

NESBITT/NISBET SOCIETY AUSTRALIA



NEWSLETTER NO. 12.

JULY 1989.

STARTING POINT

(Latest News and Views from the Editorial Staff)

HOW TIME FLIES! This newsletter, number 12, completes the third year of operation of the Australian branch of the Nesbitt/Nisbet Society. And we're still going strong, thanks to the enthusiasm of our executive and the support of our members. The next few months will see our A.G.M. and the first country gathering. We hope to see many members at both of these functions to maintain the momentum and drive of the society.

Dr. Ian T. Nisbet

(NES)-BITS AND PIECES

(Snippets of General Interest by N/Ns, for N/Ns and about N/Ns)

AUSTRALIA'S OLDEST N/N?

Miss Gertrude Nesbitt - aged 107



Courtesy of The Melbourne Age.

Treasure is where you find it. Our latest treasure was found on the front page of the Melbourne Age newspaper on Saturday 1st July 1989. Miss Mary Jane Gertrude (Gertie) Nesbitt aged 107.

President Ian M. and Joy Nisbet visited Miss Nesbitt on the following day. Joy reports:

"It was a great pleasure to spend an afternoon with Miss Nesbitt. She is truly a gracious lady. One is impressed by her clear brown eyes and her strength of character. She is proud of her background which she remembers with clarity and she is even more certain about her deep Christian beliefs which have given lustre to her long life."

Her birthday was celebrated on Tuesday 4th July in the presence of Mrs Sadie Ramsay, her niece-in-law, Dr. Michael Wooldridge M.H.R., Ian M. and Joy Nisbet, Lyndell Watson, Bruce and Helen Nesbit and approximately 60 friends and fellow residents of Rosden Private Nursing Home, Burwood, Victoria. At her request, the party was preceded by a Mass celebrated by Fr. Durkin, who also said Mass on the

(Cont'd p. 2).

occasion of Miss Nesbitt's 100th birthday. The festive party of champagne, a huge birthday cake, toasts and speeches were captured by T.V. crews of several channels and featured in the evening news services.

Miss Nesbitt responded, summing up by saying, "It has been a wonderful day!"

During the party Miss Nesbitt accepted Honorary Membership of the Nesbitt/Nisbet Society offered to her by President, Ian M. Nisbet.

FOR THE GENEALOGIST

- * Full Name Mary Jane Gertrude Nesbitt
- * Born Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Northumberland, on 3rd July, 1882.
- * Father Robert, b. Newcastle-upon-Tyne.
- * Mother Mary Jane Cavanagh (Irish descent)
- * Brothers) Clement - 1 daughter Madeleine
- *) Robert - killed in W.W. 1, aged 25
- * Sister Hilda - (Mrs Ramsay) - 1 son, Frederick Clement.

Miss Nesbitt came to Australia in 1950 aged 68 years to live with her nephew (Frederick, son of sister Hilda). He died four years ago. His wife, Mrs Sadie Ramsay, looked after Gertrude until she (Gertrude) had a fall about 12 months ago. On leaving hospital she entered Rosden, Private Nursing Home, Burwood, Victoria.

Miss Nesbitt said that she would like other Nesbitt/Nisbets to visit or write to her.

* * *

SAMUEL TERRY, A CONVICT OF NOTE: Society member, Mrs. Jill R.B. Nisbett of Bateau Bay, N.S.W. has traced her line through her mother, Vera Zilla Ruthven Bissett, to the convict, Samuel Terry.

Samuel Terry was convicted in January 1800 at the Lancaster Quarter Session, of the felony of stealing. The sentence, "transportation to some part beyond the seas for the space of seven years". He was transported in the Earl of Cornwallis and after a journey of seven months arrived at Sydney on June 10, 1801. When convicted he was aged about 24 years, so by calculation, was born c1776.

His sentence was served at Parramatta, N.S.W., labouring under the Reverend Samuel Marsden cutting stone, for among other projects, a church and the female gaol. On completion of sentence he married Rosetta Marsh in 1810; was one of the founders of the Bank of N.S.W. and when he died in 1837 was probably the richest man in the colony; dubbed 'The Botany Bay Rothschild'.

The direct line is shown below:

- * Samuel Terry, b. c1776, d. c1837, m. 1810, Rosetta Marsh.
- * Martha Foxlow Terry, b. 1811, d. 1877, m. 1829, John Hosking (first Mayor of Sydney).
- * Zilla Elizabeth Foxlow Hosking, m. c1870, John Lowrie Ruthven.
- * Vera Zilla Ruthven, m. 1914, James Joseph Bissett.
- * Jill Ruthven Bissett, m. 1950, Robert Vivian Nisbett.

Article by Mrs. Jill R. B. Nisbett, of Bateau Bay, N.S.W.

Editorial Note: There are no doubt many stories our members have stored away. Please pass them on now so they may be shared/published and filed for posterity with our archival material. It is only now, while we are here that those historical details may be put into print for those who follow. Don't put it off, put pen to paper now!!

SOCIETY NEWS

CASTLEMAINE GATHERING: Sat. Sept. 30 - Sun. Oct. 1, 1989.

Our metropolitan gatherings have been so successful that we have decided to hold our first Country Gathering.

The Botanical Gardens has been selected as the venue. It is central enough to be convenient for our country members and close enough for our metropolitan members. Although the Gathering is a one day function, members may choose to spend the weekend in Castlemaine and enjoy the many attractions in this historic and scenic area. The optional extended Gathering, we hope, will enable some of our interstate members to join in and make it a truly National Gathering. (Monday, 2nd October is a holiday in N.S.W.).

Castlemaine and the surrounding district has much interest for visitors. Once a famous goldmining town, Castlemaine is now a progressive city. Tree-lined streets and parks and gardens add charm to the old buildings, many of which are built of bluestone and classified by the National Trust.

In 1860, 25 ha of previously mined alluvial workings beside Barker's Creek were reserved for the gardens and in 1869 another 3 ha were added and the allocation made permanent. The gardens contain a fernery, an ornamental lake, an iron fountain which has been restored and a wide variety of native and exotic plants.

Amenities include a sheltered barbecue, parking, picnic facilities, playground and toilets. Alternate wet weather facilities have been arranged.

Those who choose to stay over for Sunday will find many places of interest in the city.

- * Buda Historical Home & Garden, cnr Hunter & Urquhart Streets.
- * Burke & Wills Monument, Wills Street.
- * Castlemaine Market, Mostyn Street, built in 1862.
- * Castlemaine & Maldon Railway, Maldon - Muckleford Road.
- * Castlemaine Art Gallery & Museum, 14 Littleton Street. W/ends 10-12 & 1-5.

A motorcade could be arranged on Sunday to do a District Tour to Wesley Hill, Chewton, (Garfield Wheel) Fryerstown, Irishtown, Vaughan, Yapeen, Guildford returning to Castlemaine via Campbell's Creek. For this tour we would need the kind co-operation of a local to act as guide.

Please indicate your interest - see separate form enclosed.

Reserve the date now - make up a family group or bring your friends.

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------|---|
| Friday, Sept. 29 | | Dinner (optional) |
| Saturday, Sept. 30 | 10.00 - 11.00 | Registration/Refreshments |
| " | 11.00 - 11.30 | Welcoming Address |
| " | 11.30 - 2.00 | Lunch BYO picnic (Limited BBQ facilities, unlimited fellowship) |
| " | 2.00 - 2.30 | Family Photograph |
| " | 2.30 - 3.30 | First 'Boar War' N/N Highland Games |
| " | 3.30 - 4.30 | Afternoon Tea |
| " | 7.30 | Dinner (Optional) |
| Sunday, Oct. 1 | | Sightseeing (Optional) |

* * *

We are pleased to see that our English cousins have had another successful gathering and offer our congratulations. We are only sorry that no representative from Australia was present for the event.

Those in the photograph below are, from left to right:

David Nisbet of Scunthorpe; chairman, Major David Nisbet and his wife, Sue Nisbet; president, Richard Nesbitt; Lord Home of the Hirsell; treasurer, Peter W.W. Nisbet; Rupert Nisbet.

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Nisbet Society at The Hirsell

The Nisbet/Nesbitt gathering 1989 brought together 60 members of the Nisbet Society at the Hirsell last Saturday.

The Chairman, Major David Nisbet, welcomed the visiting members. In his opening address he thanked Lord and Lady Home, the guests of honour, for making the Hirsell available for the gathering.

The events of the day included an introduction to genealogy by Selina Corkerton from Edinburgh, and also a progress report on the refurbishment of Nisbet House, by new owner Doctor Brian Hawley.

After lunch and the society AGM, the day ended with a visit to the Hirsell Craft Centre.

The day was so successful that a unanimous vote carried the proposal to hold the 1990 Nisbet gathering at the Hirsell. The society are still looking for more local members who might be interested in joining.



Nisbets and Nesbitts who were involved in the organising of the Clan Gathering at the Hirsell last week pictured with their host Lord Home

Established in 1981 by an American academic, Dr John Nesbitt, the society aims to promote links between the Berwickshire based clan and help members trace their family trees.

Mrs Sue Nisbet of Blackadder, South Lodge, near Duns is the wife of the society's chairman, Major David Nisbet and she explained that the organization has a wide international membership. "We are very strong in the United States and Australia and last year's annual general meeting attracted over 80 members. We hope to establish branches in South Africa and Hong Kong".

Mrs Nisbet added that there were over 30 derivations of the family name. The roots of the clan can be traced back to the 12th century in Berwickshire but in the 17th and 18th centuries many members moved away to Ireland and the United States.

The days events at the Hirsell included an address from Lord Home, a talk on the refurbishment of Nisbet House near Duns, a display of Nisbet Tartan goods and a talk on genealogy. Catering was provided by Gillian Glass of Coldstream.

Mrs Nisbet commented, "there is a lot of enthusiasm but we would like to hear more from local people who are connected with the clan".

Anybody who would like to join the society can do so by contacting Mrs G. Wilson, 'The Shubbery', Drayton, Belbroughton, Stourbridge, Worcs. D79 OBW.

* * *

SOCIAL EVENING WITH SPEAKER: On May 19th a small group of members attended a social evening at the home of our secretary Ian G. Nisbet and his wife Lesley to hear a talk by Mr. Desmond Regan of the Irish Ancestry Group of the Victorian Genealogical Society. The talk was on Irish /Scottish history and migration between Scotland and Ireland.

It was pleasing to welcome new members, John and Judith Cockbill of New Gisborne, Victoria and Graeme and Catherine Nisbet from the suburb of Mitcham.

Judith shares the same emigrant ancestor, Alexander Nesbitt, with Lurline Gainsford of Ulladulla and Robin Nesbitt of Casino.

Graeme and Catherine are leaving shortly on a three months tour and will spend some time at Roxburgh, Scotland.

Once again, our thanks to Ian and Lesley for arranging another successful social function at their home in Kew.

* * *

CANBERRA CLUB SOCIAL EVENING: A group of six members who live in the Canberra area met on April 26.

Dr. Ian O'Brien and Brian Nesbitt between them phoned the N/Ns listed in the Canberra and Regional telephone book. All except one person contacted showed an interest.

Lorna and Ian O'Brien, Brian and Margaret Nesbitt and Pat and Robert Linford met for an informal evening at the Canberra Club. Apologies were received from Max and Rhys Nesbitt and Terry Nesbitt.

Ian said: "We had a very pleasant evening discussing our experiences, with emphasis on those arising from family history research. I passed on a message from Ian M. Nisbet, of greetings and best wishes for a successful social development. We decided to get together again soon, perhaps with a view to exploring an aspect of N/N early family history. To encourage others to attend, Lorna and I offered to put together and circulate a short note on our meeting and activities of the society together with the benefits of membership".

Editorial note: We are encouraged by this initiative and are sure that the talent and enthusiasm of our A.C.T. members will lead to much worthwhile clan activity in the A.C.T. area.

FEATURE ARTICLE

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

THE NAME NESBIT: Regarding the origin of the name, Alexander Nesbitt, the historian of Lismore, in Notes and Queries, 6th series, x., p.55, has this to say:

"The name Nesbit occurs, either as the name of a place, or as the designation of the members of the family who held the barony, in nearly a hundred charters preserved in the treasury of the cathedral of Durham. The earliest of these are of the twelfth century, and from that time to the fifteenth century the name is invariably spelt with an 'e' in the first syllable. In the twelfth, thirteenth and fourteenth centuries the most common spellings were Nesbyt, Nesbyth or Nesebite. From the middle of the fourteenth century the name is usually spelt Nisbet in Scotland.

The name is probably derived from the two words Nesse, Naes or Naesse - a promontory, a headland, a cape; and Bythe, Bit - a dwelling, a particular place.

In Scotland, where it is invariably pronounced 'Nisbet', the ancient spelling remains and throughout the Border district we find it in: Nisbet House (the ancestral home), Nisbet Hill, Nisbet Rhodes, Nisbet Miln, Ancrum, Roxburghshire; Nisbet, a village in Roxburghshire (now The Borders).

In Northumberland, about 14 miles south of Berwick upon Tweed, and four miles north of Wooler, is a village called Nesbit. This is in the parish of

(Cont'd p. 6.)

Doddington and a few miles from Flodden. The Earl of Durham is Lord of the Manor.

Other Nesbits are located in the parish of Monk Hesleton, County Durham, and in Stamfordham parish, County Northumberland, about 10 miles N.E. of Hexham".

The following is a quotation from a 'Locharron' tie:

"NISBET: First mentioned in the twelfth century, the Nisbets appear to have taken their name from the old Barony of Nesbit, in Eldrom Parish in Berwickshire. They appear to have remained in the Border Counties for several generations, but later some Nisbets were in other parts of Scotland.

There were Nisbets in Sweden in the 16th century. Among the outstanding Nisbets were the well known heraldic author Alexander Nisbet, and James Nisbet, the translator of the New Testament into Scots.

Eldrom is N/E of Duns, about 4 miles from Nisbet Hill. Historical references to the name are as follows:

- * William de Nesebite witnessed a confirmation of the town lands of Nesbite to the Priory of Coldingham by Patrick first Earl of Dunbar.
- * ~~Dominus Robert de Nesbit, miles (Old English for knight, or gentleman at arms)~~ witnessed a charter by William de Horuirden to the Abbey of Kelso c1160-1200, and Walter de Nasebyte resigned his rights in the manor Nasebyte in 1255.
- * Jane de Nesbyt and Thomas de Nesbyte, both of Berwickshire, rendered homage in 1296, and several other Nisbets or Nesbits appear as charter witnesses in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries.
- * Robert de Nesbit was one of the hostages for Berwickshire in 1340, Philip of 'Nesbit of that Ilk' acted as sheriff in 1493 and Thomas of Nesbit was prior of Coldingham from 1446-56.
- * John Nechisbet, vestiarius, was the burgess of Glasgow in 1649.

The following names are also recorded:

| | | | | | | | |
|----------|------|----------|------|----------|-------|----------|------|
| Nesbite | 1139 | Nesebyte | 1255 | Nesbyth | 1360 | Nesebith | 1368 |
| Nesbut | 1450 | Nesbuth | 1452 | Nysbit | 1467 | Neisbit | 1467 |
| Nesebeht | 1498 | Nezebit | 1507 | Nezebeth | *1537 | Nesdrett | 1544 |
| Nisbert | 1544 | Nesbeth | 1574 | Nysbet | 1546 | Neisbayt | 1574 |
| Nisbite | 1616 | Nyzbet | 1660 | Nizbet | 1655 | | |

WANTED

(Members' Searches)

Nesbit, William. b. Newcastle-on-Tyne, Northumberland, England, m. Rebecca Noade (Knowde) c1841.

Information is sought on William and Rebecca, their roots and ancestors.

Contact Ruby H. Rawlinson, c/o R. Nesbit, R.D.1, Thornton Road, Cambridge, New Zealand.

* * *

FROM U.K. NEWSLETTER VOL. VI. NO. 2: Information is required regarding Nisbet of Greenholm and the connection between Nisbet of that Ilk and Nisbet of Carfin.

Contact Anthony Nisbet, Colleymore Cottage, Coleshill, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN6 7PU., U.K.

* * *

EDITORIAL NOTE: Many thanks to William Nesbitt, U.K. Newsletter Editor, for publishing our WANTED (Members' Searches) which relate to U.K. ancestors.

Here's hoping for the discovery of links which would be rewarding to members of both branches and develop bonds within an international society.

(Cont'd p. 7.)

WANTED: (Cont'd from p. 6.)

GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH DIRECTORY, National & International 1989, 10th edition by Johnson & Saintry. The following N/N Searches appear.

The G.R.D. is an important international research tool. Some 5000 individual contributors from thirty countries have submitted more than 100,000 entries to the directory which is distributed to contributors and is available worldwide.

NESBIT

- * Pre 1818: Ballygonny, Co. Derry, Ireland.
Mrs. D. Nesbit, 96 Langs Rd., Ascot Vale, Vic., 3032, Australia.
- * 1800-1840: Newart Hill, Bothwell, Scotland.
Wangamata Informal Group, c/o 1 Rowntree, 107 Hilton Dr., Wangamata, New Zealand.
- * 1840+: Muirkirk, Ayr, Scotland.
Ms. L. Hiles, 5/8 Cumming St., West Brunswick, Vic., 3055, Australia.
- * 1744: Bothwell, Lanark, Scotland.
Mrs. D. Kennedy, 868 Tandridge Cres., Rexdale, Ontario, M9W 2P2, Canada.
- * c1810: Newcastle-upon-Lyme, Staffordshire, England.
Mrs J. Sorenson, 21 Lorne Cres., Flaxmere, New Zealand.

NESBITT

- * c1800: Co. Down, Ireland.
Miss. R. Draper, 2/6 Vista St., Greenwich, N.S.W., 2065, Australia.
- * Pre 1841: Loudon, Ayr, Scotland.
Miss B. Lemon, 28 Bega St., Tathra, N.S.W., 2550, Australia.
- * c1850: Ballymacward, Co. Antrim, Ireland.
Mrs. I. Harbinson, 7 Rushyhill Rd., Ballymacwardlisburn, Antrim, Ireland.
- * All: Keady, Co. Armagh, Ireland.
Mrs. S. Vickers, Kartigi, R.D.#2, Palmerston, New Zealand.
- * 1840+: Brantford, Ontario, Canada.
Mr. A. McDonnell, 2101-44 Ave., Vernon, BC V1T 3LN, Canada.
- * James: 1852-60. Australia.
Mrs. H. Craig, 104 MacFarlane St., Fredericton, NB E3A 1V4, Canada.

NISBET

- * Pre 1872: Lasswade, Midlothian, Scotland.
Mrs. J. Hugo, 43 Orient St., Nulkaba, N.S.W., 2325, Australia.
- * 1850-1830: Coldingham, Berwick, Scotland.
J. McIver, 411 Wellington Cres., Dauphin, Man R7N 0M4, Canada.
- * Pre 1700: East Lothian, Scotland.
Mrs. J. Lewis, P.O. Box 638, Revelstoke, BC V0E 2S0, Canada.

* * *

NESBIT, Harry. b. 1879, Bendigo, Vic., m. Ellen Jane Waters of Nareen, Vic., 1910 at Bendigo. In 1911 they lived at Bailbe Street, Horsham, Vic.
 NESBIT, Arthur Hosken. b. 1882, Bendigo, Vic., m. Flora McDonald 1919 at Ashfield, N.S.W.
 NESBIT, Eva. b.1884, Bendigo, Vic., m. William Charles Eddie (builder) c1905 at Redfern. N.S.W., d. c1973 Gosford, N.S.W.
 NESBIT, May. b.1890, Bendigo, Vic., m. John Petheric Laphorn (farmer, later a builder) 1919 at Ashfield, N.S.W.
 Seeking information relating to descendants of the above.
 Contact A. Bruce Nesbit, 6 Kent Court, P.O. Box 84, Bundoora, Vic., 3083.

STOP PRESS

NEW MEMBERS: We take pleasure in welcoming to the Society Anthony W. Nisbet of Ulverstone, Tasmania and Terry L Nesbitt of the A.C.T. Added to those who were mentioned in N/Ls 10 and 11, new members for 1988/89 now total 18. Our membership now stands at 123.

.....NOTICEBOARD.....

(Upcoming Events in the Local and Overseas Calendar)

| | | |
|------|---------|---|
| 1989 | Aug. 3 | Executive meeting. |
| " | Aug.19 | Fireside Chat. (Please see enclosure.) |
| " | Sep.30) | |
| " | Oct. 1) | Country Gathering, Castlemaine, central Victoria. |
| " | Oct. | Newsletter No. 13. |
| " | Oct.27 | Annual General Meeting. |
| " | Dec. 2 | Christmas Gathering. |
| 1990 | Jan. | Newsletter No. 14. |
| " | Feb. | Family Gathering. |
| " | Apr. | Newsletter No. 15. |
| " | Aug. | Social Function. |

GENERAL COMMITTEE:

PRESIDENT Ian M. Nisbet, A.M., 26 Walnut Road, Nth. Balwyn, 3104, Vic., Aust.
 SECRETARY Ian G. Nisbet, 1 St. Johns Parade, Kew, 3101, Vic., Aust.
 TREASURER Peter Watson, 30 Mitchell Road, Box Hill North, 3129, Vic., Aust.
 EDITOR/ARCHIVIST Bruce Nesbit, P.O. Box 84 Bundoora, 3083, Vic., Aust.
 BOARD MEMBERS Dr. Ian T. Nisbet, Gavin M. Nisbet, Lyndell Watson, Gary R. Nisbet, Karen Nisbet.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:

Bruce Nesbit, Dr. Ian T. Nisbet, Gary R. Nisbet, Karen E. Nisbet.

EDUCATION/INFORMATION COMMITTEE:

Heather Ames, Ian G. Nisbet, Gary R. Nisbet.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE:

Joy Nisbet, Gwen Marsham, Heather Ames, Lyndell Watson, Merryn Nisbet, Lesley Nisbet, Elyse Classon, Diana Dimattina, Barbara Leslie, Helen Nesbit.

REGIONAL OFFICERS:

| | |
|------------------|--|
| George Nesbitt | 110 Ardross Street, Ardross, 6153, Western Aust. |
| Brian S. Nesbitt | 14 Davitt Close, Isaacs, 2607, A.C.T., Aust. |
| James E. Nisbet | 53 Yeo Street, Cremorne, 2090, N.S.W., Aust. |

CONTACTS:

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| U.S.A.: | |
| Mrs. R.J. Nesbit | 545 Hartnell Place, Sacramento, CA 95825, U.S.A. |
| U.K.: | |
| Peter W.W. Nisbet | 7 Stafford Place, Weston-super-Mare, Avon, BS23 2QZ Eng. |
| AUSTRALIA: | |
| Ian G. Nisbet | 1 St. Johns Parade, Kew, 3101, Vic., Aust. |



The Nesbitt/Nisbet Society is a Worldwide Clan Society