

THE N/NEWS

NO. 23 APRIL 1992

NEWSLETTER OF THE
NESBITT/NISBET SOCIETY
AUSTRALIA

STARTING POINT

(The Latest News and Views from the Editorial Staff)

Members will notice that the newsletter does not contain the usual "Feature Article". This is not because we have a shortage of suitable articles; quite the converse. We have so many articles to choose from it would take over a years worth of newsletters to publish them. As a result, we have decided to publish a special new booklet containing three articles. The booklet will be provided free to members in the near future - yet another benefit of your N/N membership.

Ian T. Nisbet.

(NES)-BITS & PIECES

(Snippets of General Interest)

BOOK BUYERS' BONUS: Due to an error in estimating costs associated with printing, binding and postage of the **soft cover edition**, of "Family of Nisbet or Nesbitt in Scotland and Ireland" by Alexander Nesbitt, members who have purchased and paid for their book will receive a refund of \$4.00 with this newsletter.

We still have in stock 10 copies of this book, which is an excellent buy at \$8.00, including postage. Interested members should get in quick with their order and cheque, to the address shown below.

Your response to the book offers in Newsletter 22 was exceptionally good. We sold 27 soft cover and 11 hard cover of the book referred to above, In addition we have orders for 7 soft cover and 3 hard cover editions of "The First Five Years." Fifteen copies are prepared ready for binding, leaving 5 in stock, and we are still open for orders. Please send your order and cheque made out to the Nesbitt/Nisbet Society, Australia for \$12.00 or \$40.00 for the soft or hard cover edition, to the editor Bruce Nesbit, P.O. Box 84, Bundoora, Victoria 3083.

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ST NESBIT WINE: Unfortunately the quota of 50 crates required to fill a pallet was not reached, so we cannot take advantage of the export tax break which reduces the price considerably. The price would therefore be exorbitant.

Incidentally, to answer the question asked by several members, the ST NESBIT we tasted was a delightful 'red'.

* * *

BROTHER AND SISTER JOIN HOLY ORDER: Alice and John Kevin Nesbit(t) who were orphaned at an early age were brought up and educated at a Catholic orphanage. Both entered the Holy Order of the Church. John Kevin Nesbit(t) became a priest, served as a padre in W.W. 2 and died in 1951. Alice became a Mother

Superior and as at March 1990, was Sister Mary Carmella (retired) at the Mercy Hospital, Albury, N.S.W.

Material by June Tobin, 6 Beddoe Avenue, East Brighton, Victoria 3187.

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CABERS AND CAPERS AT GLASGOW'S HIGHLAND FLING: Every summer, Glaswegians go "doon the watta" on the Clyde ferries for the Isle of Bute Highland Games. Quoting from the Glasgow Telegraph of Tuesday 27th August 1991:

"Widely favoured for this years McBrayne Trophy was last years winner, Lawrie Nesbit a 30 year old architect from Edinburgh....Nesbit was leaving no doubt as to what this particular Scotsman wears under his kilt, as a pair of protruding track suit bottoms attracted derisory remarks from some of the old hands.

The idea is to hurl a 15' by 1' pole through 180 degrees and make it land in a straight line. It proved too much for most including Lawrie Nesbit and allowed Mark McDonald to sneak up the order and snatch the trophy." Material by Eric Tetlow of Bundoora, Melbourne, Victoria.

* * *

EUROPEAN TOUR BY JACK AND MARGARET NESBITT: Margaret wrote briefly of the tour and, as the resume often loses something in editing, I will quote directly from Margaret's letter.

"As you know it was a commercial tour and the best that can be said of that type of holiday is that it whets the appetite for a return visit. That isn't to say that we didn't thoroughly enjoy our trip, as we most certainly did, but the lack of opportunity to communicate with the 'locals' was definitely a disadvantage. Jack went on to do a European tour which he enjoyed, but it left him with no urge to do it again. On both this and the English tour, he was most impressed with the age of the old churches, castles, abbeys etc. When a guide related that this and that church was built in 1200 - something; Jack stood there speechless (unusual for Jack) trying to take it in. I had grown up with ancient places, cobblestoned streets, and treasures, so was unimpressed.

The highlight for me was a family gathering in Norwich, England of the descendants of my grandparents, James and Elizabeth Mason, to which about 170 came."

Material by Margaret Nesbitt, Paynesville, Vic. 3880.

SOCIETY NEWS

NESBITT/NISBET BIOGRAPHICAL INDEX: The response by members to the request by Archivist John Barth to complete and return the Nesbitt/Nisbet Society Biographical Information Sheet has been 'astounding, most rewarding and stimulating'. John has entered into his computer 714 biographies, with more material at hand.

We invite members in the United Kingdom and North America to join in this project.

The editor will send to contacts in both countries, Biographical Information Sheets which may be photocopied and sent to their members for completion. Should the U.K. and N.A. branches be involved in a similar project, we are willing to exchange information.

This is an opportunity to compile the most comprehensive and authentic N/N Biographical List on record; and it is stressed "authentic", as the information will have been supplied by individual family members.

* * *

GATHERING AT FAIRVIEW PARK, SUNDAY 16TH FEBRUARY 1992: Another pleasant picnic was spent on the banks of the Yarra River, Melbourne, attended by 12 members and two visitors from the U.K. Once again the weather was beautiful, even if a little on the hot side for February - our last summer month - but we had a nice shady spot with a cool breeze, ate our picnic lunch and enjoyed a good chat.

Ken and Jackie Feltham from Salisbury, Wiltshire (to the south-west of London) were our U.K. visitors. Jacki is related to Elyse Classon of Kew - an eastern Melbourne suburb - on her maternal side.

Since the gathering Ken and Jackie have visited Brisbane, Mermaid Waters on the Gold Coast and Sydney; and returned to Melbourne on 10th March after spending 5 days in New Zealand. They will return to Salisbury on 3rd April after visiting Bunyip to Melbourne's east.

Jackie told me that Salisbury is a market town in Wiltshire, a sheep and cattle area. She is keenly interested in spinning and weaving, and whilst here purchased several fleeces which she will spin and weave on her return.

Editor.

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GEELONG GATHERING 21ST MARCH 1992: Another successful gathering was held, on this occasion at the Botanic Gardens, Eastern Park, Geelong. Twenty six N/N's attended and there were many apologies.

The farthest travelled were Eric and Jean Nesbitt of Riverwood, N.S.W. and Marie and Jack Foley of Horsham in the Western District of Victoria. Both groups have not missed a gathering and are deserving of our compliments for their continued interest. Isabel Paterson of Wedderburn in Victoria's central north west also travelled quite a distance.

It was nice to meet for the first time the locals, or almost locals, Robert and Anne Nisbet of Clifton Springs, a twenty minutes drive from Geelong, who generously made their Geelong apartment available to Eric and Jean Nesbitt for the occasion. Isabel Paterson's daughter Jennifer, her husband Graeme and daughter Nicole who live in the town, were also present.

Between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. refreshments were taken, acquaintances renewed and first-timers introduced.

At 11 a.m. President Ian M. Nisbet welcomed the members and the list of apologies was read out. Fortunately no black swans were present as they were at Ballarat, and Ian completed his address without interruption. We were a little apprehensive as to how Cassie (the Yorkie) would react towards the seagulls, but she ignored them completely.

As it was quite sunny and warm we moved from the sheltered BBQ area and set up tables and chairs, soaked up the sun and enjoyed the usual casual Clan Fellowship. The Boar War Games, arranged by Gary Nisbet (who was unable to attend) were ably supervised by Ian G. Nisbet and Peter Watson and went off without a hitch.

The fixture differed a little from that of last year, several new events being introduced. Quoits and 6 pin bowling were retained, and Putting Nearest The Pin, Tossing the Caber and the Bottomless Boat Race were introduced.

No expense was spared in the quality and quantity of prizes awarded for winners in all events! Lifesavers and Chocolate Cats were handed out like a Scotsman with no arms. Chocolate Cats were selected to honour the host town's Football team. The Geelong football team is known as 'The Cats', and their logo, a Cat!

The presentation of the Alexander Nesbitt Memorial Trophy, held for the past 12 months by Marie and Jack Foley, then took place. The Trophy is named in honour of the first (to our knowledge) emigrant ancestor of an N/N Society member to arrive in Australia, and is awarded to the member whose number is drawn from a hat. It was won by Isabel Paterson of Wedderburn, Victoria and

must be given pride-of-place in the home, then brought back or sent to the next gathering for presentation.

Two bottles of wine were then raffled. One was won by Andrew Nisbet and the other by Dot Nesbit.

In his final address President Ian M. Nisbet thanked all for attending and suggested Castlemaine, Victoria as the venue for our next gathering.

THE FAMILY GROUP



REAR L-R: Graeme & Catherine Nisbet; Dot & Colin Nesbit; Robert Nisbet; Bruce Nesbit; Ian G. Nisbet; Andrew Nisbet; Heather Ames and Peter Watson.
 FRONT STANDING: L-R: Ian M. Nisbet; Jennifer de Araugo with her mother Isabel Paterson; Ann Nisbet; Helen Nesbit with Cassie; Eric & Jean Nesbitt; Joy Nisbet; Marie & Jack Foley & Lyndell Watson.
 SEATED: L-R: Thomas Nisbet; Holly & Camille Ames.

WANTED

(Members' Searches)

NISBITT, Sarah, m. 1825 William Craigs (or Cragg) at Lancashire, England. A daughter, Elizabeth Louisa Craigs, b. 1855 Lancashire d. 1886, m. 1877 at Wangaratta or Oxley, Victoria, John Mason (a second marriage for John Mason).
 Issue: Peter Mason b. 1877 Oxley, Victoria of whom nothing further is known; Maude Mason b. 1879 died as an infant.
 Contact: Mrs Tessa Kane, nee Clark of 31 McLennan St., Mooroopna, Vic. 3629 who would like to learn of any Nisbitt or Nesbitt from the Oxley region.

* * *

NESBITT, Robert John, b. c1860, Northumberland, England, m. Charlotte Pauline Jesse, b. Germany, migrated to New Zealand, date unknown; twin daughters, Daisy and Pauline b. 30 Sep. 1887, Washdyke, N.Z. Daisy had a son, William Percy Nesbitt b. 28 Apr. 1907 at Christchurch, N.Z.
 Marie Isobelle Nesbitt, 219 Tirohanga Pl., Whangamata, New Zealand would be pleased to receive information relating to Robert John Nesbitt and his wife Charlotte Pauline Jesse and their antecedents.

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NESBIT, James, b. 29 Oct. 1822 in the Wooler area of Northumberland, England was the son of James Nesbit and Elspeth

James m. Isabella Craig, b. 19 Feb. 1824, Milfield, Northumberland, the daughter of Thomas James Craig and Margaret Patterson. James and Isabella had a daughter Elspeth and emigrated to Harvey, New Brunswick, Canada in 1836 and it is thought they came to Australia in 1852.

The shipping list at the Public Records Office Melbourne, has the following entry; part of the shipping list for the "Revenue" which arrived at Melbourne from New York on 16 Oct. 1852:

149 James Nesbit, age 29, New Brunswick, Canada, born England.
150 Mrs. Nesbit, age 29, " " " " "

There were two other names on the list, also from Canada.

148 G. Ross.

147 Robert Herbert.

The four names listed are those of the only emigrants on the "Revenue" shipping list of 16 Oct. 1852 to have come from New Brunswick, Canada.

* Robert Herbert went searching for gold in the Ovens district, Victoria and the Nesbits may have accompanied him as it is probable that they came out together, that is, as a group.

Material supplied by Ewen Herbert of 13 Dumblane St., North Balwyn, Vic. 3104. Ewen, whose father was Robert Herbert's cousin, seeks information of James and Isabella Nesbit after they came to Australia.

FOUND

CATHLEEN NESBITT, ACTRESS: Cathleen received 3.5 Columns in "Who's Who in the Theatre XVI Edition", published in the U.K. in 1977; she was then aged 89. She was born in Cheshire on 24 Nov. 1888, the daughter of Thomas Nesbitt and his wife Catherine (Parry), and educated at Victoria College, Belfast, and Lisieux, France. She married C.B. Ramage.

Most of her work was on the stage and she toured with many successful productions. Her first was at the Court Theatre in October 1910, in which she played the role of Angele in "The Cabinet Minister". Her stage shows are too numerous to list here, but she also appeared in several films including "The Frightened Lady", "So Long to the Fair", "Separate Tables", "An Affair to Remember", "Staircase" and "French Connection 2".

Material supplied by Evelyn Nesbit Clark of Eden Hills, South Australia.

Editorial note: We were wondering why we had not heard from Evelyn.

Well it appears that she was serving a session in the "Krankenhaus". That is not to mean that she was kranky. It's a term her grand daughter Cheri, visiting from Germany, uses for hospital.

* * *

BIRTHS, CHRISTENINGS AND MARRIAGES IN 18 COUNTIES OF IRELAND 1660-1908: For members who are researching their roots in Ireland, we have the births, christenings, marriages in eighteen counties of Ireland, some entries range from 1660 to 1908. We are indebted to Allan Nesbitt of Bathurst, N.S.W. for supplying this data, and the editorial staff will be only too pleased to look up names on behalf of members.

The names are arranged alphabetically based on the christian/given names of the entry. If the N/N christian name/s are known, a search will often give a choice of many spellings of the surname, and as we all know, they are many and varied.

The earliest and latest entries follow, together with an interesting variation of the name.

(Cont'd page 6)

Robert NISBETT. Parents: James/..... Christening 22 Feb. 1660 Londonderry, Temple...

Nora Maude NESBITT. Parents George Nesbitt/Eliz'th Gregg; born 4 June 1908, Fermanagh, Concall.....

Anthony NIZBATE, m. Rachel Goudy, 28 Aug. 1800, Belfast Co. Antrim.

* * *

NESBIT, Irven, m. Joseph Bentley; Issue: Mary Ann Bentley b. 1857, St. Kilda, Victoria.

Source: Genealogical Society, Victoria, Indexes Consolidated.

Material supplied by Eric Tetlow of Bundoora, Victoria.

* * *

NESBITT, Thomas Huggins, was b. 1852 at Whitehaven on the western shore of Cumberland, U.K. (almost due east of the Isle of Man).

"Initiated into the Tynewold Lodge he became Worshipful Master of the Athole Lodge in 1886. He was Clerk to Douglas Town (Isle of Man) and Town Clerk from 1881 to 1898. He then left the Island and became Vestry Clerk and Clerk of the Overseers of the Parish of St. George, Hanover Square, London until being appointed City Comptroller of the City of Westminster. Later he emigrated to Australia where, from 1901 to 1924, he was Town Clerk of Sydney and held high office in the Grand Lodge of New South Wales".

It would be interesting to learn if T.H. Nesbitt was married, if he had children, and if so, did any settle in Australia.

Material from a publication of the Spencer Walpole Temperance Lodge No. 2197, Isle of Man, supplied by Margaret Nesbitt of Paynesville, Victoria.

* * *

NESBITT, Lewis, was an employee of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Rail- way Works at Horwich, Lancashire, England and was a pallbearer at the burial of James Horsefield, ".... whose death at the age of 44 occurred under distressing circumstances on 14th April 1895." James died as the result of a fall from his home-made bicycle and his body was interred at Horwich Parish Church on 18 Apr. 1895.

This article appeared in the Horwich Chronicle of ?? April 1895.

Material by Eric Tetlow of Bundoora, Victoria.

* * *

NESBIT, John, arrived at South Australia in 1879 on the 'Star of India'.

Margaret Nesbitt has a copy of a diary written by Isaac Miell who was a fellow passenger on that trip, and to quote Margaret, "If that John Nesbit belongs to one of our members, I would be happy to give them a copy of this diary".

Contact: Margaret Nesbitt, 4 Government Road, Paynesville, Victoria 3880.

MISCELLANY

A TRUE STORY: In the early part of the 19th century, a Chinese named Ling Tart, set up business in George Street, Sydney, New South Wales and became expert in Scottish traditions. He became so expert in that field that the government of the time referred all queries about Scotland to him. Eventually he changed his name to Ling MacTart.

From Newsletter 22, April 1990 of The Clan Fraser Society of Australia, 15 Birra Drive, Bolarang, New South Wales 2529, and carried in The Scots Link No. 14, August 1990, P.O. Box 135, South Melbourne, Victoria 3205.

HOW TRUE: Each generation imagines itself to be more intelligent than the one that went before it; and wiser than the one that comes after it.
By George Orwell.

OBITUARIES

FORSTER, Catherine Mary (Kit) nee Nesbitt: b. 27 Apr. 1891, Maryborough, Victoria, d. 28 Jan. 1992 at Melbourne, Victoria aged 100 years. She had just returned home after a stay in a Home for the Aged while her daughter, Marie Forster recovered from a hip operation. Catherine's husband, Amos Forster had predeceased her by many years. Jack Nesbitt of Paynesville, Victoria is a nephew.

Our condolences are with Catherine's family.

* * *

HULL, Helen Grace (Nellie) of Coronet Bay, Corinella, Victoria died suddenly on 18 Mar. 1992 in her 79th year.

We offer our condolences to Nellie's husband Charlie, sons Keith and Robert and daughter-in-law Leeanne nee Nesbit, and family members.

* * *

MOSS, Ruth of Bundoora, Victoria died in her 80th year on 27 Jan. 1992.

We offer our condolences to Ruth's daughter Gwenda Nisbet and Ruth's many family members.

STOP PRESS

Robert Linford of Red Hill, Canberra received a letter from a lady in the USA regarding his two part article which appeared in Newsletters 19 and 20, that told of problems he is having tracing his Irish ancestors.

In Robert's words, "Her letter has wider interest than a simple response to the problems that I raised in my article and I think it would be of value to others of the Society who are facing similar difficulties to those that I am experiencing."

Robert has asked the lady, whether she would be happy if he used her letter as a basis for a note in the N/News and is now waiting for a reply.

Members researching Irish ancestors may, I'm sure, look forward to an interesting article when Robert receives the 'go ahead'.

NOTICE BOARD-D

(Upcoming Events in the Local and Overseas Calendar)

1992	May 14	Executive Meeting
"	May. 30	U.K. Gathering at Floors Castle, Kelso, The Borders, Scotland.
"	Jul.	Newsletter 24.
"	Sep.) Oct.)	Visit by Jo & Ray Nesbit from Sacramento, California, U.S.A.
"	Oct.	Newsletter 25.

GENERAL COMMITTEE:

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The Nesbitt/Nisbet Society is a Worldwide Clan Society