

THE N/NEWS

NO. 28 JULY 1993

NEWSLETTER OF THE
NESBITT/NISBET SOCIETY
AUSTRALIA



STARTING POINT

ANOTHER YEAR: As we approach the end of the seventh (yes seventh!) year of existence of the N/N Society Australia, it is once again time to consider how things are going. For the past couple of years membership has been static at around 120. At this level, the Society can stay viable and active indefinitely. However, stagnation is a possibility against which we must be ever vigilant. For this reason, we must maintain a steady flow of new members. This must be an ongoing responsibility of all members. In addition, existing members should consider taking on an executive position at the upcoming AGM (see Notice Board, p8). The Society has been served extremely over many years by our various office bearers, but there is always a place for 'new blood'. Why not have your say in how the society should progress from here? Remember, any society is only as strong as its members.

(NES)-BITS & PIECES

ON TOP OF THE WORLD: Bruce Nesbit received a postcard from our globetrotters, Catherine and Graeme Nisbet of Mitcham, Victoria, who on May 24 were about as far north as one could be whilst in Europe - 71 degrees, 10 minutes north. The postcard is a beautiful sunset taken on the cliff at Nordkapp, Norway. The note on the reverse of the card said in part, "We have made it to the top of the world and whoever said this trip was the most beautiful in the world, was a master of understatement. The weather has been kind to us since we left home and we hope it will last". Graeme and Catherine are due back in August and send their best wishes to all N/Ns.

ALBERT NESBITT: Those members who saw the television presentation of the film 'The Leaving of Liverpool', which was shown about August 1992 on the ABC, may have noticed that one of the children was named Albert Nesbitt. Evelyn Nesbit Clark of Eden Hills, South Australia noted the name in the credits and wrote to the ABC in Sydney to ascertain whether or not the character was fictitious. Evelyn received a letter on May 10, 1993 from the ABC, TV Drama, Gore Hill, NSW. The writer, Penny Chapman, had been in touch with the writers of the programme, and the answer was "... no, the character of 'Albert Nesbitt' in 'The Leaving of Liverpool' was not based on a real person".

Material from A. Bruce Nesbit, 6 Kent Crt, Bundoora 3083, Victoria.

THE AMERICAN LEGACY

from Denise Legge, 58 Chapman St, Proserpine, Qld 4800.

Relatives of the Simpson family near Ballymena, County Antrim who are members of The Irish Link featured prominently in American and Brisbane papers in 1951.

James S. Simpson was a lone member of this family. He went to San Jose, California, was a prosperous tile manufacturer and died there 5 October 1951 aged 78. He was found lying dead on the floor of his home by neighbours and no inquest was held as his death was presumed to be by heart failure.

In his will he left his \$100,000 estate to Mrs Shirley Mallamace, aged 30, "*who was like a daughter to me*" in the will he signed.

Two cousins of his, Elizabeth Nesbit of Davidson Terrace, Teneriffe, Brisbane and William Simpson of Harrowby St, Brisbane contested the will saying that James signed "*under threats, menace, duress and undue influence*".

The Supreme Court rejected this and appointed Mrs Mallamace as Administratrix pending probate.. It came to light that Mrs Mallamace's husband had previously inherited a \$10,000 house and estate from Joseph Senter aged 72.

Three years later Mallamace was found to have been witness to the will of Daniel C. Leonard who was found to be beaten to death and strangled before being thrown into the surf at Santa Cruz. That will left most of Leonard's estate to Frank Simonetti, a friend of Mallamace.

The Simpson family eventually won the case and the Brisbane and San Jose papers listed the two Brisbane cousins and twenty one other cousins who were to share the \$113,000 American estate. The Simpsons had come to Queensland in the early 1860s.

Material reproduced from 'The Irish Link', March 1993.

REMINDER

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SATURDAY 18 SEPTEMBER

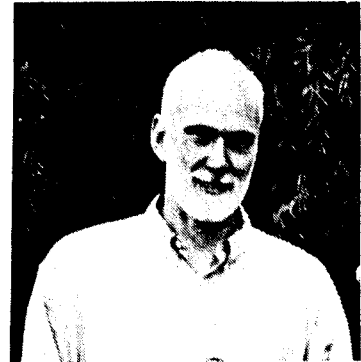
PUT THIS DATE IN YOUR DIARY – NOW!

SOCIETY NEWS

PROFILE: Continuing on with our series of 'pen portraits', in this N/News we feature our secretary, Ian Grainger Nisbet (the second of our trio of Ian Nisbets on the executive).

Ian G. Nisbet: Ian was born in Perth in 1947, the son of Tom and Beverley Nisbet. Ian grew up in Perth, attending Christchurch Grammar school and progressing into Agricultural Science at the University of Western Australia. Although Ian started his degree in Western Australia, he moved to Melbourne and completed his degree at the University of Melbourne in 1966. He then completed a Dip. Ed. at Melbourne Teacher's College.

Ian moved to Warrnambool, where he taught science at Warrnambool High School for four years. He then moved back to Melbourne to teach at Burnley Horticultural College for further four years. In 1979 Ian decided to move out of teaching and took up the position of Science Officer in the National Park Service. He still holds this position, although nowadays it is located within the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.



In 1975, Ian married Lesley Voutier. Ian and Lesley have two children, Tom (age 10) and Anna (age 8). They have lived in Kew since 1975.

Ian has been an active member of the N/N Society since its inception and has filled the role of secretary for the whole seven years. His quiet, thoughtful manner is belied by his imposing presence - Ian is 1.93m (6ft 4in) tall, making him one of our biggest N/Ns!

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE: The Society has in stock a number of copies of monographs and books that we have published over the past few years. Members who would like additional (or replacement) copies of these publications should get in contact with our Publications Officer, Bruce Nesbit, while they are still available.

MONOGRAPHS

	In Stock	Handling and postage	
		Aust.	N.Z.
1 "The Progression of a Branch of the Dirleton Nisbets to Australia", by Robert V. Nisbett.	12	\$ 5.00	\$6.00
2 "Nisbet House", by Robert Chancellor Nesbitt.	11	\$ 5.00	\$6.00
3 "Josiah Nisbet RN", by Richard K. Nesbitt.	20	\$ 5.00	\$6.00
4 "Nesbitt/Nisbet Bibliography", by Mark Nisbet.	18	\$ 5.00	\$6.00

BOOKS

5 History of the Family of Nisbet or Nesbitt in Scotland and Ireland", by Alexander Nesbitt of Lismore, Co. Cavan, Ireland.	4	\$18.00	\$20.00
6 "The First Five Years of The Nesbitt/Nisbet Society - Australia in Newsletters". In Soft cover	1	\$20.00	\$22.00
In Hard cover	1	\$50.00	\$52.00

NEWS FROM THE UK: Bruce Nesbit recently received a note from Mark Nesbitt of the UK N/N Society. The following is an abridged version of Mark's letter.

"The Dirleton and Four short stories booklets have been successfully copied and distributed here. Response from members is highly favourable. Many thanks for your help in producing these."

"The meeting (UK gathering) in Edinburgh went very well. It has been decided that next year's meeting will be in Edinburgh too (perhaps at the Castle), thus freeing the committee to think two years in advance for a different location for 1995. Major David Nisbet is keeping a sharp eye on Nisbet House as a possible venue."

Jo and Ray Nesbit from Sacramento (visitors to Australia last year) were present at the UK gathering. In a letter to Joy Nisbet, Jo mentioned that no Australians had managed to make it across this time.

A separate piece of information from the UK Society relates their joint sponsorship of an appeal to restore the tomb of Lady Frances Nelson, mother of Josiah Nisbet. Space restrictions prevent reproduction of the material regarding the appeal in this newsletter. Anyone interested in donating should contact the Editor for further details.

'DISCOVERING SCOTLAND' - VIDEO EVENING AT 'ST ABBS': The Education/Information evening which had previously been scheduled for 29 May, has now become a video evening on Saturday 31 July. As usual, the venue is the home of Ian and Joy Nisbet. For those members who have previously been to Scotland, here is a good chance to relive some memories. For those of us who haven't yet been, here is the chance to see what we've been missing! The video runs for 105 minutes and covers all the marvels of Scotland including (especially for N/Ns) 'the awesome vistas of the Border Country'. Showtime is at 8.00 pm, and will (as usual) be followed by supper. Interested members should contact Joy by 26 July. In other words, as soon as you read this newsletter, get on the phone and say YES!

FAMILY SNIPPETS

This section is for 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!

- * Michael and Suzanne Nesbitt of George Street, Inverell are the proud parents of a new daughter, Eliza May, born on February 16. Best wishes to Michael and Suzanne from all N/N members.
- * Effie and Blair Todd, who have been touring Scotland and the UK will be arriving back home shortly.
- * Also on holidays are Elyse and John Classon who are 'up north' visiting family.
- * June Slee's thesis on Dr Alexander Nisbet's behavioural management program (see newsletters 3 p6, 11 p1, 17 p5) has been accepted. June will receive her PhD in Special Education from Macquarie University in September.

FEATURE ARTICLE

In this edition of the N/News we feature the second part of Mark Nesbitt's excellent article
IN SEARCH OF THE NISBET FAMILY IN EDINBURGH.

ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH Off Lothian Road, below the Castle

This large Victorian structure towers above the site on which there has been a church since at least 1127. The only early relic to have survived the numerous rebuildings is the Nisbet of Dean vault, built in 1692 for Henry Nisbet. On the north wall, facing a flight of stairs leading to his tomb, is Henry Nisbet's coat-of-arms. Above the entrance to this lies a half-defaced inscription (apparently still surviving - I have not yet visited the church) erected by Henry, in Latin to be translated as follows:

Henry Nisbet of Dean, preferring Fame to Riches, and Virtue to Fame, despising earthly things, and aspiring after Heavenly enjoyments, being mindful of death and waiting for the resurrection, in his own life, and at his own sight, caused build this sepulchral monument for him, in the year of our Lord 1692.

As the parish historian points out, Henry Nisbet may have been exhibiting quiet humour, for his building of the tomb resulted in heaps of unpaid bills and uncleared rubble in the church, both cleared only after a number of court cases.

This was not the first Nisbet of Dean to battle with the church authorities; in 1680 Sir Patrick Nisbet, Henry's father, was found to have borrowed large amounts of money -some 2000 merks- from the poor fund of the parish. How the case was eventually resolved is not known; what is clear is that Scottish judges did very well out of payments from both sides; the record of the church's outlays (discreetly paid through servants and sons) still survives.

DEAN HOUSE

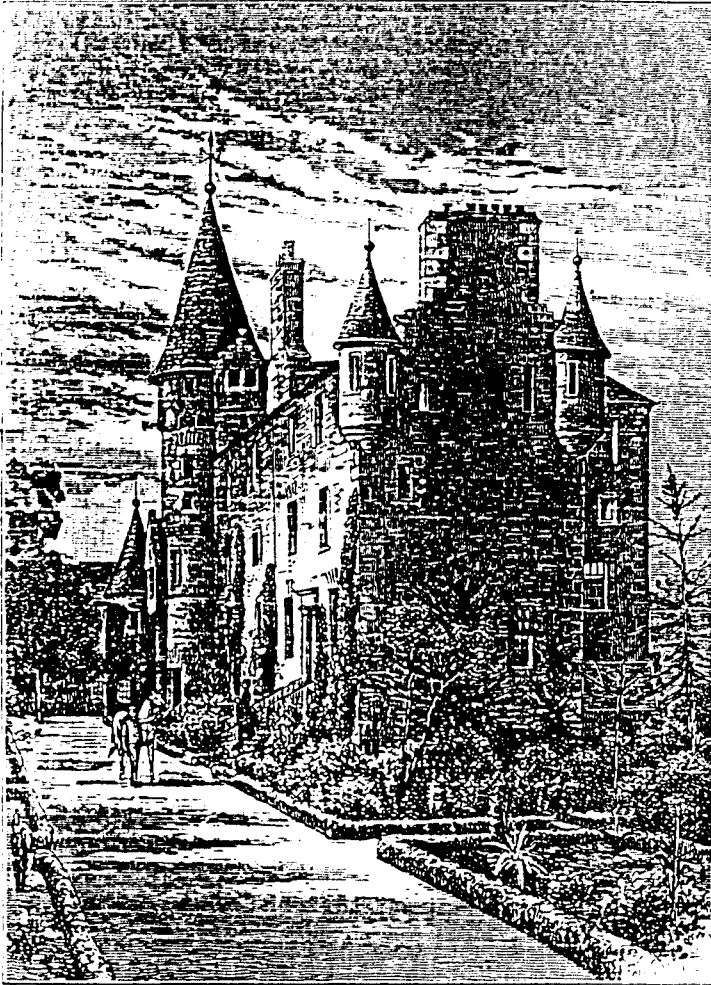
The old House of Dean was demolished in 1845, to make way for the Dean Cemetery (open 9-5, dusk in winter). Although the house is long gone, many sculptured stones from it survive in the cemetery, which itself is well worth visiting for the romantic situation above the Water of Leith and its marvellous collection of Victorian monuments. Its an attractive (but steep) walk from the city centre, down through Dean Village and up to Dean Path.



THE DEAN HOUSE, 1832. (After a Drawing by Robert Gibb)

The Dean Estate was acquired by Sir William Nisbet in 1609, when the house was greatly enlarged. After its demolition, many of its sculptured stones were built into the terrace wall supporting the edge of the cemetery at the valley edge (to your left as you enter through the main gate). There is a full list of these in "Nisbet of that Ilk". A present day inventory and photographic record would make an worthwhile project, especially as I could only locate 11 of the 20 inscriptions recorded in "Nisbet of that Ilk" (pp. 295-299). Those remaining include, from the Lodge end of the terrace, the arms of Henry Nisbet, Lord Provost of Edinburgh, and his son Sir Patrick; also Sir William Nisbett, and of their spouses.

CRAIGINTINNIE HOUSE Restalrig



CRAIGINTINNIE HOUSE.

The Craigintinnie estate was owned by that branch of the Dirleton Nisbet family from the 17th century to 1765. The house (easily reached by bus 35 from the St. James Centre to the corner of Marionville Road and Restalrig Road) is a large baronial mansion of the early 17th century, restored in the 1850s. The house is now owned by the Lothian Regional Council, but is in good condition and playing a useful part in community life. It is four stories high, with a prominent stair turret and smaller turrets projecting from the other corners. To the east of the house is an ugly modern extension built in 1978; to the west are the remains of massive foundations, of the 1852 extension demolished after bomb damage. The garden wall, with handsome gate piers and corner turrets, still survives. I was able to visit the second floor of the house, a community mental health office, where the main room has a fine stone fireplace with two inscriptions in Gothic lettering, bearing stern religious thoughts.

NISBETS IN THE LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES

I also took the opportunity to investigate N/N references in a variety of libraries and archives. I'm still digesting the mass of data I found (with a view to publication in the Newsletter, of course), but give here a brief guide to N/N resources in Edinburgh:

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SCOTLAND (George IV Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 1EW. Tel: 031-226 4531. Open Mon 9.00-17.00, Tues-Thur 9.00-21.00, Fri-Sat 9.00-17.00). The largest and best library in Scotland, functioning both as a major copyright library with holdings of modern books in all fields, and as a comprehensive library of books of Scottish interest dating from all periods.

The third and final part of this article will feature in the next edition of the N/News.

THE WANTED LIST

IRISH LINKS TO JAMES NESBITT: James Nesbitt (b. 1811, d. 31.12.1882) from Ireland (Tipperary or neighbouring counties) emigrated to Australia in 1842 on the 'Sir Edward Paget'. His wife, Catherine Fogarty (b. 1818, d. 1855) from Closual, Co. Tipperary, arrived in Australia 28.1.1842, also on 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), Elizabeth (b. 1862, d. 25.8.1937) and William (b. 17.3.1865, d. 2.2.1929). James Nesbitt and his family lived in Goulburn, N.S.W.

Michael Nesbitt of Inverell, descendant of James and Catherine's son Michael, is seeking information on James Nesbitt's family in Ireland. James' father was John Nesbitt and his mother's maiden name was Healy.

Contact - Michael Nesbitt, c/o PJ Nesbitt & Son, PO Box 25, Inverell, N.S.W. 2360.

Editor's note: Observant N/Ns will recognise that this search notice bears a remarkable similarity to one published in N/News 26. Michael recently wrote to say that the original notice contained several errors, some of which were editorial errors, others which were mistakes or inaccuracies in the information originally provided. In the circumstances, the best option seemed to be to repeat the whole notice with the correct information. Please note that the listing for 'descendants of Cornelius and Teresa Nesbitt' (also in N/News 26) is correct, except for Michael's name and address.

FOUND

A Plaque with the following inscription is in St. Johns Church, Calcutta, as at May, 1993.

SACRED
TO THE MEMORY OF
WALTER NISBET ESQ.
OF THE BENGAL CIVIL SERVICE
WHO THOUGH DEAD, STILL LIVETH IN THE RECOLLECTION
OF SORROWING RELATIONS, AND OF THOSE NUMEROUS FRIENDS
WHOSE ATTACHMENT HE CONCILIATED
DURING TWENTY THREE YEARS RESIDENCE IN CALCUTTA.
OB: OCTOB XI ANNO DOM: 1833 AETAT SUAE 43
"THANKS BE TO GOD WHO GIVETH US THE VICTORY THRO' JESUS CHRIST."

THIS TABLET IS ERECTED BY HIS SURVIVING BROTHERS AND SISTERS,
AS A JOINT TRIBUTE OF THEIR GRATEFUL AFFECTION,
AND IN TESTIMONY OF HIS ACKNOWLEDGED WORTH.

A photograph of the plaque was supplied by Gavin Nisbet of Mount Waverley, Victoria.

NOTICE BOAR-D

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

31 July	Video night - 'Discovering Scotland' (see p4 for details).
18 Sept.	A.G.M. - Speaker to be announced.
Oct.	Newsletter 29.
30 Oct.	To be advised.
4 Dec.	Christmas Party.
Jan.	Newsletter 30.
3/4 Mar.	Country Gathering - Bendigo

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,
 Michie Jensen, Anne Nisbet.

REGIONAL OFFICERS:

George Nesbitt, 110 Ardross St, Ardross, WA 6153, 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