

# THE N/NEWS

NO. 26 JANUARY 1993

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
NESBITT/NISBET SOCIETY  
AUSTRALIA



## STARTING POINT

*GETTING THE BALANCE RIGHT: One of the real problems in putting together the N/News may come as a surprise to members, namely having too much material from which to choose. With the Society developing into a real network of N/Ns worldwide, a sizeable volume of information is flowing around the world; so much so that it is becoming increasingly difficult to choose which articles to include and which to hold over. Unfortunately some articles, in being held over, lose their timeliness. This is obviously more of a problem with contemporary material rather than historical articles. Wherever possible, we try to give priority to 'current' material. To enhance the 'newsy' feel of the N/News, two new sections appear for the first time in this edition. Hopefully, they will help the newsletter provide a balance between past and present. Please let us know if it is succeeding.*

## (NES)-BITS & PIECES

**MATERIAL FROM RAY NESBIT:** Some of the wealth of material (as mentioned above) has arisen from the visit of Ray and Jo Nesbit of Sacramento, late last year. Ray and Jo thoroughly enjoyed their time in Australia and were overwhelmed by the hospitality shown 'down under'. Recently we received from Ray three manuscripts, each full of interesting information. The first is an unpublished (and undated) 54 page manuscript called 'The Nesbit Family History' by Reverend John Pratt Nesbit. The second is a copy of a 19 page publication 'Nesbitology', number six, January 1938, published by Otis B. Nesbit. The third is a copy of two chapters from a book called 'An American Family, The Nesbits of St. Clair' by Charles Francis Nesbit, published in Washington, D.C. in 1932. These manuscripts will be the source of many articles for future newsletters. Space limitations allow for just two excerpts below.

\*\*\*

**FOREWORD FROM 'THE NESBIT FAMILY HISTORY':** "This is a copy of the original manuscript of the NESBIT FAMILY HISTORY by the late Reverend John Pratt Nesbit of Princeton, Indiana who worked on it for nearly three decades.

"The author traces the Nesbit (also Nesbitt, Nisbet, Nesbet, Nisbit, Nesbyth, Neasbit, Nisbeit) history from the time of William the Conqueror (1072) through the migration of the five sons of John Nesbit of Roxburgshire, Scotland to the USA in 1725. It covers in some detail the descendants of the five sons up to the late 1930s.

"It was my privilege to meet the author when he stayed at our home in Bedford, Ohio for a few days in the late 1920s. My father, John Clyde Nesbit (1875-1951), was his first cousin.

"This unpublished manuscript has been in the possession of our family for nearly fifty years."

Raymond John Nesbit, 545 Hartnell Place, Sacramento, CA 95825, USA

\*\*\*

THE NESBITS OF ST. CLAIR - GENEALOGIES: "If I were to write of the De Nesbyths or the Whrights or the Ffennes, it would seem strange, but such were the names of three of my grandparents, some 300 or 400 years ago. The genealogies show how De Nesbyth was changed first to Nesbyth, then Nesbet, then Nisbet, then in this country Nesbit.

"The Coffins, having a name it might seem well to consider changing, run unchanged back to the days of William the Conqueror, nearly a thousand years. The name Coffin brings some amusing incidents:

"When I first went to Nantucket Island we stopped at the Nesbit House, but the hotel was full. The woman in charge said: "I can feed you, but you'll have to sleep in Coffins."

"The Coffins living next door had rooms to rent, but as she spoke it the statement was startling. That we should find Coffins and Nesbits living side by side in old Nantucket, whither we went to look up the history and monument of Tristram Coffin, struck me as very interesting.

"One of the distinguished members of the family was given, as a rare kind of joke, the name of Pine - so Sir Pine Coffin he always was, and a very able and cultured gentleman.

"When I was a boy a great family saying used to be: "There is luck in the Nesbit leisure." The Nesbits were all leisurely about doing things, a little inclined to procrastinate. There were instances which were sighted (sic) by one or another in defense of not having rushed to do something, and the result turned out to be advantageous. The family crest would seem to justify that family trait .... Motto: "I byde it," ancient Doris Scotch, meaning "I wait."

From 'An American Family, The Nesbits of St. Clair' by Charles Francis Nesbit, Ch. IX.  
(Editors note - my wife often makes comment on procrastination and indecisiveness as being a Nisbet family trait. It's obviously in the N/N family genes!)

\*\*\*

THE NESBITT/NISBET FAMILY IN SWEDEN: The following article appeared in the Scottish Historical Review in April 1912 under the title 'Notes on Swedo-Scottish Families' by Eric E. Etzel.

**NISBETH.** This Swedish family originated in Scotland, and takes its name from the property of Nisbet in Berwickshire.

William Nisbeth was born in Scotland in 1596. He went to Sweden, and became first a major and finally colonel in the Upland Foot Regiment. He died in 1660, and was buried in Old Upsala Church, where may still be seen his coat of arms. His son William entered the same regiment, and was ennobled in 1664, after proving that he was a member of the family of Nisbet in Scotland.

Carl Wilhelm, 1790-1860, became a major, and gained the gold medal for bravery and Carl XIV. Johan's medal.

Fredric Wilhelm, 1727-1798, was a prisoner during the Pomerian War for three years.

Mauritz Wilhelm, 1681-1767, was fighting at Clissow, where he was shot in the right leg; at Pultowsk, where he was shot twice; at Holofzin, where he was badly wounded; at Reschilenska, where he was shot, and at Pultava, where he was taken prisoner, and was kept at Wolodga for many years before he was released in 1722, when peace was declared.

The present head of the family in Sweden is Carl Gustaf Mathias, born in 1849. He is a civil engineer, the hereditary owner of Tisslinge, and owns other property.

Reprinted from the UK N/N newsletter, Vol. IX, No. 4, Winter 1992.

DOHENY & NESBITT TEA AND WINE MERCHANT DUBLIN: "The Irish are not the people to let a good story die simply because it bears only a small relationship to the truth ....

"If you want to really savor the decor, the best time is mid afternoon before work ends and you can hardly breathe for the crush around the counter. This is especially true of the really old style drinking spots in Dublin, those few houses which have survived the urge to modernise with carpet and formica. One centrally located gem of yesterday is Doheny & Nesbitt in Lower Baggot Street.

"The 130 year-old Doheny & Nesbitt Pub, advertises itself as Tea and Wine Merchants, but at 6 in the evening I wouldn't fancy your chances of being served a cuppa! At

that time of day it becomes one of Dublin's most popular pubs, situated as it is, close to the administrative heart of the capital. It was here, according to Sybille Taylor, in her amusing 'Ireland's Pubs', that the infamous pint drinkers club held its meetings. Membership required the drinking of 17 pints followed by the buying of a round, presumably for all members left standing. One trick played by the club on any unwary, half tipsy stranger who came wandering through the club's back room looking for the Gents, was to send him on out to the back stairs. Drinkers would wait for the loud thump as his head contacted with the new floor put half way up the stairs to make an upper room."



*Doheny & Nesbitt's Pub, Baggot St. Dublin*

The above is an extract from the 'ALL IRELAND MAGAZINE *Introductions*', Vol. 2, No. 8, October 1992, under the heading "A pint of plain is your only man." Material supplied by Dot Nesbit of Ascot Vale, Victoria.

\*\*\*

NISBET AUTHORS by Raymond Nisbet Rolinson: During my visits to the British Library researching Nisbet history, I often sit beneath the vast dome of the Reading Room wondering just how many of the eighteen million books were written by Nesbit/Nisbets.

Checking through the index I found that there were no less than 148 Nesbit/Nisbet authors from all over the world with a total of 567 books dating from 1520 until today.

The range of subjects is amazing from fascinating titles like 'Digestion and the Teeth' to 'The Seige of Damascus', with forestry, law, theology and education among the myriad of subjects.

The book 'Citadels of Mystery' (by L.S. and C. de Camp) is not written by an N/N, but has an interesting reference to one in a chapter on Atlantis:

"XIX was an island supposed to be about a hundred miles west of Ireland. It was known as Brazil or Hi-Brazil. In 1674 a Captain Nisbet arrived in Scotland with some 'castaways' whom he claimed to have rescued from Hi-Brazil. He said that the island was inhabited by gigantic black rabbits and by a magican who had been keeping the castaways captive in his castle until the gallant captain broke the spell that bound them. Alas for romance! There never was any such island near Ireland, although the legend may have grown from some pre-Colombian voyage that reached Newfoundland."

He sounds like one of our family.

## SOCIETY NEWS

N/N CHRISTMAS GATHERING, 5.12.92: Creating something of an Australian record, fifty people (N/N members and friends), including several from interstate, attended the annual Christmas celebrations at the home of Ian and Joy Nisbet. Once again it was a memorable start to the festive season, with plenty of food, drink and song.

The musical fare consisted of Lesley Nisbet on piano accompanying the group in the singing of Christmas carols, a solo by Holly Ames, and a duet between Lesley and Ian O'Brien (on oboe) playing the superb chorale 'Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring'. Lesley and Ian followed up with 'Bring Him Home' from Les Miserables, this time with the help(?) of the N/N family choir. The only disappointing aspect of the musical program was Tom Nisbet's reluctance to give a solo rendition of 'Away in a Manger'.

Music gave way to comedy, with Joy Nisbet showing herself to be a star of stage and screen (well stage anyway) with two solo comedy routines. The only formal part to the evening was another presentation to Bruce Nesbit (see below).

The highlight of the evening, as always, was the excellent Christmas supper (almost a Christmas Dinner) provided by the Social Committee. Despite the large number in attendance, there was more than ample for all.

Thanks are again due to Ian, Joy, the Social Committee, and all others who helped to make the Christmas gathering another N/N success.

\*\*\*

FURTHER HONOURS TO BRUCE NESBIT: On behalf of the U.K. Branch of the N/N Society, Ian M. Nisbet made a presentation to Bruce Nesbit during the Christmas gathering, following on from the previous presentation to Bruce at the A.G.M. (see N/News no. 25). To quote from Richard Kerr Nesbitt's letter to Ian M:

"On our agenda was a suggestion that we should follow your example and make Bruce an Honorary Member of N/N U.K. He really has done a wonderful job as Editor and keeping in touch with us here. So I am writing to ask you - on our behalf - to pass this on to Bruce - where, when and how you think fit ... I think I've found one (a gift) that is appropriate - and may be of interest to you in Australia generally. It is a battered relic - too flimsy to be handled often ... of the Preface to Alexander Nisbet's 'Heraldry'. I think its date is 1690 to 1700: I have a much later edition of this book and the wording of the preface is identical to the old relic. Being written in the first person, makes it a personal message from Alexander Nisbet - the Herald."

Bruce was delighted to receive this piece of N/N history and was deeply appreciative of the gesture from our U.K. cousins. The relic will have pride of place in the Nesbit household. Once again, well done Bruce!

\*\*\*

EXCHANGE OF PUBLICATIONS WITH U.K. BRANCH: Mark Nesbitt, 'Publications ~~Secretary~~' for the U.K. Branch of the N/N Society, wrote to Bruce Nesbit in June 1992, saying that he was impressed with the pamphlets coming out of the Australian Society and that he would like to make sure that they were widely available in the U.K. Several of our publications are already available in the U.K. and Bruce gave Mark material for the reproduction of those which are not.

Mark has an ambitious program for publications coming out of the U.K. The first of these was recently completed - a comprehensive bibliography of books and articles relating to Nesbitt/Nisbet family history. This is a 28 page booklet which will be a useful reference source for family researchers. Mark has provided several copies to the Australian Branch.

Mark is also interested in reprinting older works which are out of copyright. One possibility is a reprint of 'Nisbet of that ilk' by Robert Chancellor Nesbitt (Mark's great grandfather) when its copyright expires in 1994. Stay tuned for details!

\*\*\*

**MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS:** True to the family motto, many members have 'waited' to renew their memberships for the 92/93 year. Undoubtedly this is due to forgetfulness, holidays or just plain procrastination. Now that the holiday season is all but over, there can be no excuse. Peter Watson, our Treasurer, is just waiting for the cheques to come in!

As well as the N/News, members will receive this year the monograph 'Four Short Stories of Nisbet' by Prof. Stanley Nisbet of Glasgow, James E. Nisbet of Cremorne and Raymond Nisbet Rolinson of Melbourne (soon to be U.K.). Society membership continues to offer excellent value for money.

\*\*\*

## N/Ns IN THE NEWS

This new section is for newspaper cuttings relating to or featuring N/Ns. Now they will not only be in the news - they will also be in the N/News! Please send any suitable cuttings you may come across to the editor.

### Green and Guinness in favour on St Pat's Day



It was a case of the luck of the Irish in Inverell yesterday for St Patrick's Day. All around town people were remembering the day by wearing plenty of green in their outfits and telling tales of leprechauns granting wishes. The merrier Irish in town celebrated by sharing a pint or two of Guinness and wishing each other a lucky top o' the mornin'. Inverell store owner Pat Nesbitt (pictured) took his hat off to all the Irish as he celebrated the day in style. Others to celebrate were local bowlers on Sunday with the annual St Patrick's Day carnival.

↑  
Goulburn(?) Times 18.3.92

Sunday Age 20.12.92  
↓

## Jogger halts planes

**NEW YORK** — A jogger who ran across two major runways kept planes from landing at the busy Newark International Airport, authorities said.

"How he got there I don't know," said airport spokesman John Nesbitt after Darrell Stokling, 30, ran from one end of the airport to the other.

"He's not dealing with a full deck," Mr Nesbitt said.

He said the man was taken to a hospital for psychiatric evaluation before being returned to the airport jail and charged with criminal trespass.

— AFP

★ ★ Never Never Land (1977) at 7.30pm on 7. Petula Clark, Cathleen Nesbitt. Thoughtful, sensitive British drama about a lonely little girl who becomes obsessed with Peter Pan when her parents get a divorce.

← Herald-Sun 19.10.92

## A flying visit for Pele

STROLLING down Swanston Walk yesterday, Pele the peregrine falcon didn't know what all the fuss was about.

The one-year-old falcon, on the arm of birdkeeper Richard Naisbitt, was in the city to promote his home, the Healesville Sanctuary.

"Pele is part of our program, where injured birds of prey are treated and rehabilitated to be returned to the wild," the sanctuary's Noelle McCracken said.

But Pele, who was hit by a car seven months ago, will stay at the sanctuary because he will never be strong enough to survive in the wild.

Pele is being trained to be part of a daily presentation of free-flying birds, including falcons and two wedge-tailed eagles.



● Head-turner ... Pele patrols Swanston Walk with Healesville Sanctuary birdkeeper Richard Naisbitt.

Herald-Sun 18.7.92

## NESBIT GARDENS



**Luxurious 2 bedroom Town Villas**  
Completion end of January '93 - Only \$153,500

These 14 lovely Villas with pool and cabana are set in 1.5 acres of glorious tropical landscaping. Just 5 minutes from the heart of Cairns city, all conveniences are "just around the corner".

Pitched, terra-cotta tiled roof; lock-up garage; two large, air-conditioned bedrooms; delightful bay windows to master bedroom and kitchen; rendered walls. The quality fittings include carpets, fans, dishwasher and ceramic cooktop. Contemporary colour scheme; total security. These Villas are unquestionably a blue-chip property investment.

More and more people are seeking compact, low maintenance, secure and affordable homes. Nesbit Gardens incorporates all of the features sought by astute home-seekers - INCLUDING THE RIGHT LOCATION!

**NESBIT GARDENS.** The sign of things to come in the beautiful city of Cairns.

Age 'Green Guide' 31.12.92

**11.05 FAMILY PLOT.** 1976 comedy thriller starring Karen Black and Bruce Dern. A phony psychic and her lover encounter a sinister couple while searching for a missing heir. With Barbara Harris, William Devane, Ed Lauter, Cathleen Nesbitt. Directed by Alfred Hitchcock. R, PGR (Preview: Page 11).

Recent advertisement in  
← a Gold Coast local paper  
(courtesy Elyse Classon)

## THE WANTED LIST

**DESCENDANTS OF JOSIAH NISBET IN NEW ZEALAND:** David Mends of Huddleston, Virginia, believes he is a descendant of Josiah Nisbet (step-son of Lord Horatio Nelson) through his daughter, Georgina Nisbet, and George Mends 1st. George Mends 2nd (presumably their son) migrated to New Zealand c1859, married Rhia Matuaharama at Foxton c1871 and they had five children. David is keen to learn of any relatives in New Zealand or Australia.

Contact - David Mends, Box 134, Huddleston, VA 24104, U.S.A.

**IRISH LINKS TO JAMES NESBITT:** James Nesbitt (b. 1811, d. 31.12.1882) from Ireland (Tipperary or neighbouring counties) emigrated to Australia in 1842, possibly on the 'Anne Milne'. His wife, Catherine Fogarty, (b. 1818, d. 1855) from Closual, Co. Tipperary, arrived in Australia 28.1.1842 aboard the 'Sir Edward Paget'. They married on 26.9.1842 and had two children, Michael (b. 5.5.1846, d. 13.1.1914) and Daniel (b. 1852, d. 30.6.1927). After Catherine's death, James married Julia McCarthy on 9.1.1856 or 1857. They had five children: Catherine (b. 1857), James (b. 1858), Sarah Anne (b. 1860, d. 8.4.1870), Eliza (b. 1862, d. 25.8.37) and William (b. 17.3.1865, d. 2.2.1929). James Nesbitt and his family lived in Goulburn, N.S.W.

Michael Nesbitt of Invernell, descendant of James and Catherine's son Michael, is seeking information on James Nesbitt's family in Ireland. James' father was a Patrick or James Nesbitt and his mother's maiden name was Newman.

Contact - Mark Nesbitt, c/o Promaths P/L, 17 Bridge St., Pymble, N.S.W. 2073.

\*\*\*

**DESCENDANTS OF CORNELIUS AND TERESA NESBITT:** Cornelius Nesbitt (b. 1889, d. 21.5.1962) and Teresa Anastasia (b. 1890 or 1891, d. 14.6.1968) lived in Goulburn, N.S.W. and had six children: Agnes(?), Marie(?), Terry, Loyola (b. c1923, d. 24.9.1925), Margaret and Kathleen. Information is sought regarding Cornelius and Theresa's descendants.

Contact - Mark Nesbitt, c/o Promaths P/L, 17 Bridge St., Pymble, N.S.W. 2073.

*Editor's note: Pat Nesbitt, who is featured in the newspaper cutting on page 5, is Mark Nesbitt's father. Pat is the current owner of PJ Nesbitt & Son, a Drapers store in Invernell, which was founded in 1919 by his grandfather. Mark is moving to Invernell this month to become the fourth generation of Nesbitts to work in the store. Mark suggests any N/N members passing through Invernell may like to call in and spend some money at PJ Nesbitt & Son.*

## FAMILY SNIPPETS

This new section is for very brief snippets of news to keep members informed on the comings and goings of our extended family. Send snippets direct to the Editor, or scribble a note on your membership renewal form and Peter or Lyndell Watson will send it on. One line is all we need!

- \* Gary and Merryn Nisbet (ID 003) recently moved to a new house - their new address is 37 Neuparth Rd., Croydon Nth., Victoria 3136.
- \* Deborah Browning (Nesbit) and family (ID 127) have moved from Bairnsdale to a hobby farm in Bruthen to, amongst other things, breed quarterhorses.
- \* Raymond Nisbet Rolinson (ID 173) and wife Joan, are returning to reside in England after a period in Melbourne.
- \* Peter Nisbet, brother of members Ian (ID 053) and Gary (ID 003) married Tania Thiele from Adelaide on 22.11.92.

\*\*\*

## **NOTICE BOARD**

(Upcoming events in the Local and Overseas Calendar for 1993)

21 Feb.	Family picnic at Fairview Park, 11.00 am, BYO everything.
20 Mar.	Country Gathering - Hanging Rock area.
April	Newsletter 27.
April/July	Theatre Party (42nd Street).
22 May	Education/Information evening - Margaret Hookey.
29 May	U.K. Gathering - probably in Edinburgh.
July	Newsletter 28.
18 Sept.	A.G.M. - Speaker to be announced.

### GENERAL COMMITTEE:

**PRESIDENT:** Ian M Nisbet, 26 Walnut Rd, Nth Balwyn, Vic 3104, Aust.  
**SECRETARY:** Ian G Nisbet, 1 St Johns Pde, Kew, Vic 3101, Aust.  
**ASS SEC:** Effie Todd, 18 Hillview Ave, Mt Waverley, Vic 3149, Aust.  
**TREASURER:** Peter Watson, 30 Mitchell Rd, Box Hill North, Vic 3129, Aust.  
**EDITOR:** Ian T Nisbet, 17 Palpera Tce, Greensborough, Vic 3088, Aust.  
**ARCHIVIST:** John Barth, 15 Duke St, Ashburton, Vic 3147, Aust.  
**BOARD:** Bruce Nesbit, Gavin M Nisbet, Graeme Nisbet, Lyndell Watson,  
 Ian G O'Brien, Karen Nisbet, Robert K Nisbet.

### NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:

Ian T Nisbet, Gary Nisbet, Graeme Nisbet, Karen Nisbet.

PUBLICATION OFFICER: Bruce Nesbit

MEMBERSHIP CONTACT OFFICER: Lyndell Watson

DISTRIBUTION OFFICER: Andrew Nisbet

### EDUCATION AND INFORMATION COMMITTEE:

Graeme Nisbet, Ian G Nisbet, Gavin Nisbet

### SOCIAL COMMITTEE:

Joy Nisbet, Heather Ames, Lyndell Watson, Merryn Nisbet, Lesley Nisbet,  
 Elyse Classon, Jan Nisbet, Barbara Leslie, Helen Nesbit, Catherine Nisbet,  
 Michle Jensen, Anne Nisbet.

### REGIONAL OFFICERS:

George Nesbitt, 110 Ardross St, Ardross, WA 8153, Aust.  
 Brian S Nesbitt, 14 Davitt Cl, Isaacs, ACT 2607, Aust.  
 James E Nisbet, 53 Yeo St, Cremorne, NSW 2090, Aust.

### CONTACTS:

**USA:** Mrs R J Nisbet, 545 Harnell Pl, Sacramento, CA 95825.  
**UK:** Peter W W Nisbet, 7 Stafford Pl, Weston-super-Mare, Avon BS23 2QZ.  
**AUST:** Ian G Nisbet, 1 St Johns Pde, Kew, Vic 3101.



**The Nesbitt/Nisbet Society is a Worldwide Clan Society**