

NESBITT/NISBET SOCIETY AUSTRALIA



NEWSLETTER NO. 18.

JANUARY 1991

STARTING POINT

(Latest News and Views from the Editorial Staff)

The editorial staff would like to wish all N/N members a happy and prosperous New Year. We envisage another exciting year in the development of the N/N Society. Many members have responded favourably to our 'Optional Donation Request', with James E. Nisbet of Cremorne, N.S.W. being particularly generous, donating \$100.00. Things are looking good for the Development Fund!

The coming year will see a variety of social events as well as further publishing initiatives. One such initiative is the indexing and binding of the first four years' newsletters, which is already well in hand. Further details will appear in the next newsletter.

Dr. Ian T. Nisbet.

(NES)-BITS AND PIECES

NEW MEMBER, 1990/1991: We are pleased to welcome the following new member: Sandra Mann, The Grange, Queensland.

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OVERSEAS HOLIDAY: John and Shirley Nesbitt of Cannon Hill, Qld. returned recently from an overseas holiday. The following is an edited extract from their letter to the editor.

We recently returned from an overseas holiday and during our conducted bus tour of the British Isles, stopped for morning tea at Jedburgh, Scotland, which we remembered having read about in one of the newsletters.

Our next stop was at Inverness, and in the short time available for a luncheon break we visited the Clan Tartan Centre and purchased a copy of the Clan Heritage for Nesbitt; a copy of which we have enclosed as it may be of interest to you.

We looked for clan Tartan ties and crests which were on sale as we intended purchasing a crest but could not find one; the only item available was a tie with the clan name of Nisbet. The tartan was yellow with red and black markings.

We also toured Northern Ireland and called to see James Nesbitt of Whitehead, an N/N member of the U.K. branch, but unfortunately he was not at home that day.

The overseas visitors kit you intend issuing will be of great benefit to members travelling overseas.

Keep up the good work, your committee does an excellent job.

Editorial note: Members interested in clan memorabilia, should not attach any great significance to the spelling of the clan name, as many variations exist. Memorabilia relating to the clan name of Nisbet apply equally to the many spelling variations, including Nesbitt. We are aware of three N/N tartans, none of which includes the colour yellow. We would be interested in verific-

ation as to whether a fourth tartan exists.

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The following article appeared in the Melbourne Sun of June 22, 1990. It will be of interest to those members who have read the Josiah Nisbet monograph.

Nelson letter for sale

A love letter in which British naval hero Lord Nelson told his mistress, Lady Hamilton, that she was the most beautiful woman of her time, will be auctioned in London today by Christie's. The letter, written in 1801, was expected to fetch up to \$7700.

Editorial note: Can anyone advise as to the price fetched?

WE'RE NOT ALL SCOTTIES YOU KNOW: The following item was prompted by a light-hearted P.S. to a recent letter from Evelyn Nesbit Clark of Eden Hills, South Australia.

"How about some articles on the Irish Nesbits? We're not all Scotties you know!"

How true; I'm 3rd generation Scotch/Irish on my mother's side, and I'm sure that we have many members who are of Irish descent. However there is a serious lack of Irish related N/N information to hand and we would dearly love to receive articles with an Irish flavour.

It is harder to trace ancestors in Ireland than it is in other parts of what used to be called the British Isles. Many valuable records needed by the genealogist were destroyed during the Civil War of 1922, when the Four Courts Building in Dublin caught fire and many Church of Ireland (Anglican) parish registers were destroyed. Fortunately, some Church of Ireland parish registers were not sent to Dublin and some of those that were had been copied first.

Since then the Public Records Offices of both Eire and Northern Ireland have managed to collect what is called 'substitute' or 'secondary' material which is accessible at the respective Public Records Office. So searching is difficult, but by no means impossible. Catholic and Presbyterian Church records, and the records of other sects were not sent to Dublin.

In his book "In Search of your British & Irish Roots", noted genealogist, Angus Baxter provides detailed instructions for locating records abroad. My edition, printed in 1987 was published by Genealogical Publishing Co. Inc. Baltimore, Maryland 21202, U.S.A.; the price, \$12.95.

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TREVOR NISBETT: The name Trevor Nisbett, which appeared in a Melbourne newspaper of August 1990, aroused my curiosity.

I contacted N/N Society member, Trevor Nisbett of Warwick, W.A. and he was in fact the person mentioned in the article.

Trevor is the Manager of the West Coast Eagles A.F.L. club, and I'm sure all members wish Trevor and his club success in their bid for a flag. Not too much though, and not too soon.

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UNUSUAL ADDRESS: In reply to my letter requesting information regarding the address of our only Northern Territory member, I received this letter (which I have lightly edited) from Terry J Nisbet of Alyangula, Groote Eylandt, Northern Territory.

Many thanks for your letter and interest in my location here in the North.

(Cont'd p. 3.)

I shall attempt to fill in the empty squares, so to say. Alyangula is the township of Groote (Great) Eylandt and is situated in the west of the Gulf of Carpentaria, 100 km south of Nhulunbuy, or Gove as we call it and 50 km off the mainland. A permit is required to visit the island as it is an Aboriginal reserve.

I am employed by the Groote Eylandt Mining Co. Pty. Ltd. and we mine manganese which is used as an additive to strengthen steel.

We are looked after extremely well by the company, with housing and electricity provided and return air fares to our home town or point of hire. Most of us use the air fare facility to travel overseas as we are much closer to other places up here, with Singapore, Bali, Hong Kong, Thailand and the Philipines being favoured.

I hail from Newcastle, N.S.W., where I was born. My father Duncan Colquhoun Nisbet, who was born at Kilsyth, Scotland, came to Australia at the end of W.W. 2 and stayed on. I am one of twelve qualified chefs, and I specialize in pastries and sweets, so the standard of meals served is kept high. This is my second visit. I was here for five years, 1975-80 and returned in 1984. We love it. A little hot sometimes, but the isolation is wonderful..... Not many ulcers at this end.

A friend has just returned from the Daintree River in far north Queensland. He pushed on to Cape York where he came across the Nesbit River. I can't find it on any of my maps, but he assures me that it is there. Do you have any knowledge of it? It's between Cooktown and Cape York. Also, in an Australian magazine 'Two Hundred Years', issue 12, there is a photograph of a camel train at Coolgardie, W.A. with the townsfolk and buildings in the background. The photograph is quite clear. There is a watchmaker, jeweller optician and the names of Nesbit & Jerger. It may interest an N/N member with roots in that area. We have a Nesbit radio announcer in Darwin.

I'm a bit of a computer buff. My contact number on Viatel is 068000650. I am enjoying the contact and look forward to the newsletter.

Editorial note: Nesbit River was discussed on page 7 of newsletter 2, January 1987. Nesbit & Jerger of Coolgardie was discussed on page 2 of newsletter 3, April 1987.

SOCIETY NEWS

BILL KELSEY VISIT: Bill (past editor of the N.A./U.K. Newsletter) from Panama City, Florida, U.S.A. spent six days in Melbourne from November 2-7 as the house guest of Ian and Joy Nisbet.

A social evening to welcome him, held on Saturday, November 3rd was attended by twenty members.

On the return journey Bill spent four days with his son in San Francisco, before returning to Panama City.

Editorial note: The sole reason for Bill's visit, was to meet N/N's of the Australian branch. His effort, which was in the interest and true spirit of the society, is to be commended.

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JAMES NISBET VISIT: James from Cremorne (a suburb in Sydney N.S.W.) spent an afternoon with Helen and I on Tuesday November 13. We chatted and compared our efforts in genealogy.

With the assistance of a cousin in the U.K., James has been successful in tracing his line back to the 15th century Nisbets of Hardhill in Scotland. He has an abundance of related information.

I found the few hours far too short a time to digest fully the detailed documentation James has compiled. James has supplied the Society with some material for our archives and he will be supplying further extracts from his collection.

Editor.

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CHRISTMAS PARTY: Thirty members attended the Christmas Party on the 8th of December, 1990 at "St. Abbs", the home of Ian and Joy Nisbet.

The evening was a huge success. Champagne, orange juice and hors d'ouvres were in plentiful supply.

Christmas Carols were sung with gusto. Joy Nisbet led the singing, with Lesley Nisbet accompanying on the piano.

Holly Ames, not quite nine years of age, gave an impromptu performance of Good King Wenceslas. Holly acquitted herself well and received loud applause for her effort.

Towards the end of the carols a visitor - I believe it to have been Father Christmas - knocked at the front door and delivered a bag of 'goodies'; a present for all.

A smorgasbord Christmas Supper was then thoroughly enjoyed by all. The generosity of the Social Committee was evident in the array and variation of the delicious dishes available for one's delectation.

The usual raffle was arranged and the prizes were as follows:

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|--|-----------------|
| 1. Whiskey | Peter Watson. |
| 2. Cream Whiskey | Gavin Nisbet. |
| 3. Chocolates | Camille Ames. |
| (Camille also won the Christmas Wreath and donated it back to the raffle.) | |
| 4. Christmas Wreath | Lyndell Watson. |
| 5. Christmas Fruitcake | Merryn Nisbet. |

Many thanks to our hosts for making their home available yet again, and for arranging a wonderful night's entertainment.

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BALLARAT GATHERING, MARCH 23RD 1991: Please note the date change for the Gathering from March 16, to March 23, 1991. The former date clashed with the concluding days of the Begonia Festival and several other functions scheduled for that weekend. Ballarat has been confirmed as the venue for the event.

Ballarat is situated on the Western Highway (Sturt Street) 113km almost due west of Melbourne, 634 km from Adelaide, 124 km from Bendigo, 766 km from Canberra, 1004 km from Sydney, 3039 km from Cairns, 3866 km from Darwin, 3354 km from Perth, and 1640 km from Brisbane. Really only a short trip from any of those cities!

The chosen site is "On the shores of Lake Wendouree." It will be remembered that Lake Wendouree was the venue for the rowing events of the 1956 Olympic Games, and it is indeed a beautiful spot.

Barbecues under cover are available, also parking and picnic facilities. The actual location of the barbecues is indicated by a circle on the map enclosed. They are situated 0.6 km from the junction of Sturt and Hamilton Streets. We will gather nearby. Look for the Boar's Head signs!

Those who choose to stay over for Sunday will find many places of interest (too many to mention here) in the city and its environs. Free pamphlets are available (we were unable to obtain any in bulk) at the Tourist Information Centre in Albert Street (located on the left at the junction of Sturt and Albert Streets) as one enters the city from Melbourne.

A motorcade may be arranged for Sunday 24th if sufficient interest is indicated by members when completing the enclosed questionnaire.

Please return the questionnaire no later than March 1st, 1991.

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PROGRAMME

Friday, March 22		Dinner (optional)
Saturday, March 23	10.00 - 11.00	Registration/Refreshments
"	11.00 - 11.30	Welcoming Address
"	11.30 - 2.00	Lunch BYO picnic, or BBQ Suggest BYO picnic lunch.
"	2.00 - 2.30	Family Photograph
"	2.30 - 3.30	Second 'Boar War' N/N Highland Games
"	3.30 - 4.30	Afternoon Tea
"	7.30	Dinner (Optional)
Sunday, March 24		Carcade tour (optional)

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U.K. BORDER GATHERING, MAY 18TH 1991: Mellerstain, Scotland's unique Adam mansion near Gordon, Berwickshire - the Border home of the Earl and Countess of Haddington - is the venue for the 1991 Clan Gathering. The Agenda, not available at this, will appear in our April Newsletter.

Editorial note: Unfortunately it is not possible to obtain a satisfactory bromide of the coloured photograph of Mellerstain (supplied by Richard Kerr-Nesbitt) to include with this article.

WANTED

NESBITTS OF SHIELDS AND OF HARBOTTLE OR ALWENTON IN NORTHUMBERLAND, U.K.: This search notice appeared in the U.K. Newsletter Vol VII No. IV, Summer 1990 and may be of interest to our members. William J. Nesbitt of Ambleside writes:

"I have read in the book "The Borough of South Shields" (Andrew Reid & Co., Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 1903) on page 110:

In court there were disputes between the farmers of the mills and the tenants who were bound by the terms of their lease to grind all home-grown corn at the manorial mill. In 1662 "The millers presented John Nesbitt and others for grinding at other mills, but the jury 'doo not find by any prescription that the tenants or inhabitants of Shields or Panns are bound or ought to grind their corne at the said mills unless they please.'

Does anyone know of any connection between the Nesbitts of Shields and those at Harbottle?

Contact: William J. Nesbitt, Roselands, Ambleside, Cumbria, LA22 9LL U.K. with a copy to U.K. Editor: Lt. Col. William Nesbitt, Church Stile Farmhouse, 21 High Street, East Budleigh, Devon EX9 7ED, U.K."

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NESBITT, Isabella: My gr. gr. grandmother, Isabella Nesbitt, came from Tully Lorkan, County Cavan, Ireland and I am trying to find out more about the Nesbitts in that county, and where Tully Lorkan is situated.

Has anything been published in the newsletters about the Nesbits in Co. Cavan?

(Cont'd p. 6.)

Any information will be greatly appreciated.

Contact: Sandra Mann, 196 Wilston Road, The Grange, Queensland 4051.

Editorial note: There are several relevant articles in the 'Wanted' and 'Found' sections of earlier newsletters; N/L 4 page 7, N/L 5 page 7 and N.L 9 page 5. Past newsletters are available at \$3.00 each, which includes handling and postage.

NESBIT, Joseph a farmer, m. Elizabeth Scott. Issue: John, Michael, William Roger, Joseph, Mary Margaret, Elizabeth and Mark.

The family came from Cramlington, Northumberland, U.K. (where they were listed in the 1851 census) and settled in the Maitland area of N.S.W. during the latter part of the 1800s.

Information is sought of the family in Australia and Northumberland.

Contact: Cheryl Maxwell, 102 Bay Road, Bolton Point, N.S.W. 2283.

FOUND

THE NESBIT FAMILY OF THE GLENALBYN DISTRICT: In 1929, James Nesbit with his wife, Maud and son, Keith, came to the Glenalbyn district to farm ground bought from Mr. F. Martin.

They had two more children, Ernest and Jean, who attended the Glenalbyn school.

Jim ran sheep and worked the farm with a team of horses to grow oats, wheat and barley.

In August 1942, he purchased a Bulldog Lanz tractor. Jim died in 1963 and the farm is now operated by his son, Ernest, and grandson, Graham.

Editorial note: Glenalbyn is in the Inglewood area about 40 km northwest of Bendigo in central Victoria.

From the book, 'Celebrating The Diamond Jubilee of The Powlett Plains Hall'. Material by Ian R.E. Clarke of Balwyn, Melbourne, Victoria.

OBITUARY

DEATH OF LADY HUME: We are saddened to learn of the death of Lady Hume, wife of Lord Hume of the Hirsell, Coldstream, Scotland, who died on the 3rd of September 1990 as the result of a stroke.

Richard Kerr-Nesbitt, Past President of the U.K. Branch wrote in the U.K. Newsletter of October 1990.

"Lord and Lady Hume had been most kind in inviting the Nesbitt/Nisbet Society to hold its Annual Gathering at The Hirsell for the past two years. All members that attended those gatherings were very appreciative of the great kindness and hospitality shown by Lord and Lady Hume and their daughter Lady Caroline and the friendly interest shown in the members of the Society. Lady Hume will be remembered by all who had the privilege of meeting her."

MISCELLANY

THE SCOTS CAME FROM IRELAND: The following is reproduced with the permission of the Scots Link.

"Mr. Anthony Richard Wagner, the Richmond Herald and the greatest authority of genealogy, states that the Scots came from Ireland and settled first in Argyll, Scotland in 470 AD under King Fergus Mor MacEirc, Prince of Dalriada in North Antrim. Argyll is the Gaelic for "Eastern Gael."

In the 5th century Ireland was usually called Scotia, and Scotland Alban. Later Ireland became known as Scotia Major and Scotland as Scotia Minor. These Latin names continued to the 11th century and then Alban became Scotland and Ireland Eireland.

(Cont'd p. 7.)

For generations the Irish had been crossing to and fro from Ireland, but between 480 and 505 AD the biggest Irish invasion took place. Three brothers named Fergus, Angus and Lorne from Dalriada, the old name for the kingdom which centred around Balleymoney and the Route in County Antrim, took possession of a large territory around what is now known as Argyllshire. Fergus MacEirc became the first King there. The occupied territory was also called Dalriada, for Riada was a great Irish King who was a direct descendant of the immortal "Con of the Hundred Battles", who lived around 177 AD. Dal Riada means "Riada's portion or part."

The Encyclopaedia Britannica says that the Irish gave Scotland its language, literature, culture and Christianity.

The Fergusons (sons of Fergus) of Scotland, Ulster and elsewhere sprung from this King Fergus and his clan. The present head of the Ferguson Clan Sir Charles Fergusson (the different spellings are of no consequence) owns the lands of Kilkerran, Argyllshire, which have been in the family since 1381, and the original castle which was built in 1400. Every Ferguson should visit the old home of the Fergusons in County Antrim and in Argyllshire and should be members of the Clan Ferguson Society, which is now over eighty years old. Membership is \$10 a year with a \$5 initiation fee which includes lapel button and certificate. The Australian branch is in the charge of Mrs Marion McAdie, 67 Rundell Street, Ararat, Victoria 3337."

From The Scots Link No. 12 of February 1990 - P.O. Box 135 South Melbourne, Victoria 3205, and P.O. Box 370 Thames, New Zealand.

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS: When the wife of Joseph Tully (editor of "The Roscommon Herald") died, her husband readdressed letters written to her, "Not at this address, try Hell".

From "A History of Irish Newspapers", Dublin. Carried in Irish Link No 26, page 35. Address, P.O. Box 135, South Melbourne, Victoria 3205.

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COMPUTER AIDED GENEALOGY:
This article appeared in
the Melbourne Herald-Sun,
Dec. 31, 1990.

VICTORIANS may soon be able to trace their family history through "find your ancestors" outlets located at the Museum and historic tourist facilities.

The Victorian Government Public Archives project will provide a pioneers index which the Minister for Property and Services, Mr Ian Baker, says will be able to provide a "comprehensive family tree on a push-button basis."

The computer operated machines should be in use within two years at central city points and major provincial centres.

Mr Baker said there is a big demand for birth certificates that pre-date 1888 and sees the project as a possible revenue raiser.

The sale of the birth

A hi-tech path to your roots

certificates now generates \$380,000 a year.

His department's Archival Heritage Units are starting the second stage of a major project to "clean up" missing data and duplicate entries for Victorian births, deaths and marriages from 1837 to 1888.

The joint project, undertaken with the help of the Mormon Church and the Victorian and Tasmanian genealogical societies, aims to cover five million names by the end of 1991.

NOTICE BOAR-D

(Upcoming Events in the Local and Overseas Calendar)

1991 Jan.	Newsletter No. 18.
" Feb. 7	Executive Meeting.
" Feb. 17	Family Picnic, Fairview Park, Hawthorn, 10 a.m - 3 p.m.
" Mar. <u>23</u>	Country Gathering (Note date change - See Society News).
" Apr.	Newsletter No. 19.
" May. 18	International Gathering (See Society News).
" Jun. 22	Social Function.
" Jul. 19 or	
" Jul. 26	Theatre Night - Phantom of the Opera.
" Jul.	Newsletter No. 20.
" Aug.	Social Function.
" Sep. 14	Annual General Meeting.
" Oct.	Newsletter No. 21.
" Dec. 7	Christmas Gathering.

GENERAL COMMITTEE:

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The Nesbitt/Nisbet Society is a Worldwide Clan Society