

NESBITT/NISBET SOCIETY

Australia



NEWSLETTER NO. 2.

JANUARY 1987

After much deliberation it has been decided to base the introduction of our second newsletter on an article written by the founders of the Nesbitt/Nisbet Society, Prof. J.A. Nesbitt and Dolores G. Nesbitt of Iowa City, Iowa U.S.A. The article appeared in their Newsletter Vol. 2. No. 1., 1984, page 11.

"PEOPLE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN N/N MATTERS: Providing a means of making contact with other N/N's who are interested in family heritage is an important function of the society. We are pleased to be able to provide a network of N/N's so that we may all interact with one another, sharing information that we have with others and gaining from others, information that may represent hundreds and even thousands of hours of research and writing."

FUTURE PROSPECTS: Problems will be met and there will be obstacles to overcome during the ensuing years, but we must work actively to recruit the volunteers to perform the various functions so that the Australia branch will grow. To this stage we are happy with our progress and have every reason to presume that the society will grow and prosper. We are part of a global family history movement and we need only provide facilities for our members active participation to ensure success. The name and address of each of the executive and various work groups are listed at the end of each newsletter and they are eagerly looking forward to hearing from you, the members. We have received numerous letters expressing pleasure at the formation of the society and wishing every success.

INFORMATION: The society is now in a position to supply information regarding many early Victorian, South Australian and Queensland N/Ns and data is available relating to 80,000 convict arrivals. We also have information relating to N/Ns in many parishes of the County of Northumberland, England. For further information please contact the editor

NOTED NESBITTS/NISBETS:

Alexander Nisbet (1657-1725), the Heraldic writer.

Murdock Nisbet, spelt his name in various ways; for example, Neisbit, Niesbitt and Nesbeit. When he became adult he joined the Lollards of Kyle, early Protestant dissenters. Due to persecution he escaped abroad, where c1520 he translated the New Testament into Scot's vernacular, using Purvey's edition of Wycliffe's New Testament.

Elizabeth Nesbit, the writer of children's books, one of which is "The Railway Children".

BRISBANE COURIER MAIL, Sept. 1897: "The Rev. Thomas Nisbet of Hawthorn Victoria, is supplying the pulpit at Whickham Terrace Presbyterian Church for the month of September. Mr. Nisbet's reputation as an eloquent preacher is well known in Victoria and yesterday he sustained that reputation by the delivery of 2 splendid sermons." An ancestor of a N/N member?

(Article supplied by Eric Tetlow, a non member and neighbour of the editor).

NESBITT/NISBET SOCIETY NEWSLETTER U.S. & U.K.:

In the 'fall' edition of the U.S./U.K. Newsletter, Vol. IV No. 4., the editor, Bill Kelsey, of Panama City, Florida U.S.A., certainly gave our branch a great introduction; and on behalf of our executive and members, I thank him. The entire front page, 'Boar's Head and All' was devoted to the introduction of the newly formed Nesbitt/Nisbet Society - Australia. The article has been reproduced below. More than two pages which covered two items that I had previously sent were also included in the newsletter. They related to our early history, based on the arrival of the First Fleet and were directed towards U.S. and U.K. readers, so have not been included in this newsletter.

NESBITT / NISBET SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA FORMS

The Nesbitt/Nisbet Society (United Kingdom and North America organizations) wish to welcome the official organization of the Nesbitt/Nisbet Society of Australia. It is the result of much research and effort on the part of two people-- Mr. Ian M. Nisbet and Mr. A. Bruce Nesbit, as well as the cooperation and support of the Charter Members.

Bruce Nesbit has been interested in genealogical research and family history for a number of years. Seeing an article about the Nesbitt/Nisbet Society in the United Kingdom, he wrote London for more information and eventually became a member -- the only one in Australia.

Doing research, he discovered that there were many persons in Australia of the Nisbet surname and its variant spellings. From this, he conceived the possibility of a Nesbitt/Nisbet group in Australia, and again wrote London. They replied with enthusiasm, offering any necessary support.

At this point, Mr. Ian Nisbet became interested. He and his wife were just then leaving on a trip to England, and while there, they met and talked with several members of the U.K. organization. Upon his return, he joined Bruce in the organizing effort and procedure.

The inaugural meeting was chaired by Mr. Nisbet, at which a Steering Committee was elected and met a short time later. Here recommendations of issues governing the Society were recorded. On the 8th of August last, the first general meeting was held. The following officers were nomina-

ted and elected:

Conveners

Mr. A. Bruce Nesbit
Helen S. Nesbit
Bundoora, Victoria 3083

President

Mr. Ian M. Nisbet
26 Walnut Rd., No. Balwyn, Victoria 3103
Phone (03) 857-5498

Secretary

Mr. Ian G. Nisbet
1 St. Johns Parade Kew, Victoria 3101
Phone (03) 862-2258

Treasurer

Mr. Gavin M. Nisbet
P.O. Box 84, Caulfield East, Victoria 3145
Phone (03) 211-7963

News Editor

Mr. A. Bruce Nesbit
6 Kent Court, Bundoora, Victoria 3083
Phone (03) 467-2638

Regional Officer, Western Australia

Mr. George Nesbitt
110 Ardross St., Ardross, W.A. 6153
Phone (09) 364-1524

Regional Officers for New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia & North Territory, and Tasmania will be selected at a later date.

Dues were set at \$10.00 Aust. for a husband, wife and children up to 18 years old.

The Nesbitt/Nisbet Society of Australia is a completely autonomous and independent organization and is interrelated with the existing Nesbitt / Nisbet Society organizations. Again, WELCOME, CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD LUCK!

BORDER GATHERING AND LONDON MEETING: Bill advises us to save our pennies for a GATHERING at Jedburgh Scotland on 14th August 1988. More details later. And Dick Nesbitt, President of the N/N Society U.K. suggests that we 'circle' 15th May 1987, on our engagement calendar. There will be a meeting at the Naval Club, Hill Street, London, England on that date to which all members are invited. More details as they come to hand.

TAPPING SOURCES OF INFORMATION OUTSIDE THE FAMILY:

In the previous article the emphasis was on tapping the resources readily at hand, the family relatives and friends. The aim of this article is to outline sources which can fill in the gaps in your information, confirm previously known information, add new information and most importantly, raise new questions.

The sources of possible information are extensive and it will not be possible to elaborate on each one in great detail in this article.

1. Records of the State.

1.1 Births Deaths and Marriages.

The states began recording births deaths and marriages in the majority of cases in the mid 1800s. In Victoria the recording of such events became compulsory in 1853. Prior to the state recording such information the church played the dominant roll. In most cases, records made prior to the commencement of recording by the state have now been passed to the appropriate authority - generally the Registrar/Register of Births Deaths and Marriages. In Australia there is a Registrar in each state. In the U.K. there is a separate Registrar for Scotland and Northern Ireland. England and Wales come under the same Registrar. On the payment of a fee each will supply a certificate for the particular event requested.

In requesting certificates from any of these sources the more information you are able to provide the better. Apart from the obvious information relating to the particular event, additional information which should be supplied - if it is known - would be; for a birth, the maiden name of the mother; for a marriage, the names of the bride's and groom's parents and for any, the professions of the persons involved.

As a general rule, a search by the Registrar's staff will range five years around the probable date if there is some doubt of the authenticity of the date. (This reinforces the need to be conducting research in other directions to provide corroborating or additional information).

Although there is some variation, information to be obtained from such certificates is likely to be as follows:

Birth Certificate

- a) Child's name, when and where born.
- b) Father's name, age birthplace and occupation.
- c) Mother's name, age birthplace and occupation.
- d) Date and place of parents' marriage.
- e) Names of living children.

Marriage Certificate

- a) Date and place.
- b) Full names of bride and groom, ages, place of birth, occupations, place of residence.
- c) Names of bride's and groom's father, and occupation.
- d) Maiden names of bride's and groom's mother.
- e) Witnesses.

Death Certificate

- a) Name, age and place of birth.
- b) Parents names including mother's maiden name.
- c) Names of children.
- d) Cause of death.
- e) Informant.
- f) Place of burial.

In summary these certificates represent a considerable source of information.

1.2 Censuses

The state, especially in the U.K., conduct censuses at regular intervals. For example, in Scotland a census was conducted every ten years from 1841 to 1891 and these records are available and can be of great benefit. The one difficulty is that you must know where the person was on the night of the census!

Information on a census certificate is likely to be the name age profession and birthplace of all persons in the household on the census night and their relationship to the head of the household. In Victoria the census of 1836, 1838 and 1841 for Port Phillip are available for family research at the P.R.O., 4th Fl., 318 Lt. Bourke St., Melbourne, Victoria 3000. (03) 663 3434.

1.3 Military Service

The records of persons who have been members of the various defence services have been recorded by the state. For example, access to the service records of a person who served in the Australian Army are available on request (bona fides established) and application should be made to the Central Army Records Office in Melbourne. A similar situation exists in the U.K., however a considerable amount of records were lost in World War 2 during the bombing of London.

1.4 Shipping Records

No records were kept of persons leaving their home country. The records of arriving ships and their passengers were recorded at their port of entry. In Australia these records have largely survived and are available. In Victoria the records are available, where they have survived, up until 1924.

1.5 Other State Records

Other sources which are likely to provide information - indirectly - which may be useful in family research are:

- * Probate records.
- * Land selections and transfers.
- * Registers of professions. e.g. medical register.

2. Where to Direct Your Enquiries

2.1 Certificates

Certificates may be obtained for a fee from:

Victoria Registrar of Births Deaths and Marriages, 295 Queen Street, Melbourne.

U.K. and Wales General Register Office, St. Catherines House, Kingsway, London WC 2B 6JP.

Scotland Registrar General, New Register House, Edinburgh EH1 3YT.

Northern Ireland Registrar General, Oxford House, 49/65 Chichester St., Belfast BT1 4HL.

Irish Republic Register of Births, Custom House, Dublin 1.

2.2 Public Records Office

In Victoria, the P.R.O. holds considerable records of the type previously mentioned especially those relating to the early days of the colony through to the early 1920s. A reference collection is held at 99 Spring Street, 2nd floor. A brochure on the P.R.O. is available and may be obtained by ringing (03) 651 0276.

In other states there is a State Archivist and the address may be obtained by referring to the appropriate telephone directory.

It should also be noted that there is an Australian Archives Regional Office in each state (See Commonwealth section of your telephone directory).

Next article by Ian G. Nisbet, "Other Organizations Useful in Family History Research".

PROFILE OF OUR PRESIDENT: Of the many people who have been involved in establishing the Australian Nesbitt/Nisbet Society, one of the most significant roles has been played by our president, Ian Milton Nisbet. Ian chaired the early meetings; gave the steering committee guidance; and, together with his wife Joy, provided hospitality to members on a number of occasions.

Ian was born in Kew Victoria and lived his early years in various parts of the state. His education was interrupted by World War 2, during which time he served with the A.I.F. and reached the rank of lieutenant. After the war he resumed his studies and qualified as a chartered accountant, establishing Ian Nisbet & Co. in Queen Street Melbourne. Ian has taken an active interest in sports, sports administration and numerous community groups. In 1980 he was made a member of the Order of Australia for services to commerce and to the community.

We are indeed fortunate to have such an experienced and distinguished person as Ian leading our society in its formative stages.

Article by Dr. Ian T. Nisbet; newsletter working party member

REPORT ON FIRST SOCIAL GATHERING OF THE NESBITT/NISBET SOCIETY - AUSTRALIA:

The St. Andrew's Day picnic/barbecue lunch was well attended with some 37 members from 15 memberships, plus several non-members, one of whom was Angus Nisbet, son of the U/K Nesbitt/Nisbet Society Secretary, Peter W.W. Nisbet.

The weather was ideal, the parkland setting pleasant, and the spirit and fellowship heartening despite a few parking hassles.

The common interest in the N/N society, history and genealogy meant that conversation was easy and it was only a matter of time before information was being swapped and people and places found in common. (Note that this assistance and information can be readily sought and willingly given through application to the editor for publication in the newsletter.)

For continued success it is important that members make the effort to continue to support both the social committee and education/information committee and to attend the arranged meetings for at least part of the designated times. Let's continue the fine start we've made!

Thanks to the social committee for this effort and we eagerly await next years itinerary.

Article by Gary R. Nisbet; newsletter working party member.

FAMILY GATHERING: On Sunday November 9th, 1986, approximately 100 descendants of William Watson NISBET (1849/1923) and Sarah SMITH (1857/1935) gathered for a family reunion at Wedderburn in central Victoria. Those present covered four generations of the family, with ages ranging from 4 to 82 years. The occasion was particularly enjoyed by older members of the group who were able to renew old acquaintances and share happy memories. Those of us who are 'not quite so old' enjoyed the opportunity to meet 'new' relatives and relax in the congenial atmosphere and glorious spring weather. At the end of the day it was agreed that similar gatherings should be a regular event with the next to be held two years hence.

Article by Dr. Ian T. Nisbet; newsletter working party member.

GATHERING: Twenty-three descendants of John George Mitford Nesbit Sr. gathered at the Castlemaine Botanical Gardens on Sunday 23rd of November 1986 to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the arrival of their emigrant ancestor. The weather was kind. After several inclement days, nature turned on a typical sunny spring day, and the two branches of the Nesbit Clan which had never met before joined together to exchange anecdotes and incidents and to discuss their forbears. As mentioned in an earlier newsletter these groups of Nesbits had become known to each other through the N/N Society Report of September 1986, and now that contact has been established, we must stay in touch and arrange future gatherings.

Thanks to Pearl Nesbit (nee Norris) for arranging the gathering. Editor.

REPORT ON EDUCATION/INFORMATION MEETING:

The workshop which was held on October 25, 1986 was attended by 12 members representing 7 independent lineages, each at different stages of genealogical research.

Ian G. Nisbet outlined the basic and common approaches to research efforts and supplemented these with anecdotes of methods of less certain outcome. The latter were systematically deduced from available "sketchy" shreds of information and in this case proved to be fruitful. Ensuing discussion lead to the experiences of other researchers being shared.

Colin Nesbit then demonstrated the use of the microfiche reader to view available records.

The meeting sharpened the desire for fruitful research, laid the grounding for those interested in beginning such research and was another occasion for developing the friendship/fellowship available in our society.

Thanks to Ian G. Nisbet for his presentation, Heather and Alan Ames and family for their generous hospitality and Colin Nesbit for bringing his microfiche system.

Article by Gary R. Nisbet; newsletter working party member.

SEARCHES:

NESBIT(T) Margaret, m. John NEWTON c1855 near Bendigo Victoria, Australia.

NISBET David, b. London England c1834, m. Jane SMALL (b. c1832 County Monaghan, Ireland) at Melbourne, Victoria, Australia 1854. Their children appear in the Victorian BDM register, with various surname spellings, but always with the (tt). David Johnathan 1857 Melbourne; * George 1859 Beaufort; * Caroline 1861 Kingower; James 1863 Wedderburn; Mary Jane 1865 Dunolly. David Nisbet worked as a cab driver in 1865 and a butcher in 1859. NESBITT'S Cab & Coach Company ran a service to the 'RUSH' at Gooseberry Hill in 1865 and to the Dunolly races and other places in the district. * Baptised Inglewood C of E.

See Dr. Ian G. O'Brien, 4 Ambalindum St., Hawker 2164 Canberra, A.C.T. Aust.

For descendants of George and Mary Ann NESBIT who lived at Richmond Victoria 1884 - 1895. George m. Mary Ann SANDS or TANDS, a widow, nee HAGUE or HAIGH on 6/6/1884 at the Free C of E, Fitzroy, Melbourne Vic. Mary Ann was born at Birkenhead Liverpool England. George NESBIT was born c1855 at Geelong Victoria. Of the 8 children born to the couple at Richmond, 4 died shortly after birth. The surviving children were; Edith Alice NESBIT b. 1885; Margaret Josephine NESBIT b. 1889; Lillian May Eva NISBET b. 1893, and Holly Elizabeth NESBIT b. 12/4/1895, Crown Street Richmond.

See Mrs Dot Nesbit, 96 Langs Rd., Ascot Vale 3032, Victoria, Australia.

NESBITT, James, b. 17/9/1881, Cramlington Northumberland England. Information regarding the date and place of death of James NESBITT is sought. James probably arrived in Australia from New Zealand, c1915 aged 34 years.

See Mr. John Nesbitt, 6A Abercrombie St., Howick N.Z.

Thomas NISBET, b. 1861 in Ararat, Victoria. Son of John NISBET and Catherine THOMPSON. Later went to Queensland and one time lived at Innisfail.

See Mr. Andrew J.M. Nisbet, 6 Walnut Rd., North Balwyn 3104, Victoria, Australia.

A letter to a Nesbitt/Nisbet Society Australia member refers to three letters received by her grand-father in 1934/37 and 1941 from a Pollie NESBIT. The letters were always signed, "Your loving cousin Pollie". Pollie's husband was Joe NESBIT and their children, Mary and John (Jack) Wilfred. John was a doctor and his wife's name was Mabel. The letters were addressed "? Sussy" 45 Posertan ? Cres., Belfast, 1934. c/- Mrs. Carson, Chestnut Hill ? Lisnod Lisburn, 1941.

See Mrs. Kay McLellan of McLellan Rd., M/S 299 Bundaberg 4670, Queensland Australia. Mrs McLellan's family are from the Townlands of MULLADRY Parish of Kilmore, & DRUMNAHURCHION (unsure of spelling), Co. Armagh, Northern Ireland. Her father's brother was a chemist in DONEGAL and owned a farm of 181 acres called Daitry Lodge May. Pollie NESBIT was the youngest of 13 children of the RIPLEY family.

STREETS: by Ian M. Nisbet, (president).
NISBET STREET, Belmont, Western Australia.
NISBETT STREET, Preston, Victoria.

(Named after the late Hugh Fleming Nisbett in recognition of his services as a councillor in the City of Preston 1932-1942. Hughie's daughter, Margaret Nisbett M.B.E., is an N/N Society member.)

PLACES: Here are some Nesbitt/Nisbet places in Australia. Perhaps one of our members may be able to tell us after whom they were named.

NISBET RANGE - (Qld.) - Central Western, near Brighton Downs Hills on Diamantina River.

NESBITT CREEK - (Qld.) - Near Ayrshire.

NESBIT RIVER - (Qld.) - Ref. 13 deg., 23 min., S. - 143 deg., 27 min., E. near Cambell Point.

NESBITT CREEK - (Qld.) - Ref. 21 deg., 55 min., S. - 143 deg., 23 min., E. near Lackhaus, Thorndale, Enryb Downs, North of Winton.

NESBITT WELL - (W.A.) - In Warrambo, Derby.

Inserted by Ian M. Nisbet, (president).

A START TO THE ARCHIVES: The society has started its archival records with the information contained on the many completed Application for Membership forms which have been returned. (Note: There are many forms which have not been completed and returned. It is important that the form be filled in to the best of the knowledge of the member so that accurate records may be kept for reference, genealogical research and posterity. Editor). Several research projects have also been deposited with the society by the following:

Mrs. Elyse M. Classon of East Kew Victoria, who traces her family back to Benjamin and Mary (Hudspeth) Nesbit in Berwickshire Scotland.

Mr. Robert J. Linford O.B.E. of Red Hill in the ACT whose maternal line dates back to James Nesbitt, in the early 1800s; County Antrim/County Down Ireland.

Mr. Philip W. Nisbet of Blackburn South, Victoria who has had his family tree traced to James Nisbet b 1787, probable birthplace South Africa.

Philip was the first N/N to reply to my introductory letter and was allotted Membership No. 1. As a result he has been accorded the privilege of being the first of our members to have a resume of his family history presented in our newsletter.

PHILIP WENTWORTH NISBET TREE: Hello fellow N/N members. I have been asked to give a thumb-nail sketch of my family tree as I know it, so let me introduce myself.

I am PHILIP WENTWORTH NISBET aged 65, and a resident of Blackburn Victoria. On my mother's side I am a third generation Australian, my maternal great grandfather having arrived in Australia about 1847. My two children, Jennifer and Peter are therefore fourth generation, and Jennifer's two girls are fifth generation Australians.

However, we are very proud of our NISBET heritage which began in Australia with the arrival of my father in Sydney just prior to the First World War. A religious man, he had come to Australia to train for the priesthood in the Church of England under the auspices of the Bishop of Grafton N.S.W. It was during this time of training that he met my mother, NESTA MARY WRIGHT and they

were married almost immediately following his ordination.

I am the second child of this marriage, my brother CHARLES MAXWELL DICKSON NISBET (now deceased) preceeding me by two years and MARY BLANCHE BURLEY (NISBET) following me by some four years.

My father came from St. Helen's in England where his father was an employee of the railway. One of his sisters, Lottie, married JOHN JAMES CHEETHAM in 1912 and it is to him that I owe this information about the family history.

Interested in his own ancestry he followed the CHEETHAM line back quite a long way. It was then that he became interested in his wife's family and has been successful in going back to JAMES NISBET, b 1787. I am unsure of his birthplace but I believe that it was Capetown South Africa, where the family had considerable interests over a long time.

To cut down on the complexity of the full family tree I propose to list only those of my immediate line, starting with the said JAMES NISBET.

JAMES NISBET b 1787, m. ELIZABETH HARRIOTT HORNE Capetown 1821.
5 children of which the first born was:

JAMES WILLIAM BURNIE NISBET b 1822, m. MAGDALENA HENDRIKA DICKSON Capetown 1848.

6 children of which the third born was:

MATHEW WILLIAM NISBET b 1854, m. SARAH DORAN at Huyton, Lancs. England 1884.
5 children of which the first born was:

WILLIAM GORDON NISBET b 1885, m. NESTA MARY WRIGHT at Armidale N.S.W. 1917.
3 children:

CHARLES MAXWELL DICKSON NISBET b 1919.

PHILIP WENTWORTH NISBET b 1921 (myself).

MARY BLANCHE BURLEY (NISBET) b 1923.

My children are Jennifer and Peter mentioned above.

As I said at the beginning, I cannot claim any credit for this information but it has given the family a great sense of 'belonging' and I hope that many more of you N/N members will be able to trace their family tree and achieve the same satisfaction that we have received from this type of knowledge.
By Philip Wentworth Nisbet.

EXECUTIVE MEETING OF 17TH DECEMBER 1986: The meeting was held at 26 Walnut Road North Balwyn - the home of Ian and Joy Nisbet - and we are pleased to report our paid up membership to that time was 86.

The Executive has given preliminary consideration to the Calendar for 1987 which is set out below:

- * JANUARY - Newsletter
- FEBRUARY - a) Executive meeting Wed. 18th Feb.
b) A Gathering at the beachside home of Ian and Joy Nisbet, 35 Whitecliffs Road, Rye, on 22nd February.
- MARCH - Workshop. (Date and Venue to be notified).
- * APRIL - Newsletter
- MAY - Evening - Speaker
- JUNE -
- * JULY - Newsletter
- AUGUST - Workshop
- SEPTEMBER - Annual General Meeting
- * OCTOBER - Newsletter
- NOVEMBER - Social - Pre - Christmas function
- DECEMBER -