

# THE N/NEWS

NO. 33 OCTOBER 1994

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
NESBITT/NISBET SOCIETY  
AUSTRALIA



## STARTING POINT

*CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT:* By now, all N/N members should have heard about, seen, or bought a copy of the 'Biographical Dictionary' prepared by our archivist John Barth, which was launched at the recent AGM (see full article on p 5). While remaining proud of our past efforts (with newsletters, monographs, etc.), there can be no doubt that this is the most important piece of work yet published by the Society. In looking at the book one cannot help but be impressed - impressed not only with the quality of the book and the amount of information contained therein, but also with the fact that anyone should attempt such an undertaking (not to mention completing it)! John is to be (and has been) commended. Of course, a book such as this is only as good as the information it contains. It is up to us all to expand, correct and add entries so that the Dictionary is constantly improved with each new edition. What a boon the Dictionary will be to future N/Ns, whether active genealogists or simply people with a passing interest in family history.

*The Dictionary is being offered to N/N members at effectively cost price. It is a bargain too good to be missed.*

\*\*\*

*Thank you to all members who provided positive feedback on the last issue of 'N/News'. It was great to see the colour insert and the additional articles were appreciated. For this issue we revert to the standard black and white, eight page format. However, as the need and opportunity arise, special issues like the last will appear. Of course, this depends on the input of material from members. Keep those articles coming in - if they are accompanied by colour photographs for reproduction, so much the better!*

## (NES)-BITS & PIECES

**THE EVELYN NESBIT SAGA CONTINUES:** Over the years we have devoted quite a few lines of text in the newsletter to the actress and socialite, Evelyn Nesbit. Her name has appeared again, this time in an entry for the June Almanac (25 June) in Life Magazine:

"It was one of America's high society's most sensational murders:

"Stanford White was a glutton, a compulsive womaniser and an architect of genius; he designed the original Madison Square Garden and many other spectacular turn of the century buildings.

"In 1901 White took a fancy to a 16 year old Evelyn Nesbit. He wined and dined her seduced and kept her. In 1905 Miss Nesbit married Harry Thaw, heir to a Pittsburgh fortune and possessed of a weakness for whipping prostitutes; and as she reported, his wife.

"Thaw was also insanely jealous of White, and on this day (25 June - Ed) 1906 the demented young millionaire shot the great man dead in Madison Square Garden's roof top cabaret.

"Thaw lived in asylums and prisons until his mother bought his freedom in 1920. He died in 1947.

"Evelyn Nesbit Thaw lived on, dying poverty stricken in Hollywood in 1966 aged 81 years."

*Information from Mrs Evelyn Nesbit Clark, Eden Hills, South Australia.*

\*\*\*

N/N HELLRAISER: Next time you're out shopping for a birthday card, N/Ns should look out for a card published by 'The Ink Group Pty Ltd'. Copyright restrictions prevent it from being reproduced here, but the photo on the front shows a smiling, bald, middle-aged gentleman with a pipe, and wearing a Harley Davidson jumper. The the caption reads:

"In the throes of mid-life crisis and unsettled by the fear that the 'big parade' was passing him by, Nesbitt abandoned his actuarial career and ran off with a wild motorcycle gang of Certified Public Accountants."

Are any of our members tempted to follow this example? Ian M Nisbet, who received the card from John Barth, assures N/N members that he has no overwhelming desire to follow in the footsteps of his (almost) namesake!

\*\*\*

JAMES NISBET OF KELSO, 18TH CENTURY BUILDER: The 10 February 1994 edition of 'Country Life' carries an article entitled 'A Building Baronet - II' by John Cornforth. It describes the work of Sir John Hussey Delaval (1728 - 1808) in remodelling stately buildings, including Ford Castle in Northumberland. Of interest to N/Ns is the fact that James Nisbet is mentioned several times throughout the article. While the entire article makes interesting reading, to fit within space limitations only the pieces relating to Nisbet are reproduced here:

"By 1771 work on the main house at Ford was more or less finished, and, after a hiccup over the prices (James Nisbet of Kelso proposed to charge for the stonework of the screen and gateway), the screen went ahead..."

"At the same time that Nisbet was building the porticullis at Ford, Sir John was rebuilding the church at Doddington that lies to the north-east of the house and so is visible in the approach to the gatehouse or from the hall's upper windows..."

"It is conceivable that John Raffield was the reason for Sir John going to Adam, with Raffield possibly having been introduced to Adam by Nisbet, because Nisbet had built Wedderburn Castle, Berwickshire, to Adam's design in 1771-75..."

*Clearly James Nisbet was a builder of some repute. Any member with further information on him may like to pass it on for incorporation into a future newsletter.*

*Material from Ian G Nisbet, 1 St John's Pde, Kew, Victoria 3101.*

## N/NS IN THE NEWS

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



**Then and now:** Doris Nisbet and Aileen Ridge with the picture that captured their jubilation 49 years ago. Picture: DAVID CAIRD

Herald-Sun, 16 August 1994

# Euphoria of war's end still fresh

By MATTHEW PHELAN

WHEN Prime Minister Ben Chifley announced the end of World War II on August 15, 1945, teenagers Aileen Ridge and Doris Nisbet were among the thousands who jammed city streets to celebrate.

They linked arms, danced, kissed and hugged strangers as euphoria swept the nation.

Yesterday, 49 years later, the 86-year-olds fondly recalled the joy that greeted the announcement that the war was finally over.

The women said they remembered August 15, 1945, "just like yesterday".

"We were working in a clothing factory that was producing clothes for the war," Mrs Doris Nisbet, of Langwarrin, said yesterday.

She said when they heard the announcement



**Step back in time:** teenagers Doris (left) and Aileen.

she and Aileen Ridge took the rest of the afternoon off to celebrate in the streets.

"There were thousands of people there, we had to hang on to one another," they recalled.

"Everyone was just so happy... there were lots of kisses and hugs."

The pair said they cele-

brated most of the night and the euphoric feeling remained for weeks after.

They said they went to functions at Brunswick Town Hall to celebrate with returned servicemen, including British and American soldiers.

"We didn't like them though, we just liked the

Aussies," Mrs Nisbet said yesterday.

SOME of Australia's business giants and biggest sporting events have backed commemoration plans for next year's 50th anniversary of the end of the war.

CUB, the Commonwealth Bank, BHP and

the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race, NSW Rugby League and the Australian Soccer Federation yesterday joined the RSL in supporting the program. Plans for Australia Remembers 1945-1995 were launched on Sunday by Prime Minister Paul Keating.

**THROW a party, Page 15**



Herald-Sun, 29 July 1994

*(The N/N connection here is just a little tenuous)*



**Jerry Lee Lewis**

## Jerry Lee beats killer tax bill

NEW YORK — Controversial rock 'n' roll pioneer Jerry Lee Lewis, 58, has had a victory over the taxman.

In a settlement with the Internal Revenue Service, the man known as "the Killer" needs to pay only \$560,000 in back taxes instead of the \$4.1 million demanded by the government.

Lewis, who has been dogged by broken marriages, alcoholism and the death of two sons, has promised to pay his debt

with a concert tour, a record, a biography and possibly opening his house in Nesbit, Mississippi, to fans.

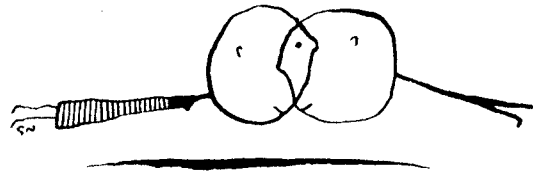
Since 1977, the IRS has seized and sold his houses, cars and other possessions, to pay tax debts.

Lewis' lawyer, Mr David Moneypeny, said yesterday: "This is a celebration. Jerry's free at last."

— ©The Telegraph plc.  
London 1994

The Age, 17 October 1994

*(This cartoon appeared in an article on Age cartoonists in a special feature celebrating 100 years of 'The Age'. It is by Georgia Nisbet, whose illustrations regularly appear in this paper.)*



**NISBET**

\*\*\*

### 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. One line is all we need!

\* Evelyn Nesbit Clark's daughter, Margaret, obtained an exchange teacher's position at a private college in Sussex. Margaret, her husband, and their two children will be in England until after Christmas. In their free time they are touring the UK and Europe.

\* Also recently in Europe was Wendi Nisbet, daughter of Ian T and Gwenda. This was her first self-funded holiday since starting work a year ago. Amongst other things, she bought home a document from 'The Historical Research Center' on the family name history of 'Nisbet'.

\* We are pleased to welcome to two new Society members, both from Queensland - Ian Nesbit of Mermaid Waters (brother of Elyse Classon), and Judith Marris of Burpingary.

\* Ian M and Joy are pleased to announce the arrival of Louis and Monet, their new French poodles!

\* We have already received some positive feedback on the 'Biographical Dictionary'. Richard Kerr Nesbitt, in a letter to Ian M commented, "I'm hugely impressed by your dictionary ..... it is a unique document."

\*\*\*

## SOCIETY NEWS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, SATURDAY 10 SEPTEMBER, 1994: A smallish group of 19 N/N members and guests gathered at the home of Ian M and Joy Nisbet for this important meeting in our annual calendar. As usual, Ian M provided an excellent report on the Society's activities for the year, providing all present with the assurance (if any was needed) that the Society was in good hands. This was recognised by John Classon, who moved a vote of thanks to the general committee and Tom Nisbet, who moved a vote of thanks to the social committee (and particularly Joy Nisbet).

After the formal part of the AGM was out of the way, it came down to the real business of the night, namely the launching of the 'Biographical Dictionary'. As with all book launchings, it was accompanied with speeches, champagne, autographs and photographs.

In recognition of John Barth's exceptional contribution to the Society dictionary, he was presented with an honorary N/N membership. His citation read, "John Lawrence Cairns-Smith-Barth was elected as an honorary member on 10th September 1994 in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the advancement of the purposes of the Society in creating, compiling and producing a Biographical Dictionary and acting as archivist since 1990." A handsome plaque to this effect was presented to John by Ian M.



In addition, John was presented with a Nisbet tartan tie, necessitating an immediate reorganisation of his attire. John was clearly appreciative of the recognition bestowed upon him.

The formalities concluded, all that remained was the supper feast, during which an N/N 'baby competition' was held. This involved trying to match N/Ns with the appropriate baby photographs on display. This was a source of great amusement and confusion for the participants. Lyndall Watson managed to pick the greatest number of correct matches (but she did have quite a bit of inside knowledge being related to more than a few of the bouncing babies on display).

And through all this, John continued to write personal inscriptions in copies of the Dictionary which were purchased by the enthusiastic members in attendance!

\*\*\*



ANOTHER IMPORTANT BOOK OFFER: N/N members will by now have received information regarding the first reprint of 'Nisbet of that Ilk'. The book is being reprinted by Robert A E Nesbitt, grandson of the author, Robert Chancellor Nesbitt. The publisher is Phillimore & Co Ltd and a special pre-publication offer is available. The colourful coat of arms on the flier (reproduced at right, but unfortunately in black and white) alone is enough to encourage purchasing this book. The original print run in 1941 involved only 250 copies, ensuring that demand for the book outstripped supply.

N/Ns now have the chance to obtain their own copy of this 'family treasure'. In addition, when coupled with the 'Biographical History', members have the opportunity to purchase the two most significant family publications (one old and one new) at the same point in time. Opportunities like this don't come around very often!

\*\*\*

You are invited to subscribe to the first reprint of  
Robert Chancellor Nesbitt's

## NISBET OF THAT ILK

First Published—1941

Reprinted—1994

by the Author's Grandson  
Robert A.E. Nesbitt of that Ilk

with a brief Introduction to the new volume



*In writing to subscribe to the publication, this leaflet also offers the opportunity to have your name printed in the book in a list of subscribers and also to enjoy a pre-publication special offer.*

## FOUND

NESBITS OF SAPPHIRE/RUBYVALE, QUEENSLAND: Ian Clarke visited the Sapphire/Rubyvale area of Queensland in August and noted two N/N entries in a book on the history of the region:

J Stewart Nesbit - Sapphire Township Hospital Committee 1908, Progress Committee, Dramatic Society

Alice Nesbit - Drapery Store 1911, Retired 1942

*Do these people 'belong' to any of our members?*

\*\*\*

R H NISBET: Rob Nisbet has been appointed to the role of District Commissioner of Pascoe City of Broadmeadows from 28th June 1994 - from OANA, the Official Publication of the Hoadley Area in the Victorian Branch of the Scout Association of Australia.

\*\*

## THE WANTED LIST

**GEORGE NESBIT** b 28.12.1801 at Haddington, Scotland; d 25.12.1860 at New Norfolk, Tasmania; m 24.11.1834 at New Norfolk, Mary Jane Bond (b ca 1814, County Essex, England; d 27.5.1914, Northcote, Victoria). George and his wife Mary Jane had 11 children, all of whom were born in New Norfolk, Tasmania. They were:

Janet b 26.9.1835, m James Hammond Wills, 1866, Victoria  
 Emma b 22.2.1837  
 Benjamin b 14.2.1849, m Mary Jane Lamely, 1875, Victoria  
 George b 1840  
 James  
 Elizabeth  
 John Richard b 7.10.1848  
 Henry b 12.5.1851, m Mary Whitened, 24.11.1878, Victoria  
 Mary Jane b 21.3.1854, m Dennis Holt, 1883, Victoria  
 William Robert b 4.12.1856, m Rosanna Mullan, 1855, Victoria  
 Kate Elizabeth b 21.9.1859

Harry John Nesbitt of 'The Loaded Dog' Motel, Tarago, NSW 2580, is seeking information on the forbears of George Nesbit.

\*\*\*

**THOMAS FORBES NISBET** was a shoemaker by trade who died in Sale in 1926. He was previously from the Bendigo area.

Gayle Mowbray, 5 Macarthur Street, Sale 3850 is seeking contact with, or information on, descendants of Thomas Forbes Nisbet.

\*\*\*

**NISBET COLQUHOUN MARRIS** came to Australia at the age of 21 on the SS Themistocles as part of an ex-service settlement scheme. He was born 3.5.1900 at Ulceby, Lincolnshire to the Rev Nisbet Colquhoun Marris and Mary Ann Charity.

Mrs J Marris, Lot 2 Old Bay Road, Burpingary, Queensland 4505 is seeking information on Nisbet Colquhuon Marris.

\*\*\*

**NORMAN J NISBET** of New South Wales features in 'Nisbet of that Ilk', as such:

"Norman J. Nisbet of New South Wales, Australia, visited Scotland in 1935 and made searches in various museums. He spent a day at Nisbet House and examined everything. At Edinburgh University he saw the original charter for one half of the barony of Dalzell by John Nesbitt and seal dated 16th August 1513. For many generations back in his family, the eldest and second eldest sons have been named James and John."

With the reprinting of 'Nisbet of that Ilk' (see p 6), we thought it would be interesting to try and find out more about the intrepid Norman J Nisbet. Any information should be forwarded to Ian M, Ian G or Ian T and will be included a future newsletter.

\*\*\*

## **NOTICE BOARD-D**

(Upcoming events in the Local and Overseas Calendar for 1994/95)

5 November	Tennis and BBQ day at Gavin Nisbet's home (19 Nethercote Drive, Mt Waverley) -tennis starts at 3.00 pm, BBQ at 6.00 pm
10 December	Christmas party
January	Newsletter 34
March	Country gathering - venue to be decided
April	Newsletter 35

### 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.  
**ASS ED:** Ian G Nisbet, 1 St Johns Pde, Kew, Vic 3101, 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, Ian G Nisbet, Gary Nisbet, Graeme Nisbet, Karen Nisbet.

**PUBLICATION OFFICER:** Bruce Nesbit, 6 Kent Crt, Bundoora, Vic 3083, Aust.

**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.

### OVERSEAS CONTACTS:

**USA:** Mrs R J Nisbet, 545 Hartnell Pl, Sacramento, CA 95825.  
**UK:** Peter W W Nisbet, 7 Stafford Pl, Weston-super-Mare, Avon BS23 2QZ.



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