

NESBITT/NISBET

SOCIETY

AUSTRALIA



NEWSLETTER NO. 10

JANUARY, 1989.

STARTING POINT

(Latest News and Views from the Editorial Staff)

As a result of Bill Kelsey's resignation as U.K. and N.A. newsletter editor the U.K. branch now has the responsibility for the production of its newsletter ~~under the editorship of Lt. Col. William Nesbitt.~~

To quote the U.K. treasurer, Peter W.W. Nisbet, "The newsletter is the most important link we have, so its continuance is vital".

This is equally true in the case of the Australian branch to bond us both nationally and internationally. On behalf of the Australian editorial staff and Australian N/N members we wish our U.K. and N.A. counterparts every success and would encourage Australian members to continue not only the fine effort and quality of contributions to our newsletter, but to also contemplate writing and submitting to our editor articles which may be suited or adapted for publication in the U.K. and N.A. newsletter.

Gary R. Nisbet.

(NES)-BITS AND PIECES

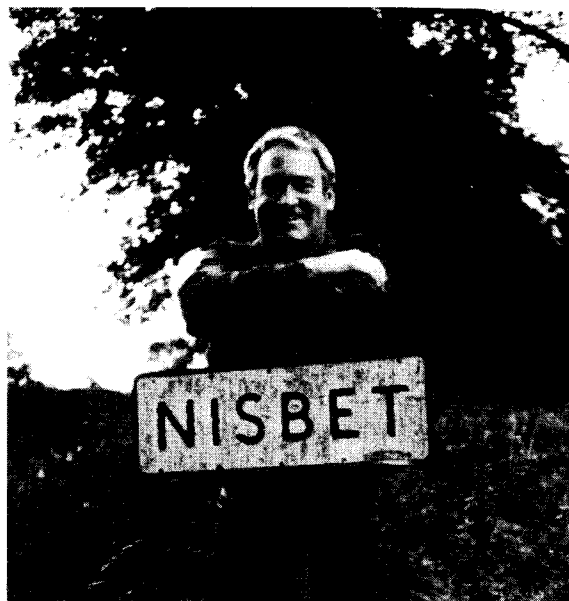
(Snippets of General Interest By N/Ns, For N/Ns and About N/Ns)

NEW MEMBERS: We take great pleasure in welcoming to the Clan the following new members for 1988/89.

Lewis N. and Paula Johnson, East Doncaster, Vic.; Trevor Nisbet, Wellington, N.Z.; James and Dianne Nesbitt, Brocklesby, N.S.W.; Brian and Ellen Nesbitt, Berri, S.A.; Fr. Paul G. Clark, Forbes, N.S.W.; Margaret MacKillop, Ashbury, N.S.W.; Trevor Nisbett, Warwick, W.A.; Maurice and Francis Nesbitt, Glen Innes, N.S.W.; James and Jennifer Nesbit, 'Glendara Station' via Broken Hill, N.S.W.; Mary Cameron, Box Hill, Vic; and Robert and Anne Nisbet of Clifton Springs, Vic.

Robert and Anne, who returned recently from a trip to the U.K., sent the society several colour photographs taken in The Borders, Scotland, one of which showed Robert standing by the Nisbet Village signpost. Members may remember the photograph of Mrs. Sarah Chambers which appeared in Newsletter 7 standing by that signpost. It is gradually becoming famous down here. Thank you Robert for the photos - they are captioned, labelled and filed for posterity with our growing supply of archival material. We look forward to learning of your trip. No doubt you have an interesting story to tell.

Editor.



AUSTRALIAN N/N PRESIDENT AND FAMILY VISIT HONG KONG: On a recent trip to Hong Kong, Ian M., Joy and Andrew Nisbet were entertained at the Hong Kong Yacht Club by John Kerr-Nesbitt, son of past U.K. president, Richard. They were impressed by the friendliness and hospitality shown by John: an indication of the worldwide clan fellowship.

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AUSTRALIAN N/NS ENTERTAINED AFTER JEDBURGH GATHERING: Maree Dimattina, her friend Pina Lazzara and John Nisbet, a member from South Carolina, U.S.A. were entertained on the Sunday following the May 28th gathering at a family luncheon at the home of Alastair and Ruth Nisbet on the banks of the Tweed River at Kelso, The Borders, Scotland.

Present were Alastair, Ruth and their two children; Alastair's brother Lawrence, his wife June and their three children and Harry, Alastair's father. Alastair is a school teacher and both Ruth and Harry are doctors.

After lunch they were able to watch, from the back yard, a raft race which is a yearly event on the Tweed River.

Maree and Pina, like all who have visited our English and Scottish cousins, are full of praise for the friendliness extended to them.

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ALASDAIR NISBET VISITS FROM THE U.K.: Alasdair of Colchester, Essex (about 80 km N.E. of London) the son of U.K. chairman, Major David Nisbet, arrived in Melbourne from Tasmania on Friday December 16th after completing a bush walking tour in the Cradle Mountain area of Tasmania.

He left for Sydney and Cairns on Sunday December 18th and intended doing walking tours in both states and some diving in the warm waters off Cairns.

While in Melbourne Alasdair stayed with Ian M. and Joy Nisbet. He spent the Friday evening in the company of Ian, Joy and Andrew Nisbet, Ian G. Nisbet and Helen and Bruce Nesbit. The group had an enjoyable evening and chatted until midnight. Ian M. took him on a sight-seeing tour of Melbourne and environs on Saturday and he was the guest of Andrew and friends for the evening.

Alasdair is a much travelled young man with many interests including photography, botany, rock climbing and, as already mentioned, bush walking.

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NESBIT STREET, WHITFIELD, QUEENSLAND: The following is an edited version of a letter by Bruce M. Nesbit of Bayview Heights, Queensland.

"Back in June (1988) I saw an advertisement in the 'Cairns Post' calling for objections to the proposed use of land on a block in a new subdivision in Nesbit Street, Whitfield. Enquiries at the Council offices revealed that the Council's Town Planning Department made a list of names available for developers to use as street names. The list was made up of past aldermen and others. Mr. Nesbit was an alderman back around 1895. On checking the microfilm records at the City Library I found that his name was actually Thomas NISBET.

At various times from 1893 to 1895 Thomas Nisbet was an agent for the Equitable Building Society; Secretary of the School of Arts; a Mining, Commission Inspector & agent; an advertising agent; bandmaster of the Cairns Naval Brigade Band; an agent for Perkins & Co., Brewers; an agent for Norwich Union Fire Insurance Co., and eventually joined Burns Philp & Co. He was mentioned as one of the inaugural members of the Cairns Tennis Club in January 1895 and was also secretary of the Cairns Racing Club.

He nominated as an auditor on the Cairns and Barron Divisional Boards, (two separate bodies) for polls on 22/2/1895 against Robert Sturt and John G. Fearnley. Fearnley won the Cairns Board position and Sturt won the Barron Board post.

(cont'd page 3).

He finally nominated and was elected an alderman (of what authority I'm not sure) on 23/5/1895.

I am unable to obtain more information about him and can only wonder what he did in his spare time. He certainly was not an under-achiever".

(Ed. note: By a majority of 2 to 1 the editorial staff is of the opinion that this gross spelling error should be brought to the attention of the council).

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IRISH AND SCOTS LINK SEARCHES (A SPECIAL OFFER): Arrangements have been made to give members of our society the opportunity of placing in the Irish or Scots Link magazine ten lines or so about the family they are researching. This facility is normally restricted to subscribers.

These publications are sent free of charge to the main libraries in Scotland and Ireland, and copies go to libraries in all cities and towns in Australia and New Zealand and to more than 2,000 subscribers, so such entries receive very wide publicity.

The cost per entry is \$10 payable to The Irish Link, P.O. Box 135, South Melbourne, Victoria, 3205, Australia. The name and address of the member will be published at the end of the entry and the member will receive a copy of the magazine containing the entry. Editor.

SOCIETY NEWS

CHRISTMAS END OF YEAR PARTY HELD ON DEC. 3, 1988 AT THE HOME OF THE PRESIDENT

Ian M. Nisbet welcomed the forty members and guests and mentioned that new members, Vic. 2, N.S.W. 4, S.A. 1, W.A. 2 and N.Z 1 brought our mailing list to 130; we hope to improve on that figure. Ian informed the group that the society has received its first monograph, "The Progression of a Branch of The Dirleton Nisbets to Australia", by Robert V. Nisbett of Bateau Bay, N.S.W. and it is intended that we produce it in the form of a booklet. It is known that five descendants of Sir Philip Nisbet (VI) of That Ilk (b, 1535) emigrated to Victoria, Australia (1860-70) - see Feature Article N/L 9.

Joy then introduced the entertainers for the evening, the husband and wife duo, John and Jean Norman and their accompanist Dorothy Roberts. Jean trained at Sydney and is an Eisteddfod winner of Outstanding Festival in Sydney and the resident conductress of the United Ladies Choir. John, who partnered her in the duets, has also been involved in choir work for many years.

Jean sang 'Down in the Glen' and several other songs. Dorothy, an accomplished pianist, then played a selection from Brigadoon and her favourite 'Bells'. Jean and John completed the evening's entertainment with two duets.

At the conclusion of the musical interlude the guests partook of an excellent supper. This time the raffle was not rigged but Bruce Nesbit still managed to win the bottle of whisky. However, as he is not a 'top shelf' man, he declined and it was then won by Mary Cameron. Helen Nesbit accepted a Christmas wreath in lieu of the whisky and Lewis Nisbet Johnson won a Christmas centre piece.

It was a pleasant evening and once again thanks must be extended to Joy and Ian for the trouble and hard work they went to in rearranging their home for the event. The Social Committee once again provided an excellent supper and the champagne flowed freely. Dr. Ian T. Nisbet

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PROPOSED GATHERING: It is proposed to hold a Society gathering at Castlemaine, central Victoria during October, 1989. The exact date will be chosen after a feasibility study is carried out. This site was selected in the hope that the locality will allow members from other states to also attend.

(cont'd page 4).

Castlemaine is steeped in history. In September, 1851, the words, 'Gold Rush - Mt. Alexander, Australia' were shouted with excitement in every language around the world. Fortune seekers the world over rushed to the atlas - where is Australia? Where is Mt. Alexander (later to be named Castlemaine), Bendigo and Ballarat? These place names echoed around the world.

Within three months 30,000 or more men and women were working the creeks around Mt. Alexander. Here was a chance for any able bodied man, whatever his station, to 'strike it rich'. Some did and many did not.

Castlemaine is still wonderfully rich and there are great 'finds' to be made.

It is intended to hold a two day event. The Gathering on Saturday at 11 a.m. A barbecue - or some may wish to have a picnic lunch - and the remainder of the afternoon becoming acquainted and swapping genealogical notes and meeting relatives already discovered and contacted through the society. The evening meal could be arranged as a group at a motel or restaurant for those who wish to stay over.

Sunday would be a free day to visit the many tourist attractions in the township and general area with pamphlets available at the Information Centre. Victorian members to whom I have spoken intend booking into a motel for the Friday and Saturday nights and see the places of interest on the Sunday. Some interstate members may do the same and leave for home on Sunday afternoon.

We are hoping for a good turnout, so please keep your October weekends free until we come up with a date for the event. Details will be supplied as they become available - watch the April and July newsletters.

* * *

Pearl Norris Nesbit of Castlemaine is busy doing preliminary work for the third gathering at Castlemaine for descendants of John George Mitford Nesbit Snr. Pearl suggests a Sunday in April. **Editor.**

FEATURE ARTICLE

(This section is reserved for full length articles of general interest)

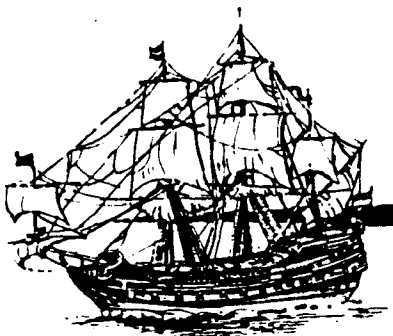
No sooner had the article referring to Ireland's Bicentenary Gift, which appeared in the last N/N Newsletter, been prepared when the editor received the following information from N/N member, Robert J. Linford, who is fortunate enough to reside in Canberra - well, it's all a matter of perspective. Robert has already visited the National Library and made use of the Irish records.

We thank him for his contribution and for passing the following information onto the remainder of the clan. **Gary R. Nisbet.**

TRANSPORTATION RECORDS, IRELAND TO AUSTRALIA, 1788-1868

A New Research Tool

by Robert J. Linford, O.B.E., Red Hill, A.C.T.



The presentation by the Government of Ireland to the Government of Australia of a set of microfilm records of transportation from Ireland to Australia provides family historians with a new tool for their research. The microfilm is available for consultation at the National Library at Canberra, and copies in due course will be made available to State Libraries throughout Australia.



(cont'd page 5).

A computerised index to the records has been prepared with the help of IBM, and will be ultimately available for use at various locations in Australia.

Convict transportation from Ireland to Australia effectively covers a continuous period from 1791 to 1853. In addition, there was a special group of convicts sent out in 1868. The first ship to sail directly from Ireland carrying convicts under sentence of transportation was the 'Queen', which arrived at Port Jackson on 26 September 1791. Transportation from Ireland for all practical purposes came to an end in 1853. The last ship to carry convicts direct from Ireland to Australia was the 'Phoebe Dunbar' which sailed from Kingstown (now Loaghaire) near Dublin and arrived in Western Australia on 30 August 1853. During the 62 years of transportation from Ireland to Australia some 30,000 men and 9,000 women were sent as convicts for a minimum period of seven years; many more followed their loved ones as free settlers to a new life in the colony.

The sentence of transportation was abolished in July 1857 under an Act of that year, but the Act allowed for convicts sentenced to penal servitude to be sent 'beyond the seas'. By this means transportation continued from England until 1868. As far as is known, nobody convicted of a crime in Ireland was transported to Australia between 1853 and 1868, although no doubt some persons of Irish origin who were convicted of crimes committed in England were among those transported to Australia. However, in 1868 sixty-three Irish Fenians who had been convicted in Ireland but imprisoned in England were transported from England. They arrived in Western Australia on 9 January 1868 on board the 'Hougoumont', the last transport ship to sail from England to Australia.

Sadly enough for people of our particular interest, there are few with the Naisbet, Neisbit, Nesbit(t), Nisbet(t) surname mentioned among those sentenced to transportation over the years. The six who have been noted were:

Betty Nesbitt, tried Co. Londonderry 30/6/1836, larceny, transportation 7 years. Ref: TR1, p. 167. Detained at Kilmailan Gaol, Dublin.

Patrick Nesbitt, tried Co. Antrim 27/6/1843, larceny, transportation 7 years. Ref: TR5, p. 2. CRF 1843, N2.

John Nesbit, tried Co. Wicklow 21/2/1842, vagrancy, transportation 7 years, failing bail within 3 months. Ref: TR4, p. 188. CRF 1842, N7. Convict is Hather by trade. Convict has four children and wife. Ordered to be discharged 12/5/1842.

George Nesbitt, tried Co. Antrim 18/4/1848, larceny, transportation 7 years. Convict died at Mountjoy Gaol, Dublin, 8/5/1852. Ref: TR8, p.1.

Samuel Nesbitt, tried Co. Antrim 20/10/1847, larceny, transportation 7 years. Ref: TR7, p. 1.

Susan Nesbitt, tried Co. Cork 29/9/1845. Ref: TR6, p. 250.

The small sample shows the severity of the court sentences at the time. Larceny and vagrancy seem almost automatically to have attracted a sentence of transportation of seven years. John Nesbit, the 'Hather' (? Hatter) seems to have been very fortunate to have escaped transportation, possibly because he had a trade and was the breadwinner for a wife and a family of four. One cannot but feel sympathy for George Nesbitt, who, having been sentenced to transportation for seven years for larceny, met his end four years after his trial, still in a Dublin gaol.

It is worth noting that four of the six sentenced to transportation came from Northern Ireland (Londonderry/Antrim) and the other two from the south. This is to be expected as the centres where the Nesbitts (and other variants of the name) settled were mainly in the north, particularly Co. Antrim and Co. Down.

(Ed. Note: Dr. Ian O'Brien, also from the A.C.T., submitted particulars of the recorded Irish convict N/Ns. Inconsistencies have been noted between the two lists and they will have to be rationalized).

WANTED
(Member's Searches)

Nan and Colin Wright of P.O. Box 198, Bowen, Queensland, 4805 wish to contact a Bruce Nesbit (an Englishman) who worked for a chemical company in Singapore in 1979.

* * *

NESBITT, James (b. c1823 England) m. Isabella Craig (b. 1824, Wooler, Northumberland, England) at Harvey, New Brunswick, Canada in 1844.
James and Isabella emigrated to Canada in 1838 and 1841 respectively and family tradition suggests they emigrated to Australia after 1851.
Contact Margaret Nesbitt, 4 Government Road, Paynesville, Victoria, 3050.

FOUND

WHOSE ANCESTOR: THOMAS NESBITT OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND.

Who is the Thomas Nesbitt mentioned in the 'deed'?

Maybe a member can establish a relationship and throw a little light on the subject!

Mr. Ken Lodington of Casino, N.S.W. has had the clipping (shown on the right) in his possession for many years because of the Thomas Lodington reference. It is from the Melbourne Herald of April 1936.

Research carried out by Mr. Lodington shows that his gr. grandfather, John Day Lodington was born in 1825 at the home of Thomas Lodington in Fairmead (near Laughton) Essex England. He sent me the cutting because of the Nesbitt reference.

Editor.

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WHOSE ANCESTOR: Whilst doing research reading for genealogical pursuits on my grandmother's line (not Nisbet) I was perusing the index of the "Dictionary of British Sculptors 1660-1851" by Rupert Gunnis and chanced to check the index for - you guessed it - N/Ns. There I found the following references:

Nesbitt, Arnold 257.
Nesbitt, William 109.
Nisbet, Walter 427, only to find:

MARTEN, John, of Tenterden, b. 1728, d. 1814 signed monuments to several persons including Arnold Nesbitt, 1779, at Icklesham, Sussex.

COADE, Mrs. Eleanor, b. 1769, d. 1820, manufactured and worked in artificial stone including a monument to William Nesbitt, 1807, at Spaldhurst (churchyard) Kent.

WESTMACOTT, Sir Richard R.A., b. 1775, d. 1856, created many works including a monument to Walter Nisbet, 1833, Calcutta (Old Cathedral), India.

(Cont'd page 7).

By This Deed

SEARCHING through some old play manuscripts in his office yesterday, Mr P. Finklestein, of J. C. Williamson's, discovered an ancient document, red-sealed, lead stamped, and dated 1804, of which he is eager to find the owner.

It is a manorial deed, made by the "General Court Baron of the Manor of Sewardstone in the County of Essex, granting to Thomas Nesbitt, of the Bank of England, Gentleman, and to William Taylor, of London, Gentleman, that piece of ground, parcel of this manor, adjoining the garden at . . . Fair Mead Bottom, now in possession of Thomas Lodington."

The faded yellow parchment and the pointed, clerkly script add to the interest of the quaint phrasology of this deed, penned the year before Trafalgar.

Mr Finklestein is at a loss to account for its inclusion among his manuscripts, and believes that there may be in Melbourne descendants of the original holders.

The document has some historic interest. For somebody it may have commercial or sentimental worth.

No, none of the N/Ns were famous sculptors, but obviously were wealthy or respected enough to warrant sculptured monuments.
Can anyone claim them?

Gary R. Nisbet.

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The reference book "London Marriages 1512-1869" shows only one Nesbit marriage in the City of London during that period of 357 years:
NESBIT, Lawrence, City of London, gentleman and Elizabeth FULLER of same, spinster. General Licence, 2nd July, 1562B.

BIRTH

TWINS: Our congratulations and best wishes go to James and Mary Nisbet of Dianella, W.A. whose family has been increased by the arrival on July 7 of Scott and Debra, who join Lindsay and Kelly to increase our clan membership. We would like to hear more from our members of such events.

MISCELLANY

SCOTLAND'S BICENTENARY GIFT: In both this and our last newsletter, mention was made of Australia's Bicentenary Gift from the Republic of Ireland. In a similar vein we should note Scotland's Gift of a genuine rock cairn which was to be dismantled, shipped to Australia and re-erected in a Sydney park.

However, I cannot say that its fate was well aired in the Victorian newspapers. The last report I recollect was that the Scottish Society was adamant that the cairn be given true prominence and a permanent site; that is to remain and fulfill its intended role as that of a permanent monument rather than a "portable pile of rocks" as tended to be the attitude of the Sydney Council.

Perhaps an N/N member would provide further information relating to this saga.

Gary R. Nisbet.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Members who have had no success with their WANTED notices are invited to re-submit them. Maybe links will be found among our many new members.

Back issues of the newsletter are available at \$2.00 each to cover printing and postage. Please send your cheque and order to the treasurer and quote your I.D. number.

ERRATA

In Newsletter No. 9 Page 5, paragraph 2, line 4; 'package', should read, 'packhorse'.

Page 5, paragraph 3, lines 7 and 8; should read, 'His eldest son John was born at Agra, India, and in 1862 at the age of nineteen, etc.'.

Page 5, paragraph 5, line 2; 'of his line' should read, 'in the U.K.'.

Page 6, paragraph 1; 'Eldorado near Ballarat, Victoria', should read, 'Eldorado by Reid's Creek, East of Wangaratta, Victoria'.

My apologies, Editor.

It is indeed desirable to be well descended
But the glory belongs to our ancestors.

.....NOTICEBOARD.....

(Upcoming Events in the Local and Overseas Calendar)

- 1989 Feb. 9 Executive Meeting.
 " Apr. Newsletter No. 11. (Closing date for material Mar. 1.)
 " May. Social Evening with a Guest Speaker.
 " May 27 U.K. Meeting at the Hirsell, Coldstream, near Duns in
 The Borders, Scotland. Lord Home will address the
 gathering. More about this event later.
 " Jul. Newsletter No. 12. (Closing date for material May 1.)
 " Aug. Social Function.
 " Sep. Annual General Meeting with a Guest Speaker.
 " Oct. Newsletter No. 13. (Closing date for material Sep. 1.)
 " Oct. Country Gathering at Castlemaine, central Victoria.
 " Dec. Christmas Gathering.
 1990 Jan. Newsletter No. 14. (Closing date for material Dec. 1.)
 " Feb. Family Gathering.
 " Apr. Newsletter No. 15. (Closing date for material Mar. 1.)
 " Aug. Social Function.

GENERAL COMMITTEE:

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 Dr. Ian T. Nisbet, Gavin M. Nisbet, Lyndell Watson, Gary R. Nisbet,
 Karen Nisbet.

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EDUCATION/INFORMATION COMMITTEE:

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 Nisbet, Elyse Classon, Diana Dimattina, Barbara Leslie, Helen Nesbit.

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The Nesbitt/Nisbet Society is a Worldwide Clan Society