Public Buildings
Third Class – First Division – John Lessels page 87

(Reference Society of Genealogists London Post Office Directory London 1868)

John and Margaret had a son Louis Ernest LESSELS who was born on 12 February 1870 at 16 Warwick Street in the District of Greenwich in the Sub District of Saint Paul Deptford in the Counties of Kent and Surrey England. His parents were Margaret formerly GILLIES and John LESSELS occupation Surveyors Clerk. John LESSELS father of 16 Warwick Street Deptford registered the death on the 01 March 1870. The Deputy registrar was George Richard PENDMORE [sic].

(Reference RGO UK birth registration 1870 March quarter Greenwich district Volume 1d page 785)

Could not locate any record of John LESSELS age about 37 born Scotland on a 1871 United Kingdom Census

1871 Census 16 Warwick Street St Paul Deptford parish Greenwich England

- Margaret LASCELLES wife married age 35 wife of Architect born Scotland (about 1836)
- John LASCELLES son age 12 Scholar born Scotland (about 1859)
- George LASCELLES son age 10 Scholar born Maida Hill Middlesex England (about 1861)
- Anne E LASCELLES daughter age 7 Scholar born Kingsland Middlesex England (about 1864)
- James S LASCELLES son age 6 born Forest Hill Kent England (about 1865)
- Willie A (William) LASCELLES son age 3 born Deptford Kent England (about 1868)
- Laura E LASCELLES daughter age 2 born Deptford Kent England (about 1869)
- Louis E LASCELLES son age 1 born Deptford Kent England (about 1870)

- Ann KENIALY servant unmarried age 25 Domestic servant born Ireland (about 1846)
(Reference National Archives England 1871 Census St Paul Deptford Greenwich England RG 10 743 page 15/143)

He was also honoured with a place alongside the Peeresses to witness the ceremony, and for years afterwards he witnessed all the Royal Weddings and Burial Services that took place at St George's Chapel Windsor Castle until his retirement in 1894.

During his leisure hours he designed buildings, such as Houses at Eton as Dormitories for the scholars, works for Earl Manvers, water colouring painting of the vault of Henry VIII in St George's Chapel for the Dean Wellesley, and illuminated on vellum the roll call of the Eton College Volunteer Rifles for HM Queen Victoria, which Corps has been inspected by the late Prince Consort before his death.

He also illuminated on vellum many testimonials etc. one of them being the? Terrier [sic] of the London and South Western Railway Company making perspective drawings for architects and painting them.

He made and carved chairs, benches, bookcases, dressing tables, wardrobe, medicine chest, clockcase, picture frames, fishing rods and tackle besides finding time to cultivate his garden.

1871, he was selected out of several architects to proceed to Constantinople in regard to the rebuilding of the British Embassy which had been burnt down in the great fire in Peru the previous year, but as this would have interfered with his private practice which then brought in about \$300 per annum, but on being informed by the First Commissioner he would be paid \$500 per annum when he was engaged upon this work.

He started from London on the 9th March 1871, but owing to the France-Prussian War being then in progress he could not take the direct route and had to travel to Antwerp, Mayence, Nuremberg, Innsbruck, Brunner Pass to Venice, Trieste, Corfu, Athens and Smyrna arriving in Constantinople in summer weather instead of the cold and snowy weather which had prevailed from the time he had left London.

Whilst he was in Constantinople he was instructed by H.M. Treasury to arrange with the Municipality of Pera to grant them portions of land belonging to the British Government as a free gift, to enable them to widen their sheets. After several interviews, matters were arranged satisfactorily, the Municipality offered to pay for the re-building of the walls and buildings such as the stables and Entrance Lodge and \$4500, which the Treasury accepted.

In recognition of John LESSELS' services he was appointed Surveyor, without pay, of the Embassy Houses at Pera and Therapia, the Consular Buildings, Hospital, Prison, Doctors House, British Post Office, Cemetery at Scutari, and ether British Cemeteries on Bosphereus.

On his return to London he was provided with an office and a staff of draughts men. Owing to his protracted absence in Turkey he lost all his private practice amounting to over \$300 per annum, and much reduced in health, through being ill for a fortnight with country fever, an attack of Asiatic cholera and sunstroke.

In 1871 the walls, Entrance Lodge and stables were commenced from his drawings, and the following year, the restoration of the Embassy Buildings at

Pera was commenced, H.M. Treasure having granted \$38,000 for this important work.

In 1873 in addition to his other duties he was appointed Surveyor of the country district at a salary rising from \$500 to \$700 per annum, but had not received no salary for his services at Constantinople, which was to have been \$500 per annum as agreed by the then First Commissioner of Works (Acton Smee Ayeton).

When all the works at Constantinople were finished another Liberal First Commissioner was in power, when Mr LESSELS applied to him for the promised remuneration, which he refused to entertain on the plea that he was not responsible for his predecessor's promises.

Such behaviour was characterised by the Secretary (afterwards Lord Redesdale) "as an inhuman and unjust act, in fact a complete robbery," but John LESSELS had to submit to this loss of \$2,500, in addition to the loss of his private practice \$1,500, and the loss of health.

This arrangement continued for some time until he was relieved of the Constantinople work, and his duties were confined to the Country District, which included Windsor Castle and Parks, Frogmore House and Grounds, Military Knights House, Royal Gardens, Hampton Court Place, Parks and Gardens, Banqueting House and Pavilion, Bushy House, Upper Lodge, Houses in Bushy Park, Longford River, White Lodge, Richmond Park, Pembroke Lodge, Thatched House and other buildings in Richmond Park, Kew Palace, Cambridge House, Herbarium, and other buildings in Kew Green, Royal Botanic Gardens and Pleasure Grounds in Kew, and Broadmead Criminal Lunatic Asylum.

From 1873 the principal works performed by John LESSELS were the restoration of the Curfew and Chancellor of the Garters Towers, two large furniture stores, Gardener's house and greenhouses at the Royal Gardens Windsor, and the New Post Office at Windsor.

Owing to the severe illness from cholera, dysentery and sunstroke contracted at Constantinople as well as the unjust treatment he had received on his return, he was unable to undertake any private work for ten years, and spent his leisure in gardening and photography.

(Reference Source The Royal Commission on the Ancient & Historical Monuments of Scotland, National Monuments Records of Scotland in Edinburgh 'Architects' file for John LESSELS "A Brief Account of the Ancient Family of LESSELS in Fifeshire)

1881 census 20 Lewisham High Road (transcribed LEPELS) Greenwich St Paul Deptford England

- John LESSELS head married age 47 Surveyor born Scotland
 - Margaret LESELS wife age 46 born Scotland
 - Eliza Annie LESSELS daughter unmarried age 18 born Middlesex Kingsland
 - William A LESSELS son age unmarried 13 Scholar born Kent New Cross
 - Laura E LESSELS daughter unmarried age 12 Scholar born Kent New Cross
 - Louis E LESSELS son unmarried age 11 Scholar born Kent New Cross
 - Rose TRIPP servant unmarried age 18 Domestic servant born Kent New Cross
- (Reference National Library of NZ Ancestry 1881 census Deptford St Paul London Greenwich St Paul Deptford ED72 England)

St John the Baptist Hillington Borough Middlesex England

James Smith LESSELS baptised 31 March 1882 Parish of Hillingdon Middlesex London England. His parents were John and Margaret LESSELS child born 11 April 1856

(should be 1865) abode Hayes father's trade or profession Architect ceremony performed by Vicar J H THOMAS

(Reference National Library of NZ Ancestry Parish of Hillingdon Middlesex London England 1882 baptisms page 258 line 2064)

St John the Baptist Hillingdon Borough Middlesex England

Laura Eleanor LESSELS baptised 27 March 1883 Parish of Hillingdon Middlesex London England. His parents were John and Margaret LESSELS child born 16 November 1868 (should be 15 November) abode Hayes father's trade or profession Architect ceremony performed by Vicar J H THOMAS

(Reference National Library of NZ Ancestry Parish of Hillingdon Middlesex London England 1883 baptisms page 268 line 2140)

All Saints Hatcham Park County of Surrey Lewisham Borough Middlesex England

William Alexander LESSELS baptised 29 April 1883 Parish of All Saints Hatcham Park County of Surrey Lewisham Borough Middlesex England. His parents were John and Margaret LESSELS child born 01 June 1867 abode High Road Lewisham father's trade or profession Architect ceremony performed by R L SMITH

(Reference National Library of NZ Ancestry Parish of All Saints Hatcham Park County of Surrey Lewisham Borough Middlesex England 1883 baptisms page 209 line 1668)

All Saints Hatcham Park County of Surrey Lewisham Borough Middlesex England

Louis Ernest LESSELS baptised 29 April 1883 Parish of All Saints Hatcham Park County of Surrey Lewisham Borough Middlesex England. His parents were John and Margaret LESSELS child born 12 February 1870 abode High Road Lewisham father's trade or profession Architect ceremony performed by R Lundry [sic] SMITH

(Reference National Library of NZ Ancestry Parish of All Saints Hatcham Park County of Surrey Lewisham Borough Middlesex England 1883 baptisms page 209 line 1669)

Margaret and John's daughter Eliza Annie LESSELS married Edward Arthur Hamilton STEWART on 21 July 1883 at the Parish Church in St George Hanover Middlesex England.

(Reference RGO UK birth registration 1863 March quarter Islington district Volume 1B page 321)

In 1884 he was operated upon for stone in the bladder, which was the size of a walnut, and on his convalescence he went to the Contrexeville Springs in the Vosges Mountains to drink the waters there.

Whilst there he was asked by the Committee to inspect the buildings and report upon their sanitary state, which he did, receiving \$20 for his report, and nothing was charged for the stay of himself and daughter at the Establishment.

(Reference Source The Royal Commission on the Ancient & Historical Monuments of Scotland, National Monuments Records of Scotland in Edinburgh 'Architects' file for John LESSELS "A Brief Account of the Ancient Family of LESSELS in Fifeshire)

Saltoun Church

As with Bolton, the present church stands roughly on the site of two or three earlier buildings. This church was built in T-plan Gothic style by John Fletcher CAMPBELL in 1805 as "a monument to the virtues of his ancestors", and is dedicated to St Michael. Robert BURN probably designed it, but the inside was **re-cast by John LESSELS in 1885** when the three galleries were removed and the sanctuary increased in size. Other internal improvements have been made since. Seating is now about 160, but was once more. The spire is reputedly 99 feet tall, as there was tax on spires over 100 feet high! The building is A-Listed by the Scottish Office. Saltoun has been associated with a number of notable men throughout its history.

(Reference Internet address; http://www.lbes.demon.co.uk/page_3.htm [page 3 of 9])

1890 Official Post Office London Directory

- John LESSELS Comsnrs of Works Off. (page 36- LAW-LIN)

Commissioners of Her Majesty's Works and Public Buildings 12 Whitehall Place S.W.

- *Surveyors, Second Class* J LESSELS, E G RIVERS (Bristol) & J WAGER (Leeds) esqrs. (page 85 –COM)

(Reference FHC microfilm 0452326 Official Post Office London Directory 1890 England page 36 LAW-LIN and page 85 COM)

1891 Census 1 Earlsfield Road St Ann's Parish, Parliamentary Borough of Wandsworth, County of London England

- John LESSELS head age 57 Surveyor for HM Office of Works born Scotland (about 1834)
- Margaret LESSELS wife age 56 born Scotland (about 1835)
- Laura E LESSELS daughter single age 22 born New Cross Kent England (about 1869)
- Edith ELDER visitor single age 22 born Hayes Middlesex England (about 1869)
- Kate WRIGHT servant age 23 General servant born Rosley [sic] Hants England (about 1868)

(Reference National Library of NZ Ancestry 1891 Census St Ann's Parish, Parliamentary Borough Wandsworth, County London England page 3 /107 RG 12/449)

An earlier 1871 census recorded Edith ELDER, her parents James and Margaret ELDER and her siblings Margaret and Eugene. They were all living at Wool End Green Uxbridge Hayes Middlesex England. James and Margaret ELDER were the witnesses to the 1855 marriage of Margaret GILLIES and John LESSELS. James ELDER was born in Scotland and his occupation was builder so perhaps worked or grew up in Scotland with our John LESSELS.

In 1893 John designed and made a kitchen hutch where he caved his initials and a crest into the middle of the hutches backboard.

(Reference sighted by Lynly Lessels YATES on a visit to a second cousins in Edinburgh Scotland in 2006)

An 1894 Wandsworth Old Ordnance Survey map London shows the St Ann's Church, Earlsfield Tennis ground and on the outside edge of the bottom page is Earlsfield Road where John and Margaret LESSELS lived at 1 Earlsfield Road.

Ten years [1894] afterwards he was again operated upon for two stones in the bladder, one being crushed, and the other out, and on his recovery he sent in his letter of resignation, which the Secretary (Sir Henry Primrose) begged him to withdraw and remain five years longer until he was 65 years of age, and if he did so his salary would largely increased and he would also received the decoration of O.B. immediately, and be knighted on his retirement at 65, but John LESSELS declined this offer, as he had grave doubts whether these promises would be carried out, in the event of Mr Primrose being transfered to another Government post, and as matters turned out he was appointed one of the Commissioners of the Excise in about two years afterwards.

John LESSELS was then begged to remain another year longer to assist Mr Primrose in re-arranging the Country District, but as he had then taken a house in Guernsey, (which was then being repapered and painted etc.), and occupied a house at Wandsworth Common, he would have to pay the rent of one if he remained in office for a year longer, but was willing to do so if he the board paid the rent of this extra house, when Mr Primrose remarked that the treasury would never sanction such an expenditure, John LESSELS then offered to oblige Mr Primrose by staying six months longer, and pay the rent (\$35) himself.

When John LESSELS ultimately left the Office of Works he bade adieu to all his colleagues, who expressed their sorrow for his departure, and from My Primrose (Nephew of Lord Roseberry) he received a joint testimonial from the First

Commissioner and himself (the first time such a document has been given to anyone on his retiring from office), which read as follows: -

29th September 1894

Sir,

I am directed by the First Commissioner of Her Majesty's etc. to inform you that the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury have awarded to you a pension of \$396.13.4 per annum, which the Paymaster General has received instructions to pay from the 26th September 1894 inclusive. In communicating to you this information the First Commissioner desire me to take this opportunity of conveying to you an expression of the Board's great regret at the termination of your service under them.

That service has lasted continually for more than 34 years, and during the whole of that period has, as your papers show, earned high appreciation from the Board, and you're Superior Officers. When holding only the position of an Assistant Clerk you were entrusted with the difficulties and responsible duty of preparing the plans for and superintending the erection of the present Embassy House at Constantinople, a building which cost over \$40,000, and which is regarded as admirably fulfilling the important purpose which it serves as the residence of Her Majesty's Ambassador in Turkey. The First Commissioner cannot but think that the skill and labour which you bestowed upon this work were inadequately rewarded by the small salary you then enjoyed, and he regrets that although no fault of your own, steps were not taken at the time for obtaining for your exceptional service than was afforded by your promotion in 1876 to the rank of Surveyor. He fears, however, that it would be impossible now to repair the omission of twenty years ago. Since 1876 your duties have included the care of Windsor Castle, and of Hampton Court Palace, and in connection with these historic buildings you have placed at the service of the Board an archaeological knowledge and discrimination, and an artistic sympathy which have enabled them to deal with questions of maintenance, of alteration, or of restoration in a manner which they believe has met with general approval. They that in respect of such matters, your assistance will be greatly missed. I should wish to add an expression of my own sincere regret, a regret which I know is shared by all the member of the establishment of this office, who have worked with you, at the loss of a colleague with whom it was both an advantage and a pleasure to be associated.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,
(Signed) H.W. Primrose.

From the above diplomatic letter it will be seen that no notice is taken of the claim John LESSELS made on the completion of the British Embassy Building at Pera for \$2,500, which has been promised to him, but it admits that he was not responsible for the delay in bringing his claim before the notice of the Board. Sometime afterwards, when Mr A.B.Mitford, the then Secretary, (now Lord Redesdale,) laid the matter before the First Commissioner, strongly supporting it. The First Commissioner used similar objections, and such behaviour was characterised by Mr Mitford in an official Minute as "an inhuman and unjust act, and complete robbery. Man's inhumanity to man, makes countless angles mourn."

After his retirement in 1894 he went to reside at Thistlewood, Guernsey, where he devoted himself to gardening and photography.

At this time of Queen Victoria's Jubilee, he designed and had published in a Guernsey Newspaper his proposal for restoring the Royal Court House building at a cost of \$38,000, which design was considered to be too ornamental, and after spending several thousand pounds in abortive attempts to get something cheaper it was at last put in the hands of the States architect who made it very plain, but the cost of one half of the building cost altogether over \$42,000, instead of \$38,000 for the whole building.

As something to mark this Jubilee he proposed a drinking fountain at the top of Smith Street with a bust of the Queen on the top, Cottage Homes near the Monument, and a statue of the Queen in the Market place, all of these were considered too novel and artistic, and were not designs of Guernsey man. Afterwards he designed the front of the Guernsey Bank and submitted it at one of the meetings, but the generality of the Shareholders preferred a common brick building.

(Reference Source The Royal Commission on the Ancient & Historical Monuments of Scotland, National Monuments Records of Scotland in Edinburgh 'Architects' file for John LESSELS "A Brief Account of the Ancient Family of LESSELS in Fifeshire)

Margaret formerly (fenne de) GILLIES wife of John LESSELS died on 6 February 1898 at her residence "Choisi" St Peter Port Guernsey Channel Islands. She was age 63 years (born about 1835) and place of birth was left blank. Margaret's parents were Bessie formerly SOMERVILLE and Samuel GILLIES. Cause of death was basil meningitis pneumonia. The death was registered on the 07 February 1898 in the Island of Guernsey

(Reference RGO birth registration 1898 Greffe, Royal Court House, St Peter Port, Guernsey, Cannel Island)

I have a few maps of St Peter Port showing 'Choisi' on the corner of The Queens Road and Les Gravees. The "Choisi" where Margaret LESSELS lived was a large house. This house was occupied by the Germans during (1940-1945) World War Two and over the following years became run down. The building still survives and has now been made into apartments.

I wrote to the, Ecclesiastical Court of the Bailiwick of Guernsey at Bureau des Connetables, Lefebvre Street, St. Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands and the reply was "I have now checked my records regarding John Lessels and Margaret Lessels nee Gillies, and have to advise you that no Grant of Probate was issued for the Estates of either of these persons, and I have no record of their Will. No Grant of Letters of Administration has been made." For more information they suggest that I write to Dr H Tomlinson, Chief Librarian, Priaulx Library, St Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Island and The Secretary, La Societe Guernesiaise, Family History Section, St Peter Port, Guernsey. To date I have not made contact with either of these organisations.

LESSELS – At Thistlewood, Grange Road, Guernsey, on the 6th inst, MARGARET GILLIES, wife of JOHN LESSELS, late of H M Office of Works London.

(Reference newspaper cutting held by descendants in Edinburgh Scotland)

1901 Census Guernsey St Peters Port St Stephens – Thistlewood

- John LESSELS head widower age 67 Retired Civil Servant born Scotland
- Kate WRIGHT servant single age 33 Cook domestic born England

(Reference National Archives England 1901 Census Guernsey St Peters Port St Stephens RG 13/5321)

Note Kate WRIGHT is the same servant that was living with the family in the 1891 census.

1911 Census Jersey Guernsey Channel Islands

- **John LESSELS** head age 77 widower retired civil servant surveyor on H.M. (of Wales) Office London retired born Darwick Pebbleshire Scotland fathers birthplace Kirkcaldy Fife Scotland
- Laura Eleanor WHINFIELD daughter age 42 married 17 years born Deptford Kent England fathers birthplace Pebbleshire Scotland
- Kate WRIGHT servant age 43 single Cook (domestic) born Ropley Hants England father birthplace Hants England
- Alice LE PAGE servant age 32 single Housemaid (domestic) Vale Guernsey fathers birthplace Vale Guernsey

Signed by John LESSELS Thistlewood Les Graves Guernsey Channel Islands

Note Kate WRIGHT is the same servant that was living with the family in the 1891 census.

(Reference Findmypast website 1911 Census Jersey Guernsey Channel Islands schedule 5)

John LESSELS occupation Civil servant (retired) died at 9pm on 25 September 1914 at Thistlewood Grav'ees St Peter Port Guernsey Channel Islands. He was age 80 years (born about 1834) and place of birth was Pebbleshire Scotland. John's parents were Margaret formerly HENDERSON and John LESSELS. Cause of death was Senile Decay and was certified by Dr GIBSON. The death was registered on the 26 September 1914 at St Peter Port Guernsey Channel Islands.

(Reference RGO death registration 1914 Greffe, Royal Court House, Guernsey, Cannel Island)

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- Dr H Tomlinson, Chief Librarian, Priaulx Library, St Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Island
- The Secretary, La Societe Guernesiaise, Family History Section, St Peter Port, Guernsey.

To date I have not made contact with either of these organisations.

Other important contacts I have located are:

- Genealogy & Family History Group of La Societe Guernesiaise c/- P O Box 314, Candie Street, St Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Island
- Channel Island Family History Society P O Box 507, Jersey, Channel Islands.
- Island Archives Services, 29 Victoria Road, St Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands
- The Guernsey Evening Press and Star, Editor, Newspaper Centre, Braye Road, Vale, Guernsey, Channel Islands

1915 John LESSELS of Thistlewood St Peter Port Guernsey died 25 September 1914 Confirmation of (Mrs) Laura Eleanor LESSELS of Whinfield. Sealed London 5 March. Wills & Probates

(Reference NZSG Microfilm Willis and Probate England 1906-1943 fiche 59/2 page 52)

Note: The probate could not be processed when requested from the UK agent as quote "they are not available as they were resealed Confirmations."

I have a photocopy of a LESSELS family crest embossed onto an envelope but do not know about the origin of this crest. The crest has a shield with the letters J.L. (John LESSELS) overlapping each other, above this is the head of a muzzled boar with tusks, each side flowing out and downwards from the top of the shield are ribbons and inside are the words "IN SONO DEO SALUS", at the top of the ribbon on both sides are Scottish thistles.

SEARCH more heraldry publications. I have searched the Auckland Institute Library and Alexander Turnbull Library in New Zealand but have found no trace of any information.

SEARCH Guernsey records to locate where John LESSELS and/or Margaret formerly GILLIES are buried

Dictionary of Scottish Architects – Biography Report

Name John LESSELS (junior)
Designation Architect
Born 11 December 1833
Died 1914

Bio Notes John LESSELS was born on 22 December 1833 at Dawyck Pebbleshire where his father John LESSELS senior was William BURN's inspector of works. He was the eldest son. From Dawyck the Lessels family moved to Allanton to supervise the building of other Burn country houses and there John Junior first went to school. Thereafter his father sent him to his old school at Kirkcaldy, probably because he was then supervising Burn projects in Fife, and finally to the Edinburgh Institution where John Junior was dux of all his classes in 1846-48. He was then apprenticed to his father who was now in independent practice. He studied at the Trustees' Academy from 2 April to 12 July 1851 on the recommendation of Charles MACGIBBON, whose son David has been an apprentice in the Lessels office, and took classes in clay modelling from Gourlay Steel RSA and in watercolour from John WINTON ARSA. From 1853 onwards he sent to the RSA, his exhibits being listed with his father's in RSA Exhibitors 1826-90 as he was living at the same address.

In September 1853 LESSELS was appointed Drawing Clerk at Windsor Castle on the strength of a testimonial from Professor Lees. His studies were 'to make plans, elevations and models in accordance with the ideas of HRH Prince Albert for the improvement of the castle both externally and internally and to attend during theatrical performances in charge of The Fire Brigade'. This post terminated in 1856 when the funds allocated by the Treasury were exhausted, but while at Windsor he taught at the Mechanic's Institute and married Margaret GILLIES, his eldest son John being born on 13 September 1856.

In 1856 or early 1857 LESSELS returned to Scotland as his father's partner to open a branch office in Perth. This prospered for two years but eventually closed as a result of fee cutting – 2½% against John LESSELS and Son's 5% - and distaste for the drinking habits of the local builders and their suggestion of fraud on clients to make up his fees. While in Perth his infant son John died in 1857 and his second son, also John was born on 18 April 1858.

On his return to Edinburgh LESSELS set up practice as 'a general designer and lithographer' specialising in furniture, stained glass and book stamps, but although he described that practice as 'lucrative' he decided to emigrate to New Zealand where he had relatives; his father's assistant Robert Arthur LAWSON, who was exactly the same age, had already emigrated to Australia.

For that purpose he spent part of each day as a carpenter to be sure of employment. He then proceeded to London to learn English methods of carpentry with George MYERS, who had been PUGLIN's building. He was sent to one of their branch workshop at Windsor where he was entrusted with the execution of the Gothic doors he had designed in 1855. As a result of his return to Windsor he was offered a further appointment with

the Office of Works, but at first declined as arrangements had been made for his passage to New Zealand. In the event his friends wrote to pay that because of the bankrupt state of the colony the only employment they could find for him was as a shepherd for the Bishop's sheep. An increasing family induced him to sit the Civil Service Commissioners' and Office of Works examinations and he re-entered the service of the Crown in 1860, his earliest important task being the design and decoration of the large temporary building erected for the marriage of the Prince of Wales and Princess Alexandra in March 1863. Thereafter he attended to all works required for Royal weddings and funerals until his retirement and in his 'leisure hours' he had a private practice in architecture and illuminated testimonials. Like his father he made his own carved furniture and fishing rods, and although there is no mention of it in his memoirs, in 1860 he appears to have had a house at Marion Villa, Foresthill Kent (see RSA Catalogue 1866, no 456).

On 1871 LESSELS was selected to rebuild the British Embassy in Constantinople, built by William James SMITH with advice from Charles BARRY in 1842-54. It was of fireproof construction but had been badly damaged in the Peru Fire of 1870. Because of the Franco-Prussian War he could not take the direct route, which gave him the opportunity of visiting Antwerp, Mayence, Nuremberg, Innsbruck, Venice, Trieste, Corfu, Athens and Smyrna. On his arrival he was appointed surveyor not only of the embassy houses at Peru and Therapia, but of the consular buildings, hospital, prison, doctor's house, and British cemeteries at Scutari and elsewhere on the Bosphorus. In the course of this work he suffered an attack of Asiatic cholera and sunstroke.

In 1876 LESSELS returned to Windsor damaged in health and without the promised fees for the Constantinople work, the First Commissioner taking the view that he was not bound by the decisions of his predecessor. Perhaps by way of making amends he was now promoted as Surveyor of the newly created Country District which included not only Windsor Castle and its Parks, but Frogmore House and Grounds, the Military Knight's House, Hampton Court Palace, Parks and Gardens, Bushy House, Upper Lodge and the other houses in Bushy Park, Longford River, White Lodge, Richmond Park, Pembroke Lodge, Thatched House, Kew Palace, Cambridge House and other buildings in the Royal Botanic Garden and pleasure grounds at Kew, and Broadmoor Criminal Asylum. In that capacity he rebuilt the front gatehouse of Hampton Court as now existing. Either during those years or earlier he **researched the history of the LESSELS family** and appears to have at times adopted the surname of LECELLES, which he believed to be the original spelling.

In 1884 LESSELS suffered a breakdown in health as a result of stones in the bladder and recuperated by taking the waters at the Contrexeville Springs in the Vosges. He retired early at the age of sixty to Thistlewood Guernsey in September 1894 on a pension of £396. He died in 1914.

Private and Business Addresses

- Dawyck Pebbelshire Scotland, Private, 1833
- 19 Princess Street Perth, Business, 1856 or 1859 Perth branch of John Lessels & Son Perthshire Scotland, 1857
- Marion Villa, Foresthill Kent England Private 1866 See RSA Catalogue 1866 no 456

Employment and Training

- John Lessels & Son from c1857 to 1859 Partner
- John Lessels from c1848 to 1851

Bibliographic References

- FRASER Veronica – 2004 - Records of Vernacular Buildings made by John LESSELS Architect (1809-83) – Scottish Vernacular Buildings Working Group Vernacular Building 28, pp42-8
- LESSELS John II – A Brief Account of the Ancient Family of Lessels in Fifeshire – Carbon copy of original typescript in possession of Jane Lessels, copy in NMRS
- THURLET Simon – 2003 – Hampton Court a social and architect history -

Buildings and Designs

	Windsor Mechanics Institute	Proposed conversion from theatre not
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	Berkshire England	executed
C1853	Windsor Castle Berkshire England	Minor improvements mainly internal new doors etc.
C1857	Donavoured House Pitlochry Perthshire Scotland	Extensive additions
1858	Melrose Abbey Melrose Roxburghshire Scotland	South transept
1860s	Unspecified work for Earl Manvers England	Done in private practice
C1861	Royal Diary at Frogmore Windsor Berkshire England	
1863	St George's Chapel Windsor Berkshire England	Temporary building for the marriage of the Prince of Wales and Princess Alexandra, 10 March 1863
C1860s	Elton College Dormitories Elton Berkshire England	Done in private practice sometime between 1860 and 1870
1871	British Embassy Constantinople Turkey	Extensive repairs following fire damage, new stables entrance lodge and walls as a result of a street widening scheme
1871	British Embassy Houses Constantinople Turkey	Repairs
1871	British Post Office Constantinople Turkey	Work as surveyor to British Embassy
1871	Prison Constantinople Turkey	Repairs done as surveyor to the British Embassy
1876	Windsor Castle Windsor Berkshire England	Restoration of the Curfew and Chancellor of the Garter's Towers, two large furniture stores, gardener's house and greenhouses.
After 1876	Windsor Post Office Windsor Berkshire England	As surveyor to the Country District
1881	Hampton Court Palace Hampton Court London Surrey England	Restoration of gatehouse (drawings dated May 1881)
1883	Hampton Court Palace Hampton Court London Surrey England	Boiler house, Round Kitchen Court
1884	Hampton Court Palace Hampton Court London Surrey England	Master Carpenter's Court, south side as Mrs Boyd's apartment
C1884	Hampton Court Palace Hampton Court London Surrey England	Restoration of Horn Room and ceiling of Great Watching Chamber
1890	Hampton Court Palace Hampton Court London Surrey England	Chapel new traceries windows replacing the Queen Anne casements retired before completion
1891	Hampton Court Palace Hampton Court London Surrey England	Base Court laid with grass and recobbled work partly reversed in 1991-92 as Base Court not originally sown

(Reference Dictionary of Scottish Architects www.codexqeo.co.uk/dsa/architect)

John & Margaret LESSELS their children and descendants

1-John LESSELS born 13 September 1856 Edinburgh Midlothian Scotland died 29 October 1857 Edinburgh Midlothian Scotland (died young never married)

John and Margaret had a son John LESSELS who was born on 13 September 1856 6Hr 30M AM at 3 Young Street Edinburgh. This was the home of John's grandfather

Samuel. His parents were recorded as Margaret formerly GILLIES and John LESSELS Architect Raith. Samuel GILLIES employed [sic] and grandfather registered the birth on 26 September 1856 at Edinburgh.

(Reference RGO Scotland 1856 Birth registration Heriot and Warriston Edinburgh RD 685/07)

John LESSELS aged 13 months died on 29 October 1857 0Hr 30 M AM at 1 Young Street Edinburgh. His parents were recorded as Margaret formerly GILLIES and John LESSELS occupation Architect Clerk. Cause of death was Sabes Megentricos some months as certified by John MOIR MD who saw deceased October 28th. John was buried at Dean Western Bomeley Edinburgh as certified by Charles Dunlop undertaker. The informant was grandfather Samuel GILLIES who was present at the death. The death was registered on 31 October 1857 in Edinburgh.

(Reference RGO Scotland death registration 1857 Heriot and Warriston Edinburgh RD 685/07))

John's name is recorded on his grandfather John LESSELS tombstone in Dean Cemetery Edinburgh Scotland.

2- John LESSELS born 18 April 1858 1 Young Street Edinburgh died 22 April 1918 at 7 Brandon Street Edinburgh married 31 March 1890 Edinburgh Scotland Barbara Whitson Law BROWN born about 1864 Scotland died 24 February 1940 at The Globe Cramond Edinburgh Scotland

2-1- **John** LESSELS born [2.30pm] 22 May 1891 at 4 Dundonald Street Edinburgh Scotland died about 1960s married for 1 year in late 40s early 50s (No Issue)
#St Bernard's Parish Magazine Church Register Baptisms July 22 John son of John and Barbara Lessels, 4 Dundonald Street

2-2- **Margaret Law (Rita)** LESSELS born [2.45pm] 17 May 1894 at 4 Dundonald Street Edinburgh Scotland died 06 March 1963 at 3 Adelaide Court Adelaide Crescent Hove (widow) England funeral at Brighton England married 20 December 1918 Gomer WILLIAMS occupation Surgeon Lieutenant of Royal Navy (No issue)

2-3- **Louis Victor** LESSELS born [12.15am] 29 October 1901 at 12 St Vincent Street Edinburgh Scotland died 1980s married details unknown

2-4- **Herbert Cecil (Bertie)** LESSELS (twin) born [10.15pm] 11 August 1903 at 12 St Vincent Street Edinburgh Scotland (occupation Tea Plantationer in India returned to Scotland) died 14 December 1973 Etain Scotland married 10 November 1947 Doris Evelyn Patricia MCCORMACK formerly HENDRY born died about 2009
#Doris Evelyn Patricia HENDRY parents were Gertrude Marion formerly SAWERS and John HENDRY occupation Solicitor
#Doris Evelyn Patricia MCCORMACK had two children to her previous marriage

2-4-1- Living LESSELS

2-4-1-1- Living LESSELS

2-4-1-2- Living LESSELS

2-5- **Percival Norman** LESSELS (twin) born [10.45pm] 11 August 1903 at 12 St Vincent Street Edinburgh Scotland (Assistant Clerk of Session) died 08 December 1969 (accident) Princess Street Edinburgh married 02 September 1939 Cramond Parish Edinburgh Scotland Mary Hill WILSON born 24 November 1912 Ballymoney County Antrim Northern Ireland died 17 July 1990 Springfield House Lasswade Midlothian Edinburgh

2-5-1- Living LESSELS

2-5-1-1- Living LESSELS

2-5-1-1-1- Living ROBERTSON

2-5-1-1-2- Living ROBERTSON

2-5-1-2- Living LESSELS

2-5-1-2-1- Living LESSELS

2-5-1-2-2- Living LESSELS

2-5-1-3- Living LESSELS

2-5-1-3-1- Living COHL
2-5-1-3-2- Living COHL
2-5-2- Living LESSELS
2-5-2-1- Living LESSELS
2-5-2-2- Living LESSELS
2-5-2-3- Living LESSELS
2-5-3- Living LESSELS
2-5-3-1- Living POWELL
2-5-3-2- Living POWELL
2-5-3-2-1- Living POWELL
2-5-3-3- Living POWELL
2-5-4- Living LESSELS
2-5-4-1- Living LESSELS
2-5-4-2- Living LESSELS
2-5-4-3- Living LESSELS

2-6- Dorothy Barbara LESSELS born [8.00am] 10 April 1909 at 12 St Vincent Street Edinburgh Scotland died 12 February 1977 (never married)
#Dorothy never married but she had a wartime sweetheart that we believe was killed during the war. Some wartime letters written to her have survived.

John LESSELS was born at 10pm on the 18 April 1858 at 1 Young Street Edinburgh Midlothian Scotland. His parents were recorded as Margaret nee GILLIES and John LESSELS occupation Architectural Draughtsman. The birth was registered on the 17 May 1858 at Edinburgh and the informant was father John LESSELS.

(Reference FHC microfilm 280529 Page 82-245 Register of Births Midlothian Scotland 1858 Number 685-7 Edinburgh district of Heriot & Warriston)

A descendant of John stated that he lived at 30 Royal Circus then later 1 Young Street Edinburgh and his occupation was writer.

1861 Census Parish Islington Municipal Ward Highbury –17 Hawthorne Street

- LESSELS John son age 2 born Edinburgh Midlothian Scotland (abt 1859)
(Reference National Library of NZ Ancestry 1861 Census Parish Islington Municipal Ward Highbury 17 Hawthorne Street schedule 244)

1871 Census St Paul Deptford Greenwich England - 16 Warwick Street

- John LASCELLES son age 12 Scholar born Scotland
(Reference National Archives England 1871 Census St Paul Deptford Greenwich England RG 10 743)

1881 Census 30 Chalmers Street St Giles Edinburgh St Cuthberts Midlothian Scotland

- John LESSELS Lodger age 22 occupation Law Student born Edinburgh Scotland (born about 1859) He was living with the SINCLAIR family.
(Reference National Library NZ Ancestry 1881 Census St Giles Edinburgh Midlothian Scotland ED 81 Household 27)

Barbara Whitson BROWN was born about 1864-1866 Scotland. Her parents were Margaret formerly LAW and John McGilchrist D BROWN occupation Architect.

SEARCH (Reference RGO Scotland birth registration)

1861 Census South Side High Street Haddington East Lothian Scotland

- John M D BROWN lodger age 17 Occupation Joiner born Athelstaneford Haddingtonshire Scotland (born about 1844)

His brother William was also a lodger living with the LUGTON family.

(Reference National Library NZ Ancestry website 1861 Census South Side High Street Haddington East Lothian Scotland ED 2 household 50 line 14 registration number 709)

1871 Census Royal Gymnsouinon [sic] St George Edinburgh St Cuthberts Midlothian

- John Mcq. D. BROWN age 27 head age 27 occupation Secretary Royal Gymnsouison [sic] born Alkeditarford Haddington Scotland (born about 1844)

- Margaret BROWN wife age 29 born Old Machar Aberdeen Scotland (born about 1842)
- **Barbara BROWN** daughter age 5 years born St Cuthberts Edinburgh Scotland (About 1866)
- James BROWN son age 2 born St Cuthberts Edinburgh Scotland (born about 1868)
- Flora BARNDER servant age 13 Domestic servant born Edinburgh Scotland (born about 1858)

(Reference National Library NZ ancestry 1871 Census Royal Gymnsouinon St George Edinburgh St Cuthberts Midlothian ED 79 household 2 line 5 Registration number 685/1)

1881 Census 20 Pitt Street St Andrew Edinburgh Midlothian Scotland

- Margaret BROWN head age 39 occupation Letting Rooms born Aberdeenshire Scotland (born about 1842)
- **Barbara W BROWN** daughter age 15 born Edinburgh (born about 1866)
- Agnes BROWN daughter age 9 born Scholar Edinburgh Scotland (born about 1872)
- Margaret BROWN daughter age 7 Scholar born Edinburgh Scotland (born about 1874)
- John BROWN son age 6 years Scholar born Edinburgh Scotland (born about 1875)
- John MCGEGOR Lodger age 35 occupation Accountant Bk. Of Scot. Leith. born Ochiltree Argysire (born about 1846)
- Francis B TRASER lodger age 18 occupation Student of Arts born Sumphanan Aberdeenshire Scotland (born about 1863)

(Reference National Library NZ Ancestry website 1881 Census 20 Pitt Street St Andrew Edinburgh Midlothian Scotland ED 69 household 92)

Marriage - At 20 Pitt street on the 31st ult by the Rev Robert White D D Lauriston U P Church assisted by the Rev Thomas White Canongate Parish Church John LESSELS eldest son of John Lessels H M Office of Works London to BARBARA WHITSON eldest daughter of the late J M D BROWN Edinburgh. (31 March 1890)

(Reference newspaper cutting held by descendant in Edinburgh Scotland)

1891 Census 4 Dundonald Street St Andrew Edinburgh St Mary Midlothian Scotland

- John LESSELS head age 32 occupation Advocate's Clerk born Edinburgh Scotland (born about 1859)
- Barbara W LESSELS wife age 25 born Edinburgh Scotland (born about 1866)

(Reference National Library NZ Ancestry website 1891 Census 4 Dundonald Street St Andrew Edinburgh St Mary Midlothian Scotland ED 92 household 57 line 12 registration number 685/2)

John and Barbara has a son John LESSELS who was born 3.30pm 22 May 1891 at 4 Dundonald Street Edinburgh Scotland

John and Barbara has a daughter Margaret Law (Rita) LESSELS who was born 2.45pm 17 May 1894 at 4 Dundonald Street Edinburgh Scotland

1901 Census 12 St Vincent Street St Stephen West Edinburgh Scotland

- John LESSELS head married age 43 Writer Own account born Edinburgh
- Barbara LESSELS wife married age 35 born Edinburgh
- John LESSELS son age 9 Scholar born Edinburgh
- Margaret LESSELS daughter age 6 Scholar born Edinburgh
- Janet BROWN servant single age 19 General servant born Clackmanman Tillicaultry

(Reference RGO Scotland 1901 Census St Stephen West Edinburgh RD 685/02 ED 122/000)

John and Barbara has a son Louis Victor LESSELS who was born 12.15am 29 October 1901 at 12 St Vincent Street Edinburgh Scotland

John and Barbara had twin sons (older) Herbert Cecil LESSELS and (older) Percival Norman LESSELS who were born 10.15 pm and 10.45 pm on 11 August 1903 at 12 St Vincent Street Edinburgh Scotland

John and Barbara has a daughter Dorothy Barbara LESSELS who was born 8am 10 April 1909 at 12 St Vincent Street Edinburgh Scotland

I have a photocopy of a photograph of Barbara and John LESSELS and their family of 6 children taken about 1912 sent to me by their great grand daughter Living LESSELS.

I also have a photo of a young gentleman wearing a kilt and Scottish type uniform. On the back of the photo it reads, "June 1918 John Lessels, Secretary of State, Scotland, Secretary Governor of Scotland". This would have been the John the son of John Lessels who would have been about 27 years old in 1918.

John LESSELS aged 60 years occupation writer died 22 April 1918 time 10 hours 30 minutes am at 7 Brandon Street Edinburgh Scotland. He married Barbara Whitson Law BROWN. His parents were Margaret maiden surname GILLIES (deceased) and John LESSELS occupation Architect HM Office of Works (deceased). Cause of death was Carcinoma of Oesophagus quoin as certified by Dr Wm. Henry MILLER MD. The informant was son John LESSELS who was present at the death and registered the death on 23 April 1918 in the district of Saint Andrew in the Burgh of Edinburgh Scotland. The assistant registrar was Joseph ANDERSON.

(Reference RGO Scotland death registration St Andrew Parish Edinburgh 1918 age 60 entry 145)

John LESSELS was buried at Dean Cemetery Edinburgh Scotland.

The Wills and Probate for England 1906-1943 recorded:

1918 John LESSELS of 7 Brandon Street Edinburgh died 22 April 1918 Confirmation of Barbara Whitson Brown or Lessels widow. John Crawford Guy advocate and Alexander Calvert Dods Vert solicitors. Sealed London 9 September

(Reference NZSG Microfilm Willis and Probate England 1906-1943)

Note: The probate could not be processed when requested from the UK agent as quote "they are not available as they were resealed Confirmations."

Barbara Whitson Law LESSELS formerly BROWN died on the 24 February 1940 at the Globe Cramond Edinburgh Scotland. Cause of death was mycarditis. Her husband was John LESSELS and parents were Margaret formerly LAW and John McGilchrist D BROWN occupation Architect.

Barbara Whitson Law LESSELS was buried at Dean Cemetery Edinburgh Scotland.

The Wills and Probate for England 1906-1943 recorded:

1940 Barbara Whitson BROWN or LESSELS of Carcoar The Glebe Whithouse Road Oramond Barnton Midlothian widow died 24 February 1940. Confirmation of Dorothy Barbara Lessels spinster. Sealed London 24 August

(Reference NZSG Microfilm Willis and Probate England 1906-1943)

Note: The probate could not be processed when requested from the UK agent as quote "they are not available as they were resealed Confirmations."

3-George Harry/Henry LESSELS (LASCELLES) born 06 May 1860 54 North Street Middlesex London died 25 January 1929 United States of America married 19 April 1891 Elgin, Kane County, Illinois, United States of America (Neillie) Thusnelda LUEBBERS born about 30/31 January 1872 Samarang, Java Holland (parents

George G LUEBBERS & Bertha VON JESS) died 18 April 1934 USA United States of America

3-1- Dorothy Louise LASCELLES born 05 February 1895 United States of America died USA 1st married 21 February 1911 Pensacola Escambia County Florida USA Fred Douglas MONICAL (1 Issue) 2nd married Ross B CHESNEY (2 Issue) 3rd married Luther Carl GROOMS (no Issue)

3-1-1- Esther Isabel MONICAL/CHESNEY (Mary Esther CHESNEY) married 28 December 1931 Silvan G ACHILLE Hingham Massachusetts USA

3-1-1-1- Male ACHILLE

3-1-1-2- Male ACHILLE

3-1-2- Eleanor CHESNEY born died

3-1-3- Dorothy CHESNEY born died

George Harry LESSELS was born 6 May 1860 at 54 North Street Marylebone district, sub district St John County of Middlesex England. His parents were Margaret formerly GILLIES and John LESSELS occupation Clerk to the Board of Works. Margaret LESSELS mother of 54 North Street Marylebone registered the birth on 26 May 1860. The registrar was H C WILSON.

(Reference RGO UK birth registration 1860 June quarter Marylebone district Volume 1A page 449)

Register of Baptisms - Scots Church - London Wall

LESSELS George Henry born of John LESSELS and Margaret his wife residing at 17 Hawthorne Street Balls Pond Road born on the sixth day of May one thousand Eight hundred and sixty years [06 May 1860] at 54 North Street Edgeware Road was baptised in their house in Hawthorne Street Balls Pond Road on the tenth day of April One thousand Eight hundred and Sixty three years [10 April 1863] by me William Dallautne Minister

(Reference FHC Film 0574636 item 4 England London Wallscotch Church christening to 1880)

1861 Census Parish Islington Municipal Ward Highbury –17 Hawthorne Street

- LESSELS George H son age 11 months born Middlesex London

(Reference National Library of NZ Ancestry 1861 Census Parish Islington Municipal Ward Highbury 17 Hawthorne Street schedule 244)

1871 Census 16 Warwick Street St Paul Deptford Greenwich England

- LASCELLES George H son age 10 scholar born Middlesex London (abt 1861)

(Reference National Library of NZ Ancestry.com 1871 census St Paul Deptford Greenwich England)

I could not locate any 1881 census for George Harry/Henry LESSELS age 20.

George emigrated to United States of America around 1887 and changed the spelling of his surname from LESSELS to LASCELLES.

Thusnelda (Neillie) LUEBBERS was born about 30/31 January 1872 in Samarang, Java Holland. Her parents were Bertha VON JESS and George G LUEBBERS.

Thusnelda (Neillie) LUEBBERS emigrated to United States of America around 1898

George Harry LASCELLES married Thusnelda (Neillie) LUEBBERS on 19 April 1891 at Elgin, Kane County, Illinois, United States of America

SEARCH (Reference RGO United States of America marriage registration)

George and Neillie had a daughter Dorothy Louise LASCELLES who was born 05 February 1895 in United States of America

SEARCH (Reference RGO United States of America birth registration)

George was a talented artist and had a studio in Chicago, Illinois where he worked in stained glass producing windows for churches. He also did oil paintings like his father John. Some of these paintings have survived.

1900 US Federation Census Chicago City Ward 31 Lake Township Cook County Illinois State USA

- George H LASCELLES occupation Artist (designer) age 40 born May 1860 place Scotland race white immigration year 1888 (in USA 12 years) head father born Scotland mother born Scotland spouse Nellie V Lascelles marriage year 1891 married years married 9 4 months not employed rent house could read and write
- Nellie V LASCELLES age 31 born January 1879 birth place Java race white year of immigration 1890 (in USA 10 years) wife father born Holland mother born Denmark number of children 1 spouse George H Lascelles marriage year 1891 married years married 9 could read and write
- Dorothy LASCELLES [Dorothy Lascelles] age 4 born February 1895 birth place Illinois race white daughter father George H Lascelles born Scotland mother Nellie V Lascelles born Java Dorothy single

(Reference National Library NZ Ancestry website 1900 US Federation Census Chicago Ward 31 Cook Illinois roll T623_284 page 12B ED 955)

1910 US Federation Census Chicago Ward 32 Cook county Illinois State USA

- George LASCELLES (George A Lasulles & Sulles) occupation Artist painter age 45 born about 1865 born England head father born England mother born England race white year of immigration 1885 married renting house

(Reference National Library NZ Ancestry website 1910 US Federation Census Chicago Ward 32 Cook county Illinois State USA roll T624_278 page 14B ED 1382)

1910 US Federation Census Convert Township Van Buren Michigan USA

- Neillie LASCELLS age 40 born about 1870 birth place Holland head father born Holland mother born Holland married year of immigration 1889 occupation Farmes [sic] general Farmes [sic]
- Dorothy LASCELLES age 14 born about 1896 birth place Illinois daughter father born England mother born Holland mother Nellie Lascelles Dorothy single race white

(Reference National Library NZ Ancestry website 1910 US Federation Census Convert Van Buren Michigan USA)

1920 US Federal Census Cassal Street 35-36 Warrington Escambia Florida

- George H LASCELLES occupation Artist Own shop age 59 born about 1861 birthplace England head self spouse Nellie Lascelles father born Scotland mother born Scotland married race white sex male year of immigration 1887 able to read Yes able to write Yes
- Neillie V LASCELLES age 50 born about 1870 birthplace Java wife spouse George H Lascelles father born Holland mother born Denmark married race white year of immigration 1890 able to read yes able to write yes

(Reference National Library of NZ Ancestry 1920 United States Federal census Warrington Escambia Florida roll T625_219 page 68 ED 18 image 619)

George Harry/Henry (LASCELLES) LESSELS died 25 January 1929 United States of America (Neillie) **SEARCH** (Reference RGO United States of America death registration)

1930 US Federal Census Corozal Army Post Balboa District Panama Canal Zone

- Ross B CHESNEY age 43 born about 1887 birthplace Texas father born Alabama mother born Texas head spouse Dorothy L Chesney race white Soldier Engineer Corps
- Dorothy L CHESNEY [Dorothy L Lascelles] age 34 born about 1896 birth place Illinois father born Illinois wife mother Nellie Lascelles spouse Ross B Chesney race white

- Esther CHESNEY age 18 born about 1912 born Florida father born Texas mother born Illinois daughter father Ross B Chesney mother Dorothy L Chesney race white
- Eleanor CHESNEY age 14 born about 1916 born Florida father born Texas mother born Illinois daughter father Ross B Chesney mother Dorothy L Chesney race white
- **Nellie LASCELLES** age 59 born about 1871 birthplace Illinois father born Holland mother born Denmark relationship Mother-in-law race white

(Reference National Library Ancestry website 1930 US Federal Census Corozal Army Post Balboa District Panama Canal Zone)

Thusnelda (Nellie) LUEBBERS died 18 April 1934 USA United States of America
SEARCH (Reference RGO United States of America death registration)

4-Eliza Annie LESSELS born 13 February 1863 Middlesex London married 21 July 1883 St George Hanover Square Middlesex Edward Arthur Hamilton STEWART born about 1863

Eliza Annie LESSELS was born on 13 February 1863 at 17 Hawthorne Street. Her parents were Margaret formerly GILLIES and John LESSELS occupation Government Clerk Works. J LESSELS father of 17 Hawthorn Street Islington registered the birth on 4 March 1863. The registrar was from Islington district sub district Islington East in County of Middlesex England.

(Reference RGO UK birth registration 1863 March quarter Islington district Volume 1B page 321)

Register of Baptisms - Scots Church - London Wall

LESSELS Eliza Annie daughter of John LESSELS and Margaret his wife residing at 17 Hawthorne Street Balls Pond Road born on the thirteenth day of February One Thousand and Eight hundred and Sixty three years [13 FEB 1863] was baptised in their house as by me on the tenth day of April one thousand eight hundred and sixty three years [10 APR 1863] by me William Dallautbe Minister.

(Reference FHC Film 0574636 item 4 England London Wallscotch Church christening to 1880)

1871 Census St Paul Deptford Greenwich England - 16 Warwick Street

- Annie E LASCELLES daughter Age 7 Scholar Born Middlesex Kingsland (abt 1864)

(Reference National Library of NZ Ancestry.com 1871 census St Paul Deptford Greenwich England)

1881 census 20 Lewisham High Road (transcribed LEPELS) Greenwich St Paul Deptford England

- Eliza Annie LESSELS daughter age 18 unmarried born Middlesex Kingsland

(Reference National Library of NZ Ancestry 1881 census Deptford St Paul London Greenwich St Paul Deptford ED72 England)

Edward Arthur Hamilton STEWART was born in 1863 in Sussex England

ORDER (Reference source RGO UK birth 1863 June quarter Worthing Sussex England Volume 2b page 301 RGO UK) or Ireland

SEARCH 1871 & 1881 Census Woodcote House Edward Arthur Hamilton STEWART Worthington Sussex England

1881 Census 15 Burch Road North Aylesford Northfleet Kent England

- Henry Cattley STEWART head widower age 47 Accountant born Cambridge
- Edward A STEWART nephew unmarried age 17 Account Clerk born Little Hampton Sussex England (born about 1864)
- Annie BLAKE servant unmarried age 17 Nurse born Kent Northfleet
- Mary BREEN servant unmarried age 24 Cook born Chester

(Reference National Library NZ Ancestry website 1881 Census 15 Burch Road North Aylesford Northfleet Kent England ED 1)

Not sure if above belong to this genealogy.

Eliza Annie LESSELS aged 21 years spinster and Edward Arthur Hamilton STEWART aged 21 years bachelor occupation Private Secretary married under licence on 21 July 1883 in the parish church in the parish of St George Hanover Square Middlesex England. Eliza's father was John LESSELS occupation Surveyor. Edward's father was Charles STEWART occupation Publisher. Eliza residence at time of marriage was 37 Upper George Street and Edward's was 39 S. Audley Street. The witnesses were Henry and Elise WANTER [sic]. The curate was E M POWRALL [sic].

(Reference RGO UK marriage registration 1883 September quarter St George Hanover Square district Volume 1a page 722)

Searched and could not trace any 1891 & 1901 census for Eliza Annie and Edward Arthur Hamilton STEWART.

<p>5-James Smith LESSELS born 11 April 1865 Lewisham London Middlesex England died 11 April 1934 Nelson New Zealand married 04 July 1900 Nelson New Zealand Bertha MANSSEN refer to Chart 4-5</p>

6-William Alexander LESSELS born 09 June 1867 at 16 Warwick Street Deptford Greenwich Kent Surrey England died 12 September 1937 19 Andrews Road Epon Auckland New Zealand (never married)

William Alexander LESSELS who was born on 9 June 1867 at 16 Warwick Street. His parent's were Margaret formerly GILLIES and John LESSELS occupation Surveyor's Clerk. John LESSELS father of 16 Warwick Street Deptford registered the birth on 21 June 1867 at the registration district of Greenwich in the Sub-district of Saint Paul's Deptford in the Counties of Kent and Surrey England. The registrar was George Richard SCUDAMORE.

(Reference RGO England birth registration 1867 June quarter Greenwich district Volume 1d page 706)

1871 Census St Paul Deptford Greenwich England - 16 Warwick Street

- William (Willie) LASCELLES son age 3 born Kent Deptford

(Reference National Archives England 1871 Census St Paul Deptford Greenwich England RG 10 743)

1881 census 20 Lewisham High Road (transcribed LEPELS) Greenwich St Paul Deptford England

- William A LESSELS son age unmarried 13 Scholar born Kent New Cross

(Reference National Library of NZ Ancestry 1881 census Deptford St Paul London Greenwich St Paul Deptford ED72 England)

All Saints Hatcham Park County of Surrey Lewisham Borough Middlesex England William Alexander LESSELS baptised 29 April 1883 Parish of All Saints Hatcham Park County of Surrey Lewisham Borough Middlesex England. His parents were John and Margaret LESSELS child born 01 June 1867 abode High Road Lewisham father's trade or profession Architect ceremony performed by R L SMITH

(Reference National Library of NZ Ancestry Parish of All Saints Hatcham Park County of Surrey Lewisham Borough Middlesex England 1883 baptisms page 209 line 1668)

Searched and found no trace on 1891 Census for William Alexander LESSELS age 23

1901 Census 13 Great New Street Saint Bride Holy Trinity London City

- William LESSELS unmarried age 33 Printer clerk CC/worker born St Pauls Deptford

(Reference source National Library of NZ ancestry.com 1901 Census Saint Bride Holy Trinity London City)

Late Shipping - Rotorua's Passengers. (1910)

The New Zealand Shipping Company's steamship Rotorua, which is on her maiden voyage to New Zealand, is bringing a large number of passengers. When the vessel left England a full list had not been compiled, but the following had booked passage:-

Third Class – Lessels.

(Reference source National Library of NZ web paperspast Evening Post Volume LXXX, Issue 134, 3 December 1910, Page 6)

Mr W LESSELS age 42 years birthplace England single English male occupation Printer embarked London as 3rd Class passenger with Ticket No D286. He departed London 28 October 1910 on the "Rotorua" and landed in Wellington New Zealand on 12 December 1910. William's destination was Nelson.

(Reference National Archives Wellington NZ Shipping Arch Ref S.S. [Shaw Savil] 1/512, No 27)

Evening Post newspaper 03 December 1910

Rotorua Passengers – Third class - Lessels

(Reference National Library of NZ Papers past Evening Post newspaper 03 December 1910 page 6)

William Alexander LESSELS travelled to New Zealand and settled in Nelson with his brother James Smith LESSELS then later he moved to Auckland. I was told by one of his living LESSELS nephews that William made two trips back to England before finally settling in Auckland New Zealand.

1928 Roskill Electoral Roll

- William Alexander LESSELS occupation printer residence 49 Malvern Road
(Reference RGO Lower Hutt NZ Electoral Roll publication & National Library NZ microfilm NZ Electoral Rolls)

1931 Eden Electoral Roll

- William Alexander LESSELS occupation retired residence 3 Edenvale Road
(Reference RGO Lower Hutt NZ Electoral Roll publication & National Library NZ microfilm NZ Electoral Rolls)

1931 - 1932 NZ Post Office Directories

- Wm LESSELS Comp Motueka
(Reference Alexander Turnbull Library NZ Directories)

1935 Auckland Suburbs Electoral Roll

- William Alexander LESSELS occupation left blank residence Karekare
(Reference RGO Lower Hutt NZ Electoral Roll publication & National Library NZ microfilm NZ Electoral Rolls)

William Alexander LESSELS aged 70 years born London England occupation Compositor died 12 September 1937 at 19 Andrews Road Epsom from 33 Wynyard Road Mt Eden. The cause of death was Chronic Jaundice Acute Bronchitis, 1 week as certified by medical attendant Dr S A Bull who saw him last on 11 September 1937. His parents were Margaret formerly GILLIES and John Smith LESSELS occupation Civil Servant. He was buried 14 September 1937 at Waikumete Cemetery Auckland. The minister was GWF WARREN of A.S. Fillery denomination took the service. William never married. The death was registered on 13 September 1937 by the Auckland Undertaker J Kilburn. The registrar was F EVANS.

(Reference Registrar Generals Office New Zealand 1937 Auckland district Folio 2209 page 1542)

Last Will of William Alexander LESSELS

This is the partly written and partly typewritten Will marked "A" now produced and shown to Richard Froud WARD mentioned and referred to in his Affidavit to lead grant of Probate to The Guardian Trust and Executors Company of New Zealand Limited sworn this 6th day of October 1937 before me: -

Signed T C Thomson A Solicitor of the Supreme Court of New Zealand.

This is the partly written and partly typewritten Will marked "A" now produced and shown to William LEWIS and mentioned and referred to in his Affidavit of the date of execution thereof sworn this 3rd day of November 1937 before me: - (signed) A Solicitor of the Supreme Court of New Zealand.

This is the last Will and Testament of me WILLIAM ALEXANDER LESSELS of the City of Auckland in the Dominion of New Zealand Retired Printer. I hereby revoke all Wills and Testamentary instruments heretofore made by me and declare this to be my last and only Will.

1. I appoint the Guardian Trust and Executors Company of New Zealand Limited (hereinafter called "my Trustee" to be the Executor and Trustee of this Will.
2. I Bequeath the following pecuniary legacies free and clear of all death estate succession and other duties:
 - a) To DOROTHY LESSELS daughter of the late John LESSELS of Cramond Edinburgh the sum of One Hundred Pounds (£100.0.0.);
 - b) To RITA GOMER WILLIAMS daughter of the late John LESSELS of Cramond Edinburgh the sum of One Hundred Pounds (£100.0.0.);
 - c) To RITA LESSELS MANSEN daughter of my late brother James Smith LESSELS of Nelson and adopted daughter of Ethel MANSEN the sum of One Hundred Pounds (£100.0.0.);
 - d) To each of the daughters of Louis Ernest LESSELS of Chicago United States of America the sum of One Hundred Pounds (£100.0.0.);
 - e) To Nola Lucretia LEWIS the sum of One Hundred Pounds (£100.0.0.) now deposited in the Auckland Savings Bank with all interest accrued thereon if she shall attain the age of twenty-five years and I declare that this legacy shall not in any case indefeasible vest either in interest or in possession in her unless and until she attains the said age of twenty-five years;
 - f) To my friend Mrs E W LEWIS of 33 Wynyard Road Mount Eden the sum of Fifty Pounds (£50.0.0.) for the purpose of defraying the expenses of taking class instruction in Christchurch or Melbourne Provided always that if she does not take such instruction within twelve calendar months from the date of my death then I direct that the said sum of Fifty Pounds (£50.0.0.) shall be retained by my trustee and shall fall into and form part of my residuary estate and in lieu thereof I bequeath to her the sum of Twenty Pounds (£20.0.0.) in recognition of her care and kindness to me;
 - g) To my nephew LOUIS LESSELS of 21 Milton Street Nelson son of my late brother James Smith LESSELS the sum of Five Hundred Pounds (£500.0.0.) free and clear of all death estate succession and other duties to be divided among his brothers and himself in such shares and proportions, as he shall in his absolute and uncontrolled discretion deem fit.
3. I give devise and bequeath all the rest residue and remainder of the real and personal property of whatsoever nature and kind and wheresoever situate which I possess or over which I have any right or power of disposition unto my Trustee and I direct my Trustee to sell call in and convert into money all such parts of my real and personal estate as shall not consist of investments of the nature hereinafter authorised.
4. Subject to the payment of my debts funeral and testamentary expenses and all death estate succession and other duties I direct that my Trustee shall invest in manner hereinafter authorised the proceeds of the said sale calling-in and conversion and stand possessed of such investments and of such parts of my estate as shall at my death consist of such investments as aforesaid (hereinafter called "my residuary trust fund") upon the following trusts:
 - a) Upon Trust to set aside and invest the sum of Two Thousand Five Hundred Pounds (£2,500.0.0.) and to pay the income arising therefrom to VERA DOLLIE MCCOMBIE daughter of James Smith LESSELS aforesaid during her life and after her death
 - b) Upon Trust to hold the said sum of Two Thousand Five Hundred Pounds (£2,500.0.0.) and the interest for The New Zealand Institute for the Blind and I

- declare that the receipt of the Treasurer or Secretary thereof or other person holding a similar position shall be a sufficient discharge to my Trustee;
- c) And as to the residue of my residuary trust fund upon Trust to pay the income thereof to such of the seven sons of my late brother the said James Smith LESSELS as shall be living at the time of my death during their respective lives in equal shares until only one of such sons remains alive and upon the death of the last but one of my brother's said sons to hold the said residue upon Trust as to both capital and income for such last surviving son.
5. I declare that my Trustee may postpone the sale calling-in and conversion of any part of my real or personal estate for such period as it may in its absolute discretion deem fit notwithstanding that it may be of a wasting speculative or reversionary nature and I specially Empower my Trustee to retain in the form in which they are at the time of my death all moneys invested by me and that pending such sale calling-in and conversion the whole of the income of property actually producing income shall be applied as from my death as income and on the other hand on such sale calling-in and conversion or on the falling-in of any reversionary property no part of the proceeds of such sale calling-in and conversion or of such property shall be paid or applied as past income.
6. I direct that any moneys liable to be invested by my Trustee may be invested in its name in any of the investments for the time being authorised by law for the investment of trust moneys with liberty to vary and transpose the same from time to time
7. My Trustee shall have the following further powers: -
- a) To agree and settle accounts with all persons liable to account to my estate and for that purpose to execute effectual receipts releases and discharges
 - b) To determine in all cases of doubt whether any moneys coming to its hands are capital or income and to apportion blended finds and every such determination or apportionment shall be final and binding on all persons beneficially interested under this Will.
 - c) To let or lease all or any part of my real or leasehold property for such a period at such rent and upon such terms and conditions as my Trustee shall think fit.
 - d) Upon any sale of my real or leasehold property to allow such part of the purchase price as my Trustee shall think fit to remain upon the security of a mortgage over the property so sold and I declare that my Trustee shall not be liable for any loss to my estate occasioned by or arising from the deficiency of such security even though the amount so allowed to remain upon mortgage should be greater than the amount which it would be proper for Trustees to advance upon the security of a mortgage over such property.
 - e) To make out of the income or capital of my real and personal estate any outlay which my Trustee may consider proper for improvements repairs insurance calls on shares premiums on policies or otherwise for the benefit or in respect of my real and personal estate.

In Witness whereof I the above named WILLIAM ALEXANDER LESSELS the Testator have to this my last Will and Testament subscribed my name this day of One thousand nine hundred and thirty seven.

William Alexander LESSELS (9th September 1937)

Signed by the above named William Alexander Lessels the Testator as and for his last Will and Testament in the presence of us both being present at the same time who at his request in his sight and presence and in the sight and presence of each other have hereunto subscribed our names as attesting witnesses:

Y M POOL
Nurse
79 St Andrews Road
Epsom

W LEWIS
Warehouse Man
33 Wynsford Road
Mt Eden

(Reference Guardian Trust Office Auckland NZ correspondence 26 October 1989 & 6 November 1989)

In the Supreme Court of New Zealand Northern District (Auckland Registry)
In the Estate of WILLIAM ALEXANDER LESSELS late of the City of Auckland, Retired
Printer deceased

I William LEWIS of Mount Eden near the City of Auckland Storeman make oath and say
as follows:

1. That I am of the attesting witnesses to the last Will and Testament of the above-named William Alexander LESSELS late of the City of Auckland Retired Printer, deceased and shown to me and marked "A" and subscribed "William Alexander LESSELS".
2. That the said William Alexander LESSELS executed the said Will on the 9th day of September 1937 by signing his name at the foot or end thereof as the same now appears thereon, in the presence of me the said William LEWIS and of G.M. POOL the other subscribed witness. Thereto, both of us being present at the time, and we thereupon attested and subscribed the said Will in the presence of the said Testator.

Sworn at Auckland this 3rd day of November 1937 before me:

Signed Wm LEWIS

Also signed T C Thomson

A Solicitor of the Supreme Court of New Zealand.

(Reference National Archives Auckland NZ "Will" for William Alexander LESSELS filed in 1937)

In the Matter of the Estate of William Alexander LESSELS late of Auckland Retired
Printer deceased (hereinafter referred to as "the said deceased")

I William Ronald LESSELS of 55 Wilton Road, Wadestown, Wellington do solemnly and
sincerely declare: -

1. That I am a nephew of the said deceased who died at Auckland on the 12th day of September, 1937, and that I am a son of James Smith LESSELS, late brother of the said deceased and referred to in the Will of the said deceased, which Will is dated the 9th September 1937.
2. That the said James Smith LESSELS was married twice.
3. That the said James Smith LESSELS was married firstly to Mary Ann ORGAN at New Plymouth in the year 1896
4. That of the aforesaid marriage was born the following issue and no more
 - 1) Ivy Gillies LESSELS born at New Plymouth on the 27th day of April 1896 and who died at Wellington on the 2nd day of November 1929
5. That Mary Ann LESSELS (nee ORGAN) died at New Plymouth on the 3rd day of March 1897
6. That the said James Smith LESSELS was married to Bertha MANSSEN at Nelson on the 4th day of July 1900
7. That of the aforesaid marriage were born the following issue and no more:
 - 1) Louis Alexander LESSELS born at Nelson on the 8th day of September 1901 and at present residing at 21 Milton Street Nelson *[noted Died 19/4/53]*
 - 2) Vera Dollie McCOMBIE (nee LESSELS) born at Nelson on the 30th day of May 1904 and at present residing Harley's Creek, Kawatiri, Nelson
 - 3) William Ronald LESSELS (this document) born at Nelson on the 20th day of August 1905 and at present residing at 55 Wilton Road Wadestown Wellington. *[Noted Died 5/8/51]*
 - 4) John Maurice LESSELS Borne at Nelson on the 15th November 1906 at present residing at 21 Milton Street Nelson *[noted Died 28.7.67]*
 - 5) Keith LESSELS born at Nelson on the 20th day of June 1908 and who is at present an inmate of the Nelson Mental Hospital.
 - 6) Malcolm LESSELS born at Nelson on the 6th day of February 1910 and at present residing at 21 Milton Street Nelson *[note Killed in action 1/10/43]*
 - 7) James Bert LESSELS born at Nelson on the 11th September 1911 and at present residing at 21 Milton Street Nelson
 - 8) Alec Neil LESSELS born at Nelson on the 6th February 1917 at present residing at 21 Milton Street Nelson

9) Rita Dorothy LESSELS (now known as MANSSSEN) the adopted daughter of Ethel MANSSSEN referred to in the Will of the said deceased born at Nelson on the 9th April 1919 and at present residing at Washington Valley Nelson

10)Olive GARDNER (nee LESSELS) Wakutu Nelson born at Nelson Jan 27th 1903

8. That the said Bertha LESSELS (nee MANSSSEN) died at Nelson on the 4th day of June 1919.

And I make this solemn Declaration etc. *William Ronald LESSELS*

(Reference Archives NZ Auckland probate agency BBAE series 1570 Box 780 record 764/1937 High Court Auck.)

Waikumete Cemetery Auckland section D row 34 Headstone

In Loving memory of William Alexander LESSELS died 2 Sept 1937 age 70

(Reference National Library of NZ microfiche 4798 transcripts of NZ cemeteries)

7- Laura Eleanor LESSELS born 15 November 1868 at 16 Warwick Street Greenwich Deptford Kent Surrey England died married 07 September 1893 Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace England William Paul WHINFIELD born died (Issue not known)

Laura Eleanor LESSELS was born 15 November 1868 at 16 Warwick Street in the district of Greenwich in the sub district of Saint Paul's Deptford in the Counties of Kent and Surrey England. Her parent's were Margaret formerly GILLIES and John LESSELS occupation Surveyor's Clerk. John LESSELS father of 16 Warwick Street Deptford registered the birth on 01 December 1868. The registrar was Thomas MARCHANT.

(Reference RGO UK birth registration 1868 December quarter Greenwich district Volume 1d page 727)

1871 Census 16 Warwick Street St Paul Deptford Greenwich England

- Laura E LASCELLES daughter age 2 born Deptford Kent England

(Reference National Archives England 1871 Census St Paul Deptford Greenwich England RG 10 743)

1881 census 20 Lewisham High Road (transcribed LEPELS) Greenwich St Paul Deptford England

- Laura E LESSELS daughter unmarried age 12 Scholar born Kent New Cross

(Reference National Library of NZ Ancestry 1881 census Deptford St Paul London Greenwich St Paul Deptford ED72 England)

St John the Baptist Hillington Borough Middlesex England

Laura Eleanor LESSELS baptised 27 March 1883 Parish of Hillingdon Middlesex London England. His parents were John and Margaret LESSELS child born 16 November 1868 (should be 15 November) abode Hayes father's trade or profession Architect ceremony performed by Vicar J H THOMAS

(Reference National Library of NZ Ancestry Parish of Hillingdon Middlesex London England 1882 baptisms page 268 line 2140)

1891 Census 1 Earlsfield Road St Ann's Parish, Parliamentary Borough of Wandsworth, County of London England

- Laura E LESSELS daughter single age 22 born New Cross Kent England

(Source 1891 Census St Ann's Parish, Parliamentary Borough Wandsworth, County London England page 3 [107] RG 12/449)

William Paul Whinfield was the younger son of W. H. Whinfield Esq., dwelling at Fairleigh, Shepperton, England in 1893

I searched for marriage of Laura Eleanor LESSELS but could not locate any marriage in England or Scotland. The marriage registration may have been spelt incorrectly as I did locate a Laura LESSILS.

The Essex County Standard West Suffolk Gazette and Eastern Counties Advertiser
16 Sep 1893 Marriage

On Sept 7 at the Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace, by special permission of the Queen, Wm. Paul Whinfield, younger son of W. H. Whinfield Esq., Fairleigh, Shepperton, to Laura Eleanor Lessels, daughter of John Lessels, Esq., of H.M. Office of Works, 1, Earsfield Road, Wandsworth Common

(Reference New Zealand Society of Genealogist Gale newspaper website Essex County Standard West Suffolk Gazette and Eastern Counties Advertiser 16 Sep 1893)

I located information about Laura from the Wills and Probate registers of England under her father's name John LESSELS. The details are:

1915 John LESSELS of Thistlewood St Peter Port Guernsey died 25 September 1914
Confirmation of (Mrs) Laura Eleanor LESSELS or Whinfield. Sealed London 5 March.

Wills & Probates

(Reference NZSG Microfilm Willis and Probate England 1906-1943 fiche 59/2 page 52)

Note: The probate could not be processed when requested from the UK agent as quote "they are not available as they were resealed Confirmations". Laura is John's youngest daughter.

SEARCH 1901 Census for William Paul WHINFIELD

1901 Census 109 Broadhurst Gardens St Mary's Hampstead London England

- Walter MARTIN head married age 33 Cigars Shipping employer born Chaynel Guernsey Channel Islands (born about 1868)
- Jean D MARTIN wife age 34 born Scotland (born about 1867)
- **Laura E WHINFIELD** visitor married age 32 born Deptford Kent England (born about 1869)
- Ellen YOUNGMAN servant single age 28 Cook domestic born Aldesy Norfolk
- Mary A FOLAN servant single age 33 Housemaid domestic born Royston Herts

(Reference National Library NZ Ancestry website 1901 Census 109 Broadhurst Gardens St Mary's Hampstead London England ED 42 household 138)

William Paul WHINFIELD born 1866 place The Royal Mint Tower Hill London E location Stafford.

SEARCH AGAIN 1911 Census for William Paul WHINFIELD

1911 Census Jersey Guernsey Channel Islands

- John LESSELS head age 77 widower retired civil servant surveyor on H.M. (of Wales) Office London retired born Darwick Pebbleshire Scotland fathers birthplace Kirkcaldy Fife Scotland
- **Laura Eleanor WHINFIELD** daughter age 42 married 17 years children none born Deptford Kent England fathers birthplace Pebbleshire Scotland
- Kate WRIGHT servant age 43 single Cook (domestic) born Ropley Hants England father birthplace Hants England
- Alice LE PAGE servant age 32 single Housemaid (domestic) Vale Guernsey fathers birthplace Vale Guernsey

Signed by John LESSELS Thistlewood Les Graves Guernsey Channel Islands

(Reference Findmypast website 1911 Census Jersey Guernsey Channel Islands schedule 5)

Laura Eleanor WHINFIELD formerly LESSELS and William Paul WHINFIELD died
SEARCH (Reference RGO UK death registration and/or Guernsey Channel Islands

- 8-Louis Ernest LESSELS** born on 12 February 1870 at 16 Warwick Street Deptford England married about 1901 United States of America Lillian [surname unknown] born about 1874 New York United States of America
- 8-1- Virginia M LESSELS born 28 May 1902 Certificate number 9319 New York births USA 1903 New York United States of America died married about 1930 John J SHEEHAN born about 1903 Massachusetts United States of America died # Virginia M LESSELS born 28 May 1902 reference birth registration 1903 certificate number 9319 New York United States of America
- 8-1-1- Living SHEEHAN
- 8-2- Julia E LESSELS born about 1910 New York United States of America died married No issue
- 8-3- Robert J LESSELS born about 11 November 1912 New York United States of America died 21 March 1991 New York married
- 8-3-1- Living LESSELS
- 8-4- Forrest G LESSELS born about 1916 New York United States of America died November 1986 married
- 8-4-1- Living LESSELS
- 8-4-1-1- Living MOONAN
- 8-4-1-2- Living MOONAN
- 8-4-1-3- Living MOONAN
- 8-4-1-4- Living MOONAN
- 8-4-1-5- Living MOONAN
- 8-4-2- Living LESSELS
- 8-4-3- Living LESSELS
- 8-4-3-1- Living LESSELS
- 8-4-3-2- Living LESSELS

Louis Ernest LESSELS was born on 12 February 1870 at 16 Warwick Street in the District of Greenwich in the Sub District of Saint Paul Deptford in the Counties of Kent and Surrey England. His parents were Margaret formerly GILLIES and John LESSELS occupation Surveyors Clerk. John LESSELS father of 16 Warwick Street Deptford registered the death on the 01 March 1870. The Deputy registrar was George Richard PENDMORE [sic].

(Reference RGO UK birth registration 1870 March quarter Greenwich district Volume 1d page 785)

1871 Census St Paul Deptford Greenwich England - 16 Warwick Street

- Louis E LASCELLES son age 1 born Kent Deptford
(Reference National Archives England 1871 Census St Paul Deptford Greenwich England RG 10 743)

1881 census 20 Lewisham High Road (transcribed LEPELS) Greenwich St Paul Deptford England

- Louis E LESSELS son unmarried age 11 Scholar born Kent New Cross
(Reference National Library of NZ Ancestry 1881 census Deptford St Paul London Greenwich St Paul Deptford ED72 England)

All Saints Hatcham Park County of Surrey Lewisham Borough Middlesex England
Louis Ernest LESSELS baptised 29 April 1883 Parish of All Saints Hatcham Park County of Surrey Lewisham Borough Middlesex England. His parents were John and Margaret LESSELS child born 12 February 1870 abode High Road Lewisham father's trade or profession Architect ceremony performed by R Lundry [sic] SMITH

(Reference National Library of NZ Ancestry Parish of All Saints Hatcham Park County of Surrey Lewisham Borough Middlesex England 1883 baptisms page 209 line 1669)

Around 1886 at the age of 16 years Louis Ernest LESSELS arrived in United States of America.

Louis Ernest LESSELS aged 31years married Lillian aged 27 years surname unknown in perhaps around 1901 in New York United States of America.

Louis Ernest and Lillian had a daughter Virginia M LESSELS who was born about 1903 in New York United States of America

Louis Ernest and Lillian had a daughter Julia E LESSELS who was born about 1910 in New York United States of America

Louis Ernest LESSELS was naturalised about 1912 in New York United States of America

Louis Ernest and Lillian had a son Robert J LESSELS who was born about 1913 in New York United States of America

Louis Ernest and Lillian had a son Forrest G LESSELS who was born about 1916 in New York United States of America

1920 Population - Fourteenth Census of the United States - 135 Pierson Street, Township Jamaica Queens Board, County Queens, State New York

- Louis LESSELS = head age 49 born England arrived USA 1886 naturalised 1912 Place of abode own home mortgage, 73/96 father born Scotland & mother born England occupation Surveyor employed wages can read & write
- Lillian LESSELS wife age 45 born New York can read & write father born New York mother born New York
- Virginia LESSELS daughter age 17 attending school born New York can read & write
- Julia LESSELS daughter age 10 attending school born New York can read & write
- Robert LESSELS son age 7 attending school born New York can read & write
- Forrest LESSELS son age 4 born New York

(Reference Roll T625-1233 page 5a ED 273 Image 0629 14th Census 1920 Township Jamaica Queens, County Queens, State New York, USA)

1930 Population - Fifteenth Census of the United States 87th Avenue, Township Jamaica, County Queens, State New York

- Louis LESSELS head age 60 born England, arrived USA 1886 naturalised place of abode 13459 own home 7,500 radio set father born Scotland and mother born Scotland occupation Supervisor Maps Co. wages can read & write not Veteran
- Lillian LESSELS wife age 56 born New York can read & write father born New York and mother born New York
- Julia E LESSELS daughter age 20 born New York can read & write occupation Librarian Dept Store wage
- Robert J LESSELS son age 17 born New York can read & write
- Forrest G LESSELS son age 14 born New York can read & write
- John J SHEEHAN son-in-law age 27 born Massachusetts can read & write occupation Shipping Clerk Trucking Co wages father born Ireland and mother born Ireland married aged 27 years
- Virginia M SHEEHAN daughter age 27 born New York can read & write House worker married aged 27 years

(Reference sheet 11A & 11B page 113 Ward 4AD Block N ED 41-348 district 34 15th Census Township Jamaica, County Queens, State New York, USA)

Part of the 1937 Will of Louis's older brother William Alexander LESSELS reads "To each of the daughters of Louis Ernest LESSELS of Chicago United States of America the sum of One Hundred Pounds (\$100.0.0.)".

(Reference Guardian Trust Office Auckland NZ correspondence 26 October & 6 November 1989 & Will 1937)

US World War Two Private Forrest G LESSELS born 1916 Military enlisted 23 April 1943 Utica New York USA residence New York Oneida New York USA details enlistment for

the duration of war education 4 years high school occupation Dredgeman married Height 55 Weight 093.

(Reference Ancestry National Library)

Family stories tell of Louis was a high-ranking Officer in the American Navy. I wrote to the Department of the Navy, Naval Historical Center, Washington Navy Yard, 901 M Street SE, Washington DC 20374-5060 and the reply came back "we could not find a biographical on your uncle among our biographical collection" but they suggested I write for his records and medals entitlement. I still have not requested these details.

- [Records up to 1902] The Military Reference Branch, National Archives, Washington, DC 20408 (phone 202-501-5671)
- [Individual Personnel records after 1902] "The National Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page Boulevard, St Louis, Missouri 63132-5100

LESSELS miscellaneous information

There are 10 painting by John LESSELS held by different descendants around New Zealand. I borrowed the painting had them copied and now hold the images/negatives on CD. The images are located on the Lessels website.

Publications on United Kingdom Architects recording John LESSELS

- A Guide to Biographical Sources by Cindy Campbell [cpl Biob 233]
- Service Alastair "The Architects of London and their Buildings from 1066 to present day London Architecture Press 1979
- Colvin, H M A Biographical 'Dictionary of English Architects 1660 to 1840 London Murray 1954 [50420]
- Gray A Stuart "Edwardian Architecture A Biographical Dictionary London Duckworth 1985 [179336]
- A Biographical Dictionary of British Architects 1600-1840 by Howard Colvin [pub John Murray]

Located on Website LESSELS 1 Burial at Abney Park Cemetery London

George LESSELS (Reference RGO UK death registration 1910 December quarter West Ham Essex Great London volume 4a page 179 age at death 0.

This cannot be our George LESSELS.

07 July 1935 Laura Eleanor HOOD BEGG arrived "Georgic" in New York age 66 born about 1869 Deptford England.

(Reference source National Library of NZ Ancestry.com)

Do not know if this is our Laura.
