

NESBITT/NISBET SOCIETY AUSTRALIA



NEWSLETTER NO. 15.

APRIL 1990.

STARTING POINT

(Latest News and Views from the Editorial Staff)

MONOGRAPH: Members will have received by now a copy of the N/N Society's first monograph. We are quite proud of it and hope that you are too. Thanks to the healthy financial situation of the Society, we are able to provide a copy to each member free of charge. To use a famous advertising line 'Membership has its privileges'. Additional copies of the monograph are available (while they last) at \$4.00 each. Further monographs are planned, and we are keen to hear from any member with material or ideas to contribute.

Dr. Ian T. Nisbet.

(NES)-BITS AND PIECES

(Snippets of General Interest from the Editorial Staff)

NEWSLETTER WELL RECEIVED: From all reports, our newsletter is usually well received. But number 14 of January in particular elicited many good reports and, instant action from Bill Kelsey of the U.S.A. who said of our article on Edith Nesbit:

"The picture of Edith Nesbit and the article about her, turned my bones and led me to find out how come I had not encountered her or anything about her. So out I went to the local College Library and then to the City Library. I was quite surprised. In the college I came across one reference and book by her (Beautiful Stories From Shakespeare)then to the City Library. Here I found several of her books in the children's room. These were the Enchanted Castle (1907), The Story of Amlet and Long Ago When I Was Young.

The reference to her personally was; '...the day came in 1886 when grown, and the mother of a household of children, E. Nesbit began a years stint of pieces - one a month for a magazine named The Girls Own. She called the series My School Days'. Also you want to read E. Nesbit's The Bastables. Amazingly enough there was no reference to the Railway Children or The Treasure Seekers. These seemed to be very well known elsewhere. I didn't have time to do more than scan those I found but, they seemed very interesting.

Strangely I found another of the Nesbit family authoring children's books; a Rosemary Nesbitt who apparently had a less exciting life than Edith. Her one title - Colonel Meacham's Giant Cheese. Her reference was Professor of Speech at the State of New York University 1892".

A lightly edited extract from a letter by Bill Kelsey, past editor of the N.A./U.K. Newsletter.

* * *

NOTED N/N'S: Member Robert J. Linford of Red Hill, Canberra, A.C.T., who has had an interesting and successful career certainly falls within that category.

His parents, Robert James and Elizabeth Jane Linford (nee Nisbett) arrived in Australia in 1848 and 1854, respectively.

...2/.

Robert was born in Tasmania in 1917, was educated at Burnie and Devonport High Schools, the University of Tasmania (B. Com), and the Australian National University (Litt. B.).

In 1947 he married Patricia Phyllis, the daughter of Robert Martell Argue and they have two sons and two daughters.

He is a retired civil servant and during his career has served as: Private Secretary to the Prime Minister 1962-63; Secretary Federal Executive Council 1967-68; First Assistant Secretary, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet 1971-75; Administrator, Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands 1975-77, and Secretary, Committee of Inquiry Concerning Public Duty and Private Interest 1978-79.

In retirement Robert now has more time to devote to his hobbies, golf and gardening.

Article adapted from the Australian Debrett, second edition.

SOCIETY NEWS

NORTH AMERICA N/N MINI GATHERING: On December 3, 1989, fifteen members within a radius of 75 miles attended a gathering at the home of Jo Nesbit (North America Secretary) and husband Ray, 545 Hartnell Place, Sacramento, California.

"Lively discussion ensued amongst the interesting and friendly groups about family history and genealogy, and members enjoyed a delicious 'pot luck' lunch". All N.A. members are to receive the quarterly U.K. and Australian Newsletters.

On behalf of the executive and members of the Australian branch we offer congratulations to Jo and Ray and attending members for their effort and offer our best wishes for every success with future ventures.

Editorial Staff

* * *

SCOTTISH GAMES, SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA, U.S.A. : N/N's worldwide have been invited to join with the Clan Dunbar at the Scottish Games to be held at Santa Rosa, California. The Games will be held from Aug. 31 - Sept. 2, 1990, with other events taking place in the week prior to the Games.

- * Sat. Aug. 25 Gala Ball.
- * Sun. Aug. 26 Kirking of the Tartans, Grace Cathedral.
- * Thu. Aug. 30 Jean Redpath, Alistair Frazer Concert.
- * Fri. Aug. 31 All Day Seminar by The Tartan Society.

The Dunbar Activities are to include:

- * Sat. Sep. 1 Dinner Party.
- * Sun. Sep. 2 Barbeque.

On both days a Clan tent will be set up and we would like the N/N's and Clan Home to share a tent next to Clan Dunbar.

If anyone is interested in an hotel room contact Casey Nesbit as soon as possible as they are going fast.

Hope to see the N/N's at the Santa Rosa Games.

Contact Casey L. Nesbit, D.C., 1690 W. Texas - Suite 5E, Fairfield, California 94533, U.S.A. Ph. (707) 428-6090.

N.B. Stuart Nisbet, N.A. President hopes to have a tent set up at these games.

* * *

NOTICE OF A GATHERING AT COLDSTREAM: Because of last year's successful venue, the gathering of the society this year is once again, with the kind permission of Lord Home, to be held at THE HIRSEL, COLDSTREAM, on Saturday, May 26.

It is hoped that all U.K. Society members will be able to attend. Also

...3/.

members from our overseas branches, non members and friends of the society are all welcome, subject to numbers (which are limited).

The function commences at 10.00 a.m. and concludes at 17.30 with tea at The Hirsell Craft Centre. Guests will be welcomed by the chairman and Lord Home of The Hirsell, followed by a talk on 'Heraldry' by Sir Crispen Agnue of Lochnaw.

Following a musical interlude by The Duns British Legion Pipes and Drums, will be lunch at 12.30. At 14.00 Professor Stanley Nisbet will talk on the Translation of the Bible by Murdoch Nisbet circa 1810. Dr. Brian Hawley will bring the members up-to-date with the latest on Nisbet House and Mrs. Sue Nisbet will tell of her 'Visit to the Australian Nisbets'. This will be followed by the Society's Annual General Meeting - then Tea at The Hirsell from 16.30 - 17.30. The cost, including coffee, lunch with wines and afternoon tea, is 18 pounds per person.

For those who are in no hurry, arrangements have been made for a dinner at the Ednam Hotel, Kelso. Last year this was a successful follow-on. Once again, this is subject to room being available as places are very, very limited. Everything is very booked-up in the Border Country on this particular week-end!

For accommodation available around Berwick or Coldstream, contact:

The Tourist Information Centre, Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland, 0289 330733.

The Tourist Information Centre, Coldstream, Berwickshire, 0890 260.

Registration Forms will be sent out to all U.K. members the first week in April, or they may be obtained from Secretary, Mrs. Gillian Wilson, 5 Grove Farm House, Drayton, Bellbroughton, Stourbridge, Worcs. BY9 OBW. England.

* * *

PICNIC GATHERING: A group of nineteen members met for a picnic lunch at Fairview Park, Hawthorn and spent a pleasant four hours together. We were pleased to welcome our newest member, Mrs Ray Caldwell of Burwood, Victoria. There was some uncertainty about the weather, but apart from a fresh breeze the elements were kind and conversation was brisk, informative and entertaining.

FEATURE ARTICLE

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

FROM MODEL 'T' TO JETLINER

By Capt. Thomas Nisbet, O.B.E., D.F.C.



Concluding the two part article from the privately produced book 'Nisbet 1987', by T. Ronald Nisbet and Thomas Nisbet. In part 1 we left Thomas after he had received his commission as a Pilot Officer and was leaving Service Training School Cranwell to join his combat unit.

A new chapter in my life began as I took up my duties as a pilot. In Training Command, I developed talents as an instructor, acquiring an 'A' category. It is one thing to pass on knowledge to a student pilot, or even to watch his behaviour and assess his potential; but there is a personal side also, as I found when I went as a flight commander and testing officer to No 38 Service Flying Training School at Estevan, Saskatchewan, Canada. As testing officer, my job was to take trainee pilots on their final flight test, and decide if they were competent and suitable to be awarded the much coveted Wings badge.

Not all of them succeeded of course, and for those who failed, the heart-break was terrible. For me, I had to harden my heart with the thought that it would be wrong to pass a trainee whose competence was not up to the standard to be entrusted with a bomber and a crew of six. I did so many of

...4/.

those tests that I could make a reasonable assessment of a trainee before we even got into the aircraft. You could tell a lot from his general bearing, how he looked at you, how he set about the task, and whether or not he was in complete control.

Back in Britain, I went to Bomber Command where I flew with No 12 Squadron out of Wickenby, and later with No 170 Squadron flying Lancaster bombers on night operations out of Hemswell. By then I was a Squadron Leader and Flight Commander, and in all, had flown on 31 operations against the Germans.

When I left the squadron for a rest, my Wing Commander wrote in my logbook 'As a heavy bomber pilot - exceptional'. As my previous assessments had been 'above average', I queried the 'exceptional', but Wing Commander Rooke assured me he believed it to be accurate. I had my doubts, but I didn't argue. Soon afterwards I was awarded the D.F.C. At the time it seemed that it was more for long attendance and good conduct, than for any particular deeds of derring-do.

My next posting was on secondment to British Overseas Airways Corporation (B.O.A.C.) flying the Return Ferry Service between Montreal and Prestwick, carrying V.I.P's and others. We used converted Liberator bombers (B24's) which carried up to ten passengers.

Not being shot at was a pleasant change, so I suppose I shouldn't grumble. But these were unpressurised, propeller-driven aircraft, full of high octane petrol, and the Atlantic weather made life truly miserable. Perhaps I did grumble (but not too loudly) that these flights were even harder than bombing operations. At least there you were given detailed instructions covering all aspects of the flight; but here, you were presented with an aeroplane, crew and passengers and told to get on with it! How you got to the other side was entirely up to you.

By now I could see the end of the war was near and I had to make a career decision. There were four options:

1. Return to my pre-war job in the bank.
2. Take a permanent commission in the R.A.F.
3. Go to the McGill University, Montreal and read medicine.
4. Take a contract as a Captain with B.O.A.C.

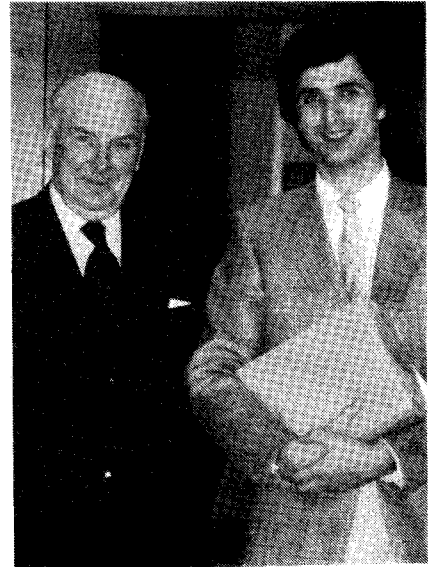
The airline career won. I found great satisfaction as an airline captain, especially when the new big airliners appeared.

There was something else though. Maybe it started with the Model T, and all the business-orientated education and work that followed it. I liked machinery. But more and more, I had to control the people who controlled the machinery, and then the people who controlled the controllers. Whatever the details of the explanation, I found myself being moved from my beloved aeroplane to administrative and eventually management tasks as a general manager, deputy director and personal adviser to the chairman on all matters affecting air safety.

While still an active captain, I had flown the Queen and Prince Philip to Canada in 1963. The flying part was unexceptional - cargo, after all, is just cargo, even if it gets a capital C and H.M. in front - though we did have to divert from Vancouver to Edmonton because of the weather. I had a conversation with Her Majesty and it was all very pleasant. The organizational side of things on that visit was really superb. No doubt it is superb on every Royal Visit, but it was something new for me to behold - and admire. I was rewarded with a pair of gold cuff links with the royal insignia and a splendid photograph, autographed by the Queen and Prince Philip.

Machinery kept struggling to the surface of my thoughts, but management was

...5/.



Capt. Thomas Nisbet
with son Peter

slowly gaining the upper hand. From 1965 I was locked in mortal combat with the militant pilot's union and three other aircrew unions. I must have changed a bit, for in this most non-technical of environments I was able to achieve significant success.

In January 1975 I was awarded the O.B.E. and I continued to work for safety and efficiency till I retired in 1983 retaining only my position as Management Trustee of the Airways Pension Fund, a role I'd played since 1966.

Perhaps I've made this sound as if work was everything to me. It was, I'll admit useful, for it took me to Bristol. And it was work, or preparation for work that took Birthe Thygesen to Bristol. We married in 1951. She was the elder daughter of Konsul V. Thygesen of Thorstedlund, Frederikssund, Denmark.

Our three boys, Michael, Peter and Nicholas were all blessed with brains and able to take full advantage of private education at Preparatory School, Sherborne School, Cambridge, Yale and Harvard universities. There are two grandsons by Nicholas - Christopher and Edward.

Birthe died suddenly in 1977, but she lived long enough to know that her beloved Nicholas had won his place at Cambridge. She was only 47 and her death was a terrible blow to us all.

In the summer holidays of 1969 through 1972 I took my family - teenagers at the time - on flights around the world. We visited the U.S.A., Fiji, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Africa, South Africa and Mauritius. We also took the annual holiday on the farm in Denmark. They were great days and much is recorded on 8 mm film, now transferred to video cassette.

In 1960, Birthe and I built a house of unique design in Sunningdale on a secluded acre of ground and called it Ballencrieff. I've lived here ever since.

Nicholas married Nicola Tye in 1981 in the O.B.E. Chapel at St Pauls Cathedral, and their two sons were christened there by John Glen, Nicholas's housemaster at Sherborne, who had latterly taken holy orders. Michael, a Harvard M.B.A. Baker Scholar, is a management consultant in London, and Peter, a Yale art historian Mellon Scholar, is curator of the Busch Reisinger museum at Harvard. Nicholas, an Anderson-Webb Scholar, is an architect with specialised computer skills.

Now in my 69th year, I have many splendid memories to sustain me, and a few failures; but on balance, I think the gains outweigh the losses, and it has all been great fun.

WANTED

(Members' Searches)

NESBITT, Harry Frank and Anthony William, both bapt. 14/11/1858, London, St. Pancras Old Church (place of birth not known). The parents of Harry Frank and Anthony William Nesbitt were Anthony Nesbitt and Mary Anne ???. The date and place of their marriage is not known, but it is believed to have been Paris, France. Harry Frank Nesbitt was an Anglican sea captain who married Katherine Moy (an Irish Catholic) at Newcastle, N.S.W. on 5 Jan. 1878. An article in the Quirinda Gazette, 1901 refers to his transfer to Maitland, N.S.W. He became a station master after his marriage. It is known that Harry and Katherine had 12 children, some of whom are listed below:

Anthony William, named after Harry's brother or father.

Mary Ann, named after Harry's mother.

Irene.

Harry Frank, named after his father.

Margaret Culmer, named after a relative, Edward Culmer, a sea captain who went down with his ship.

Edward John, named after Edward Culmer mentioned above.

Katherine, named after her mother.

George Charles.

Edith May Nesbitt, (grandmother of Mrs Yvonne A. Elliott) born on 29 Aug. 1895 at Teralba N.S.W., named after the wife or child of Captain Culmer.

Edith May's birth certificate indicates two males deceased and it is known that a daughter, Flora, drowned in her bath aged 3 months.

Contact Mrs. Yvonne A. Elliott (nee Arbuckle) 26 Warlencourt Avenue, Milperra, N.S.W. 2241, who said in her letter "I would love to hear from anyone who is related to me through the Nesbitts".

* * *

NESBITT, Catherine (nee Smith) b. c 1894, Scotland. Parents John Smith and Isabella Parker. Catherine lived in a Presbyterian church-owned house in Campbell St., Balmaine, N.S.W. It is believed that there was a son.

Information is sought of the descendants of Catherine Nesbitt (nee Smith) and her parents John and Isabella Smith, nee Parker.

Contact Mrs. Laurel Livingston, 39 Dora St, Dora Creek, N.S.W. 2264.

* * *

NISBET, Archibald, b. c1825 (? Scotland) m. Mary Hall; buried Majorca, Victoria.

Information is sought regarding Archibald and Mary, their antecedents and issue from their marriage.

Contact Mrs. Donna Nisbet, 24 Galahad St., Marsdon, Queensland 4132.

FOUND

NESBITT, Sally played the role of a telephone operator in the movie "Hopscotch" with Walter Matthau and Glenda Jackson. TV8 Bendigo, Vic., 30/9/1989.

NISBET. T.G., Lt. Col. is mentioned in the book "Japanese Thrust" (p 480) by Lionel Wigmore.

Note: Lt. Col. Thomas G. Nisbet is a member of the society, the father of our secretary, Ian G. Nisbet; and a regular at our various functions. His profile shows that he served in Timor in 1942; and the Ramu (Death) Valley, 1943/44, Aitape and Wewak, Papua New Guinea 1945. Tom retired in 1981.

NESBIT, James, appears in the Register of Claims at Beechworth, Vic., 27th Nov. 1862. The locality of his claim was Shamrock Reef, Silver Creek.

Note: In the 1860s some reef mining was taking place at Silver Creek and its vicinity. Seventy six tons of rock from the Rose Reef at Madman's Gully in 1862 yielded 1 oz 5 dwts per ton. A remarkable yield.

From "Early History of Silver Creek, Beechworth" by Rosalyn McShennon.

Material by Allan Nixon, Author, of Bendigo.

Allan has contributed much to our archives and newsletters; material which he finds when researching for his books. He was born in the goldmining town of Inglewood, Victoria in 1951; a descendant of one of the town's oldest families. His great, great grandfather, George Nixon was among the founders of Inglewood in 1859-60. Allan has never lost his love of the Australian bush, nor his respect for the true "characters" of the "old Australia".

This respect has enabled him to produce a remarkable collection of stories in his books - 'Muddy Boots, The story of a country football club'; 'Inglewood Gold'; '100 Australian Bushrangers'; 'The Swagmen, Survivors of The Great Depression'; and 'Somewhere In France'. Allan has roamed the world in search of 'characters' and the unusual yarn - and has used this in his published material and in the production and presentation of these stories as regular segments on regional television.

* * *

A LINK: NESBIT, James b. 1859 Geelong, Victoria. The grandfather of Colin Nisbet of Ascot Vale, Victoria has been linked to the ancestors of Ms Lyn Dalton of Chelsea, Victoria. To quote Lyn - "I wrote to Ernie and Ann Nesbit of Inglewood, as my gr. gr. grandparents died at Raywood, after apparently living in that area for some time. Ann gave me your name and address and mentioned a Nesbitt/Nisbet Society."

Although birthplaces etc. of Lyn's ancestors were in the same general area as those of Colin, I could see no positive link with those shown on Colin's 'profile'. However a phone call to Colin revealed that his grandfather James Nesbit, b. 1859 and Lyn's gr. grandfather, George Nesbit, b. c1855 were brothers. Lyn Dalton and Dot, Colin's wife, have exchanged a great deal of genealogical data by phone and they will visit at some early date. Our thanks to Ernie and Ann Nesbit of Inglewood, who are not members of the society, for guiding Lyn in the correct direction.

Editor.

BIRTHS



Graham and Brenda Nisbett of Naracoorte, S. Australia are proud to announce the births of two grandchildren: Madison Brooke (7 lbs 5 ozs) born at Bordertown, S. Australia on December 14, 1989 to Jodie and Darren Nisbett; and Todd Jackson (8 lbs 2.5 ozs) born at Flinders Medical Centre, Adelaide, S. Australia on February 16, 1990 to Ashley and Sally Nisbett.

We offer our congratulations to everyone and are informed that all are fit and well. Brenda and Graham ".....are very excited about their grandchildren who give them a lot of pleasure."

* * *

We are pleased to announce the arrival of another N/N, Travis Dale Nisbet. Travis was born on March 28 and is the second child of Gary and Merryn, both active N/N members. At about the same time that Travis was born this newsletter was being put together. Gary, one of the newsletter committee members, didn't make it that night. Some people will go to any lengths to get out of a meeting!

(Uncle) Ian T.

OBITUARY

Thelma Lee Pelleu died in Sun City, Arizona, U.S.A. and Stuart Nisbet, North America President had this to say of her:

"It is with great sadness that I inform you of the death of Thelma Pelleu on January 30, in Sun City, Arizona.

Thelma was one of the founding members of the Nesbitt/Nisbet Society, and since its inception has served as Membership Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer; and for the last four years, as Chief Genealogist and Vice President for North America. She always stood ready to help members trace family trees. One had but to ask.

She had compiled and stored probably the most extensive collection of Nesbitt/Nisbet family records in the world today.

Services and interment took place on February 8, 1990 in Rockville, Maryland. Thelma will be sorely missed."

The Executive of the Australian Branch of the Society, on behalf of our members, offer our condolences to Thelma's family and friends.

.....NOTICEBOARD.....

(Upcoming Events in the Local and Overseas Calendar)

- 1990 May. 3 Executive Meeting.
- " May 26 Gathering at The Hirsell, Berwickshire.
- " Jun. 23 Social Function. (Midyear function - high in Clan Fellowship).
- " Jul. Newsletter No. 16.
- " Aug. Social Function.
- " Sep. Annual General Meeting.
- " Oct. Newsletter No. 17.
- " Dec. Christmas Gathering.
- 1991 Jan. Newsletter No. 18.
- " Mar/Apr Country Gathering.
- " Apr. Newsletter No. 19.

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, Graeme Nisbet,
Lyndell Watson, 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, Catherine Nisbet.

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