

THE N/NEWS

NO. 44 JULY 1997

NEWSLETTER OF THE
NESBITT/NISBET SOCIETY
AUSTRALIA



STARTING POINT

One of the initiatives being investigated by the N/N Board at the moment is the possibility of obtaining a formal N/N coat of arms. During a business trip to the UK in June I spoke to Mark Nesbitt about the idea and he was very supportive. He suggested a representation to the Lord Lyon in Edinburgh would be the best and quickest way of proceeding. I intend to do this next time I'm in Edinburgh. While the exercise will involve a significant expense, this will be something of immense value and pride to the Society.

(NES)-BITS & PIECES

INFORMATION FROM JOHN HAYES: Further to the 'Wanted' notice for Helen Nisbet (1798 - 1861) in N/News 43, Ian G received a letter and some interesting information from John Hayes:

"I have been a member of the UK N/N Society for sometime in the hope that I might be able to extend my research beyond 1787. So far I have not been successful, but with Nisbet determination I will persevere!

"The Nisbet branch of my mother's family extends to all parts of the globe, and each year I send cousins, more than thirty in total, copies of my research; they in turn make copies and distribute them to their children and grand-children....."

John provided Ian with a sample of family research - this is reproduced on the next page. He went on to say:

"The insignia on the Cockburnspath paper, I cleared with the Lord Lyon King of Arms in 1994. I use it on my research papers for identification purposes. Being resident in England I am within the jurisdiction of the Earl Marshal of England, Catherine Howard's descendants who live just along the coast from here in Arundel Castle. The old duke was the Chairman of the MCC."

Information from John Hayes, 93 Michel Dene Road, East Dean, East Sussex BN20 0LA, UK.

COCKBURNSPATH - The birthplace of Thomas Nisbet (1837-1913)

Searches were made in the Old Parish Registers of Berwickshire, but none revealed the exact date and place of birth of Thomas Nisbet in 1837. When the first population census in the United Kingdom was taken on the 7th June, 1841, John Nisbet, the father of Thomas, informed the enumerator, that his four year old son was, 'not born in the County of Haddington', and that is how the entry is recorded to this day.

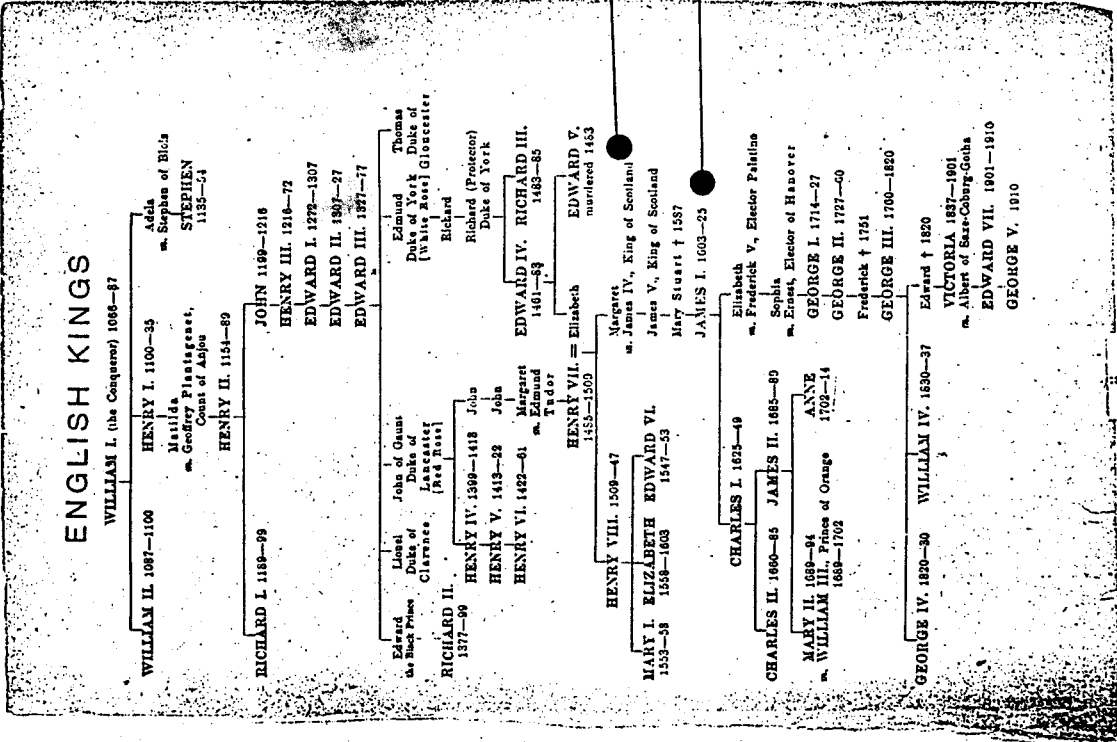
Ten years later, the government having learnt many lessons from the first census, instructed enumerators to ask more questions, and thereafter more detail was recorded. On the 31st March, 1851, the census taken in Cockburnspath, shows Helen Nisbet, the mother of Thomas, was a widow, and that Thomas was a scholar, aged fourteen years and born in Cockburnspath. This is the very first recorded 'sighting' of the birthplace of Thomas Nisbet.

The name Cockburnspath, is derived from Colbrand's Path. Colbrand a Norse legendary giant associated with the district. Norsemen or Vikings were a menace to the Berwickshire coast in early times. They invaded, plundered and burned the homes of the people, and carried off men, women and children, as slaves. In the Parish of Cockburnspath, there are three ravines, all supposedly well trod by the giant Colbrand. The ravines proved useful in the Border Wars as defence implacements, and in 1649 were used to stem the advance of Oliver Cromwell's army heading for Dunbar. The bloody Battle of Dunbar was fought on the 3rd September, 1650.

Cockburnspath, although a small village, had an important role in the eventual union of the royal crowns of Scotland and England. In the village square stands a monumental cross, this commemorates the marriage of Margaret Tudor, the sister of Henry VIII, to James IV, King of Scotland. James made a gift of the Parish of Cockburnspath to his Tudor bride and the nuptial union was the very first step, to the Stuarts succession to the English throne; this was achieved in 1603 by James VI of Scotland who also became James I of England. The parish and surrounding farmlands of Cockburnspath, were to remain part of the Crown Estate for many years.

Cockburnspath has a long historical connection with the Nisbet family. On the eastern outskirts of Edinburgh, near Restalrig, is a property known as Craigtinnie on which still stands a mansion house. This was owned by James Nisbet, a Burgess of Edinburgh. James' son was knighted to become Sir Henry Nisbet of Craigtinnie. Henry married off one of his daughters to Sir Thomas Nicolson, the Lord Advocate of Scotland and Nicolson at that time was the owner of the Cockburnspath Estate. Sparrow Castle, the home of Sir Thomas and Lady Nicolson, is still in use in 1996.

Our forbear Thomas Nisbet with his younger brother Peter, attended the parish school in Cockburnspath. Some of the Nisbet family at that time were probably working at Cove and Linhead farm which is close to the village. Helen, Thomas's mother, although of limited means, would have been required to contribute financially towards the cost of books and tuition. The old school was rebuilt in 1913 when just fourteen pupils were on the roll with three teachers. Today in 1996, it is a primary school with sixty-five pupils and three teachers.



N/Ns IN THE NEWS

This section is for newspaper cuttings related 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.

Closure ends a family tradition

THE Broadford mill was far more than a job for Garry "Flash" Nesbitt, John "Jika" Spargo and Graham Zotti.

It was a vital part of their families' history.

Mr Nesbitt, who has worked at the mill for 32 of his 47 years, followed in the footsteps of his father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

Mr Spargo's grandfather worked at the mill for 62 years - a record that will never be broken.

And until yesterday, Mr Zotti, 58, had watched proudly as his two sons worked beside him at the mill.

But last night pride had turned to guilt, knowing he had encouraged his sons to work at the mill and soon they were likely to be jobless.

Although the three men with 93 years' service between them were devastated, last night their thoughts were with the young workers who thought they had a big future.



- SIMON PRISTEL **Out:** John Spargo, Graham Zotti and Garry Nesbitt. Picture: MIKE KEATING

Bra split for Eva

NEW YORK — Supermodel Eva Herzigova and the Wonderbra have decided to split.



Eva Herzigova

company spokesman Chuck Nesbit.

The Ball Company, which produces the Wonderbra lingerie collection, said a new model would be announced at New York's Planet Hollywood today.

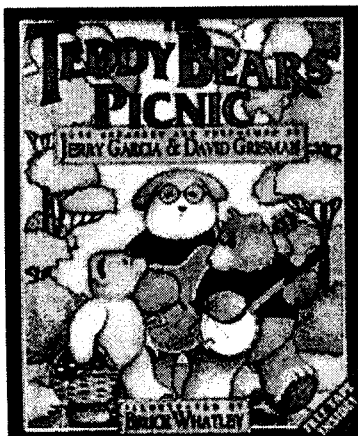
"Eva and Wonderbra have mutually decided to move in different directions," said -

^
Herald Sun, 24 July 1997

< Herald Sun, 31 July 1997

SOCIETY NEWS

SOCIETY FUNCTIONS: The past three months have seen another three N/N functions, two in Melbourne and one in Sydney.



On Saturday 10 May, Ian M and Joy hosted a Teddy Bears' Picnic at their home. Around 15 - 20 N/Ns brought their favourite teddies along to meet some Nisbet Bears - Gwenda Moss (wife of Ian T) brought a selection of her 'House of Nisbet' Bear collection. They proved to be very popular. In addition, Joy displayed some of her Peggy Nisbet dolls. Gwenda described to the group how she came to collect Nisbet Bears and gave advice as to where these rare beasts can be found.

On Saturday 19 July, Ian M and Joy again hosted a function, this time an Italian dinner. Twenty-six N/Ns (including Keith and Mary Nisbet from Sydney) enjoyed an excellent meal from a local restaurant followed by a vigorous evening of bingo, from which Elyse Classon emerged victorious. Thanks to Ian, Joy and the Social Committee for both functions.

The following Saturday (26 July), Keith and Mary were back in Sydney for the Sydney Group's 'Christmas in July' at the home of Frank Nesbit. Twenty-four adults and three children enjoyed a meal, followed by a mini trivia quiz (put together by Mandy Nisbet) and, of course, the traditional raffle. According to Keith and Mary, all present had a most enjoyable time.

It's great to see the activities continue in both centres!

NEW MEMBERS: Welcome to the following new members:

Kenneth Edward (Ted) and Gene Olive Price, 27 Reid Street, Brown Hill, Ballarat 3350, Vic.

Maurice Francis and Fay Dulcie Nesbitt, The Farm, Clareville Road, Glen Innes 2370, NSW.

Mary and John Butler, 6 Duff Street, Turrumurra 2074, NSW.

Roger Hamilton and Anne Elizabeth Nesbit, 290 Young Street, Wayville 5034, SA.

Peter M and Anne E (Nisbet) Walker, 69 Malton Rd, Beecroft 2119, NSW.

Noelyne (Nesbitt) and John Kenny, 65 Tudar Road, Bonnett Bay 2226, NSW.

ROOTS '97 GATHERING, DUMFRIES: President of the North American Branch of the N/N Society, Stu Nisbet was in Scotland in late May for the 'Roots '97' Clan Gathering. The following was extracted from an email letter that Stu copied to Ian M:

"... Heading south we took in a few more castles and historic sites, arriving in beautiful Moffat, a wee village which was to be our headquarters for the three days of the Roots '97

Gathering in Dumfries. That night we attended the Kirkin' of the Tartans and the Presentation of the Border Chiefs with their banners. The N/Ns have a real live chief who lives in London, but he didn't show. We were all quite disappointed. Anyway, it was a beautiful ceremony held in the Crichton Memorial Church of Dumfries; the reception afterwards was held in a large hall next to the church. Each clan attending had its own table reserved, and the wine and good fellowship flowed.

"The next day, we returned to the actual Gathering, held on the parade field of The Crichton Estates, where each clan had its own tent, and where those attending were encouraged to find their related clans, sign the guest book, and meet with other clan members. Great fun!! Later, the procession of the 'Mighty Border Clans' was great, and the US N/Ns were prominent. The dinner/dance that evening was held in Eastbrook Hall. Piped-in Haggis; Great Food; Friendship, and we danced our little feet off to the traditional Scottish dances and reels. The local Cieldigh Band was delightful, and a marvelous time was had by all....

"After the Gathering, we stayed a few days a David and Sue's weekend cottage near Duns, where Nisbet House is located. While there, (I) took some nice pictures of the old ancestral home, but couldn't get inside. The owner, Dr Brian Hawley, was kind enough to present a talk and slide show on the restoration work he is doing on the inside of the mansion, in one of the ante rooms of the reception hall on the afternoon of the Gathering. Quite interesting."

ANOTHER TYPE OF NESBIT: Internet searches for N/N contacts can have unexpected outcomes. A 'NESBIT' page found recently is not related to N/Ns at all. Rather, 'NESBIT' is the acronym for 'Non-English-Speaking Background Information Technology'! The 'NESBIT' Working Party's homepage describes this group's activities, based in Melbourne, Australia. The page can be found at <http://yarra.vicnet.net.au/~vacab/nesbit/nesbit.htm>.

THE WANTED LIST

Secretary, Ian G Nisbet, has again received enquiries from prospective N/N members, as well as information and success stories from previous correspondents:

LETTER FROM CATHERINE FREW:

"I am writing to you to obtain information about the Nesbitt/Nisbet Society and also to inquire if you might be able to 'point me in the right direction' to further my own Nisbet/Nesbit connection and family research.

"My mother, Catherine NISBET was born in Clydebarh, Glasgow in 1920; her father was Robert McCracken NESBIT, born 27.1.1885 at Oberton, Ayr. He was a metal polisher who worked at the Singer Company and the Albion Motor Works; he was also lead violinist in the Singer Orchestra for a time. He was the youngest of 9. His father was William NISBET, born c. 1837 in, I believed, Ayrshire.

"His father, in turn, was Robert NISBET who was living, according to the Argyll and West Scotland Census 1851, at George St, St. Quivox, Ayrshire with his wife Elizabeth and 4 children. Apart from the last child, all were listed as being born in Ireland, including William 13 yrs.

"Have you any suggestions as to how I might proceed to find the birthplace of William, and his father, Robert, especially as I do not have any clues as to Robert's parents?"

"Family tradition has it that one of these was associated with the Masonic Lodge in Belfast. When in Scotland, the men seem to have been coalminers or associated labourers.

"I would be grateful for any information you could supply..."

Anyone with information on Catherine's ancestors should contact Mrs Catherine Frew, PO Box 15, Tumbarumba 2653, NSW.

As well as sending Catherine's letter for inclusion in the N/News, Ian G responded with the following advice on how to proceed:

"As you know Robert McCracken Nisbet's date of birth, obtaining a copy of his birth certificate would provide information which would be a good starting point for working back through your family. A copy of his birth certificate would give you the name of his father, the name of his mother, including maiden name and importantly, date and place of marriage. Applying for a copy of the Marriage Certificate will give the names of the parents including the maiden names of the mothers and place of residence. You will also be able to determine whether Robert Nisbet was alive at the time of marriage. Using this information you could then apply for a Death Certificate for Robert. A bit of luck is required here as you will have to assume he died in the same location where his children were married. You need to be within 5 years I believe. It may be necessary to get the 1861 census information to narrow down this date more accurately. Provided it was known by the informant, the names of Robert's parents will be given, including the Mother's name. Unfortunately the death certificate does not give place of birth."

JAMES NISBET ADAMS: The following email query was received by Ian M Nisbet:

"I am researching my husband's family tree. His mother's grandfather was James Nisbet Adams who, according to his son's birth certificate (Camperdown, Sydney), was born approx. 1863 in Lancashire. I'd appreciate any information or ideas on how to continue researching."

Contact Rosane McNamara at mcnama@ibm.net.

FOUND

Thanks to the 'Wanted' entry in N/News 43, Mary Butler was able to find a family connection. The following is an extract from a letter written by Mary to Ian G Nisbet:

"I am so grateful for the inclusion of my request of information in the April issue of the N/News (sorry about the mis-typed date of Richard Nesbitt's arrival in Sydney - should have been 1853). As a result, Frank Nesbitt, also of Sydney, phoned me, and we discovered the said Richard is our joint great-grandfather. We are looking forward to meeting up and sharing some photographs, etc.

"Frank advised me to contact Graham Nisbet regarding membership"

As noted by Ian - being a member does work!

Anyone with any further information on Richard Nesbitt should contact Mary Butler, 6 Duff Street, Turramurra 2074, NSW.

N/Ns NOTED BY IAN CLARKE WHILE IN ENGLAND: The following information was supplied by Ian Clarke via Ian M Nisbet:

On the War Memorial in Alnmouth, NBL

During the night of 8 November, 1941, an 'Isabella Nesbit' was one of seven civilians killed when a mine, dropped by a lone aircraft exploded in Alnmouth. It is believed the mine was dropped because some Polish soldiers stationed in Alnmouth may have not completely observed the 'blackout'.

On the War Memorial in Chatton, NBL

Killed in the 1914 - 18 War -
Nesbit, John
Nesbit, Thomas

On the War Memorial for Blairgowrie & Rattray, at Blairgowrie, Tayside, Scotland

Killed in the 1939 - 45 War -
Pte Ronald Nisbet, Blackwatch Regiment

Seen at Wimbledon, London

Listed as playing in the All England Lawn Tennis Championship, 1895, an 'H A Nisbet'.

Listed in a book on Wimbledon players -
Nisbet, Harold Adair, b 22.6.1873, Kilburn, London
d 12.3.1937, London
Doubles Campionship winner 1896, 1898, 1899, 1900.

Noted in the April 1996 Telephone Directory for 'Area 1, Berwick-Alston (Hexham), NBL

The different N/N entries were:

1x Nesbet	42x Nesbit	49x Nesbitt
1x Nisbett	38x Nisbet	

Included in the 'Business Section' were':

Nesbit News, Morrisons Supermarket, Killingworth
Nesbit, RH, Farmer, Hetton North Farm, Berwick
Nesbit, William, Farmer, East Ancroft Farm, Ancroft
Nesbit, WD, Fairway, Ancroft
Nesbitt, Frank, Plant Hire, 7 Coquet Street

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!

- * Archivist, John Cairns-Smith-Barth has moved. His new address is 14A Robinson Road, Hawthorn.
- * A second snippet on John came in an email message from Ian M: "Ella Ursula Davidson Cairns-Smith-Barth arrived on 9th July, 1997. Mother and daughter are both well. Father is ecstatic!----Archives are intact." Congratulations to John and Helen.

NOTICE BOARD

(Upcoming events in the Local and Overseas Calendar for 1997)

28 August	Committee meeting
October	Newsletter 45
12 October	Sunday Afternoon AGM
6 December	Christmas Party (Sydney) - home of Peter & Beryl Nesbitt
6 December	Christmas Gathering - home of Ian M & Joy Nisbet (Gourmet supper - olde Victorian Xmas cookbook)

GENERAL COMMITTEE:

PRESIDENT: Ian M Nisbet, 26 Walnut Rd, Nth Balwyn, Vic 3104, Aust.
CHAIRMAN: Ian T Nisbet, 3/208 Alexandra Pde E, Clifton Hill Vic 3068, 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, 3/208 Alexandra Pde E, Clifton Hill, Vic 3068, Aust.
ASS ED: Ian G Nisbet, 1 St Johns Pde, Kew, Vic 3101, Aust.
ARCHIVIST: John Barth, 14A Robinson Rd, Hawthorn, Vic 3122, Aust.
BOARD: Bruce Nesbit, Gavin Nisbet, Lyndell Watson, Karen Nisbet,
 Gary Nisbet.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:

Ian T Nisbet, Ian G Nisbet, Gary Nisbet, Karen Nisbet.

PUBLICATION OFFICER:

Bruce Nesbit, 6 Kent Crt, Bundoora, Vic 3083, Aust.

MEMBERSHIP CONTACT OFFICER:

Lyndell Watson, 30 Mitchell Rd, Box Hill North, Vic 3129, Aust.

EDUCATION AND INFORMATION COMMITTEE:

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, Michie Jensen.

NSW REGIONAL GROUP:

CHAIRMAN: Graham Nisbet, 10 Merinda Ave, Epping, NSW 2121, Aust.
CORRESPONDENTS: Mary & Keith Nisbet, 4/125 Cardinal Ave,
 West Pennant Hills, NSW 2125, Aust.

REGIONAL OFFICERS:

George Nesbitt, 110 Ardross St, Ardross, WA 8153, Aust.
 Brian S Nesbitt, 14 Davitt Cl, Isaacs, ACT 2607, Aust.

OVERSEAS CONTACTS:

USA: Mrs Gail Jones, 321 Dixon Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15216, USA.
UK: Peter W W Nisbet, 7 Stafford Pl, Weston-super-Mare, Avon BS23 2QZ.



The Nesbitt/Nisbet Society is a Worldwide Clan Society