

THE N/NEWS

NO. 60 JULY 2001

NEWSLETTER OF THE
NESBITT/NISBET SOCIETY
AUSTRALIA



STARTING POINT

It is with great pleasure that this 60th edition of the N/NEWS is presented to members. A celebration of the Australian Branch's 15 years is well warranted. The energy and interest evident at the original interest meeting held at Bruce Nesbit's has been well administered and successful in laying a solid foundation. Membership has grown and stabilised with our New Zealand brethren now well represented in our numbers and currently our fastest growing regional group. We have, over the years, gladly welcomed many new members and sadly also farewelled many others, friends, relatives and clansmen.

Where to from here? Whilst the branch is 15 years young with much potential it is also 15 years old and potential is a double edged concept, being capable of engendering the positive - growth and development or negative - stagnation and decay.

The UK and North American branches operate under a geographically dispersed committee structure – could we possibly adapt this model? Do we have a budding editor, webmaster or committee-member outside of Victoria willing to consider such a challenge? I would encourage all members to consider and any interested members to offer up their services and talents. At the very least this may afford the committee scope to develop and explore roles we have not yet had the opportunity nor resources to pursue.

Similarly, I would encourage all members to support their local social committees and make every effort to attend organised functions. Many generations have come before to produce our heritage and we owe it to those to come to make that conscious effort and preserve all we can into the future – and why not enjoy ourselves in the process, in fellowship with other N/N's?

Editor

NOTICE BOARD-D

(Upcoming events in the Local and Overseas Calendar)

Oct	N/NEWS # 61
Oct 21	NSW N/N Picnic, Stuart Park, North Wollongong
Oct 21	AGM & Devonshire Tea, St Abbs, Walnut Rd, North Balwyn 3:00-4:30pm
Nov 18	NSW Annual Gathering of the Clans, Drummoyne Park, Drummoyne
Dec 8	Christmas Gathering, St Abbs, Walnut Rd, North Balwyn
Jan	N/NEWS #62

Note: the social calendar can be viewed on the homepage.

(NES)-BITS & PIECES

Address to the Nesbitt/Nisbet Society's Gathering, 19 May 2001

First, I would like to say how sorry I am to miss today's meeting. Many of you will know that I started working at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, 18 months ago. It's a wonderful place to work, but the complications of living well north of London and working to its south have been considerable. As I write, we are still unpacking boxes in our new home near Teddington Lock, on the Thames, and preparing to put our Cambridge house on the market. Sadly a trip to Scotland is not possible for me this May. I am very grateful to Ray Nisbet Rolinson for kindly agreeing to read this message to you, as well as carrying up a stock of Society publications to the meeting.

The position of a Scottish Chief is highly anomalous in modern life, as one of the increasingly few hereditary offices that remain. Where the office of Chiefship has been interrupted – and my father was the first Chief of the family of Nesbitt or Nisbet since the death of Sir Alexander Nisbet of that Ilk in the time of Charles II – it's not easy to work out what one's role should be. However, even the briefest glance at Scottish clan websites, or at the plethora of clan histories and clan products available, offers some clear directions. First, the role of the highland clan or lowland family, is, if anything, increasing. Many have commented that both the widespread diaspora of the Scots, and the subsequent dislocations of modern life, have led to a strong interest in roots, in links to something permanent and with a long, long history. There is little doubt that the concept of the Nisbet family as a wider, clan-like, entity dates back to the 12th century.

Second, it is clear than the clan or family, and the Chief, are nothing without each other. The clan society thus plays a vital role in enabling the two to come together, and I am very lucky to be Chief of a family which has had an active Society, with a widespread and increasing membership and dedicated committees on three continents, for nearly 20 years. It is no coincidence that some of the oldest clan societies - those dating back to the 19th century - were in fact founded by the clan chief. However, our Society's independence from the Chiefship, while retaining close links (not least through my position as archivist and publisher) seems ideal. The existence of the Nesbitt/Nisbet Society was the key factor that led my father Anthony Nesbitt of that Ilk to reprint my great-grandfather's book Nisbet of that Ilk, and to matriculate his arms and re-establish the Chiefship.

So, what does the Chiefship entail? So far, I've been mainly concerned with administrative matters. The Lyon Clerk has confirmed that I can simply take up the Chiefship by apparencey, without further formality. This I have done. However, it is my intention to formally matriculate my arms with the Lord Lyon later this year. The wonders of email have allowed me to update the text - just before printing - of the new volume of Burke's Landed Gentry that covers Scotland, and the list of Clan Chiefs in next years Whitaker's Almanac. This is important as a number of our members have come to the Society through this list. Next, I will be in touch with the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs. As for the Chief's relationship with the Nesbitt/Nisbet Society, I do not expect many changes, although anything I can do to further raise our profile and membership is important. If any of you have thoughts on this or other matters involving the Chiefship, you are warmly invited to contact me at my new address.

In the meantime, I send warm salutations to all my kinsmen at this year's gathering, and look forward to seeing you in person at the next. It is an honour to represent the ancient family of Nesbitt or Nisbet as Chief, and this is a role I look forward to fulfilling for many years to come.

Mark Nesbitt of that Ilk

14 May 2000

13 Springfield Road, Teddington, Middlesex TW11 9AP
mark.nesbitt@excite.com

The following extract was submitted by Ian Clarke and is from "The Scots Magazine, April 2001, p.438. The moral being "search those heirlooms well who knows what hidden treasures one may find locked in that closet!"

Secrets No Longer



Wilmslow,
Cheshire.

A roll of film which had been placed in a hidden tallboy drawer, and forgotten, has revealed a fascinating glimpse of a Portobello beach scene and also of the start of a family picnic from Balmaclellan, Dumfries and Galloway, both around the turn of the last century.

Dorothy Grant Nisbet, of Manchester, found the drawer in the tallboy family heirloom and opened it to discover one of the earliest roll films to be produced.

The film, which had been in the secret drawer for around 80 years, was in excellent condition. Because the drawer was not only light-proof but also air-tight the film had been perfectly preserved. It was developed and printed by the company which I ran until retirement.

The photographs were found to be "family album" scenes taken by Miss Nisbet's father, in 1904.

The tallboy originally belonged to her grandfather, an Edinburgh lawyer.

One photograph shows a group of ladies, elegant in Edwardian day-dress, and children on the beach. The lady with the parasol is Miss Nisbet's mother; on the right is a set of golf clubs. Miss



Nisbet thought her photographer father was probably off to a golf course after taking the photographs.

Another photograph was taken outside her grandfather's country house at Balmaclellan. The group includes her grandmother, mother and older sister, Jean — who was then aged about four — setting off by horse and trap for a picnic.

Norman Edwards.

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NETWORKED N/N's

The Scots Link website can be found at:

<http://scotslink.alphalink.com.au>

The website of N/N Society applicant: Charles Sampson "Next to the pub"

Stewart Island
NZ

And reputedly the "Southernmost Nisbet-built website" (Falklands and Terra del Fuego excepted) is at:

<http://www.commercial.co.nz/~rakiura/>

Cheers Cobber-Sam"

Perhaps a site worth a visit next time you're surfing! Drop Sam a line — he'd probably appreciate it. How big is Stewart Island?

MEM-BOAR-SHIP

The Society welcomes the following new members:

- James & Fatima Zeiher of Isaacs, ACT.
- Jock & Hilary Nisbet of Taupo, New Zealand.

Ian M Nisbet has already been of assistance with some genealogical data. See search notices under "Wanted" also for both these new members.

SOCIETY NEWS

UK Gathering 2001 The UK gathering was held at Blair Atholl on Saturday, 19th May 2001 and included a visit to Blair Castle. From reports in the UK & N/A Newsletters this function was well attended, well organised and (once again) enjoyed by all attendees. The motto, "Kith, Kin & Fellowship" being not only espoused but practiced. Congratulations to organisers Sarah and Gordon Nisbet.

Note for the 2002 diaries – next year's gathering will be held on 18th May 2002, venue, etc. to be advised.

On May 27 six NSW N/N's picnicked at the Model Engineers Park experiencing a great time watching radio controlled planes, an array of railway trains and model boats and sharing the amenities with the Ford Anglia Club with their lovingly restored Anglias and Prefects.

On July 28 a dozen or so Victorian members dined at Adrian's Restaurant in Forest Hill. The meal was delicious and the fellowship was enjoyed by all, as was best afforded in a full & busy restaurant.

On July 28 nine NSW N/N's celebrated a "Christmas in July" luncheon, enjoying excellent fare and fellowship.

N/Ns IN THE NEWS

Evelyn Nesbit appears fairly regularly in the media under all sorts of forums. This time the cutting replicated below is from The Weekend Australian, January 20-21, 2001, p.15 reviewing a publication "Photogenic", images from the Royal Photographic Society's collection.



Then and almost now: Famous actress Evelyn Nesbit at 16, left, photographed by Gertrude Kasebier in 1902, contrasts with a model looking 'incredibly modern' yet photographed, by Gordon Crocker, in 1938. Taken from *Photogenic*, images from the Royal Photographic Society's collection (Scriptum Editions, 336pp, \$110)

THE WANTED LIST

Date: July 17, 2001 Time: 12:44 am
Name: Ken Baird Email Address:
ken.baird@extra.co.nz

Subject: Looking for family members.

My great great grandfather John Nisbet his wife Isabella (Routeledge) and son Thomas arrived in Nelson New Zealand in 1842 on the ship Sir Charles Forbes. The only information I have been able to find is that he was born in Scotland. Does anybody have any information to help me in my search.
Many Thanks
Ken

From: Hil & Jock Nisbet
[mailto:jahil@reap.org.nz]
Sent: Sunday, 10 June 2001 10:30

Subject: Family

My grandfather Thomas was born in Melrose Scotland 31-12-1859, lived in Direlton educated in Glasgow and Edinburgh Uni ,was called to N.S.W. in 1882 ,preached in Australia [Sid.Mel.& Bris.] then moved to Dunedin in 1904 and died there 1910. I believe either 4 or 6 unmarried brothers attended his marriage to Sarah Lamrock on 24th July 1884 at 'Lemon Forest' Richmond. One of them was Alexander Ingram. As far as I know my family and my late brothers are the only descendants from Rev Thomas whose father was Alexander born 15-10-1829 and married Agnes Holmes and his grandfather was Thomas [of Kilmarnock]and married Agnes Smith.[13-11-1820--I don't know if that is birth date or marriage]
Hoping you are able to help
Kind regards Jock Nisbet

Ian M Nisbet supplied a few details re: THOMAS NISBET/AGNES SMITH and their off-spring.

Date: May 10, 2001 Time: 5:48 am
Name: jim zeiber Email Address:
jimzeiber@hotmail.com

Subject: Peter Ignatius NESBITT

Searching for information re my ggrandfather Peter Ignatius Nesbitt. Born in 1862, married Mary Ann OTOOLE in 1892, children Peter John, Christopher, Anne. Emigrated from Liverpool in early 1900s to Australia. Reputedly related to Randolph Nesbitt VC, and James Nesbitt, bushranger. Information gratefully received and shared.

Jim later advised that "Peter Ignatius Nesbitt came to Western Australia in about 1904. They lived in Geraldton and Freemantle, and moved to Adelaide in 1917."

Date: June 16, 2001 Time: 12:00 am
Name: Lyn Collis Email Address:
lyncollis@extra.co.nz

Subject: Seaching for Robert Nisbet

I am the great granddaughter of Ellen or Helen Underwood married Robert Nisbet Born 2 Sept 1867 parish of Whitburn country of Linlithgow son of Robert Nisbet a coalminer and Janet Simpson. Robert and Ellen marriage was 15 Nov 1895 Witnessed by Charlotte Nisbet. He died at the age of 50 14 Sept 1917 city of Westminster Infirmary at that time both his parents had died. Is there anyone out there that can help? I dont have anything else to go on.

Name: jim zeiber
Email: jimzeiber@hotmail.com
Date: Sat Jul 14 04:57:07 2001
Comments: Has anybody done any research on Cathleen Nesbitt, the actress? She was born 1888 in chester. Help appreciated to resolve a "family legend"

Date: April 19, 2001 Time: 2:31 pm
Name: Margaret Vickers Email Address:
margaretv@extra.co.nz

Subject: Nesbitt

Hi I am looking for my grandparents
John Nesbitt d 1922. Farmer of Lislea
Co Armagh & his wife Margaret nee
Girvan d 1923. Children Robert John,
Samuel James, Albert, Emily, Hugh.
Keep the good work on the N/N web site
it is great.

Regards
Margaret

On 22-Jun-01
Jo Nesbitt
(jo.nesbitt@smithfamily.org.au)
From Sydney wrote:

Hi there I am off to Ireland in
September and I am hoping to find some
of my family history. My grandfather
William moved out to Sydney from
Belfast in about 1920. Could anyone
give me some tips on where to start?
Maybe a number or an organization
would be a great help. I am getting
more definite dates and names from my
mum before I leave so I will have a
bit more info by then. Anyway, thanks
from a Nezzzy. Jo

On 11-Jun-01
Eleisa White
(eleisa.white@hotmail.com)
From Sydney, NSW wrote:

Hi I'm wondering if anyone has any
information on the Nisbets of Hay,
NSW. They owned a farm called Dry Lake
just out of town. My Grandfather is
Doug Nisbet, the youngest son of the
family.

Does anyone know of Violet Louise
Hamilton-Gordon? She was married to
William George Nisbet from Hay. She
had already had a daughter (Muriel)
and went on to have two boys with
William: Frederick (who died at nine
from bronchial pneumonia) and Douglas
(my Grandfather). Any help or leads
would be much appreciated.

On 19-Apr-01
Robert James Stewart Nisbet
(arjesson@yahoo.ca)

From Swift Current Sask. Canada wrote:
A g uncle of mine may have gone to
Australia. It may have been John or
William Born at Longgreen Farm in
Ayreshire. Any clues? Rob

On 17 April Rob had also submitted the
following:

Have found a cousin and am looking for
more. Offspring of Robert Nisbet b
1850 d 1904. Sons John, Tom, Bert,
James. He had a sister Mrs Meadows.
Brother William + John. Sister Jeanie.
All born at Longgeen Farm. Back in
history Robert N + Jean Paterson m
1811, family Margaret, Marion, Janet,
Jean, Elizabeth, Robert, Thomas, Gavin
b 1812 to 1833. Hold a séance? Rob

Date: June 18, 2001 Time: 7:59 am
Name: Sam Sampson Email Address:
billybus@es.co.nz
Subject: Nisbet in NZ

G'day,
Any other NZ Nisbets visit this
wonderful website? There's 137 of you
in the NZ Telecom Whitepages - enough
to start a Kiwi Klan.

My background - John NISBET &
Christine (?SMITH) were in Porewa,
Marton, NZ, pre-1870, with Peter,
Lilias, Arthur, and others. I
understand from the Edinburgh area.

Lilias Smith NISBET (I understand born
in Scotland) married Percy Frederick
SAMPSON (1879-1938) on 11 Apr 1906.
Dad, Arthur Nisbet SAMPSON, was born
10 Nov 1908. Lilias must have died ca
1947 - I can just remember swinging on
her garden gate to watch the trains go
by...;)

Thanks to those who have done the hard
work on the Nesbit/Nisbet sites - I've
just realised the significance of a
very Fred-Bear (thread-bare) family
rug, that I finally threw out a few
years back - it was OUR Tartan!
Aaaarrggghhh...;)

Cheers - Sam Sampson - Stewart Island
- New Zealand

The southernmost Nisbet - unless we
are in the Falkland Islands or Terra
del Fuego too - which wouldn't
surprise me...;)

FAMILY SNIPPETS

SUCCESS

On the back of Hazel Nesbitt's "Wanted" entry (N/NEWS #57) came Nola Matuschka's "Wanted" entry (N/NEWS #59) and we have been able to put them in contact with Harry Nesbitt who is a direct descendent of George & Mary Ann Nesbitt (nee Bond) and who has plenty of information he is willing to share.

Noting that George Nesbitt is currently the Society's earliest documented emigrant ancestor.

It has recently been confirmed that these three members in fact share a family tree and so can now supplement each other's efforts. We wish them further (joint) successes in their genealogical endeavours and anticipate the production and submission of a tree/chart for future reference.

FOUND

Jim Zeiher, along with membership application and search notice also noted that he served with Chris Nisbet, Commander RAN, on HMAS Perth in the mid 70's.

OBITUARY

The Society is saddened to advise of the death of Elizabeth Brown (nee Nisbet) in early July. Elizabeth was an N/N member from Queensland and sister of Chairman, Effie Todd. Our condolences to Elizabeth's family and surviving sisters.

STOP PRESS

Nola Matuschka has a pattern available for a Nisbet tartan crochet rug should any members wish to undertake such project.

BOARS HEAD TIES: The Newsletter Editor still has two Boars Head Ties (Navy blue with white boars head pattern embossed) in stock available at \$22:50 (AUD). Please contact the Newsletter Editor to arrange delivery and payment.

Members Peter & Cathy Nisbet of Mitcham recently became proud parents of Thomas Anthony Nisbet, born 1st June 2001.

Camille Ames is currently walkabout, enjoying Europe and sending the occasional e-mail to gr uncle Ian who monitors progress with keen interest. The latest report was from Ios in the Greek Isles having successfully negotiated her way through Greece and Turkey. Several more Greek Isles are on her itinerary. She is thoroughly enjoying the trip.

Joy Nisbet is currently recuperating from more surgery, we wish her a speedy return to full mobility.

The editor and family recently undertook a whirlwind 3 week visit to England and Ireland.

The Society notes change of address for:

- Major WE Hughes to Toowoomba, Queensland.
- Murray Nesbitt to Canning Vale, Western Australia.

GENERAL COMMITTEE:

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The Nesbitt/Nisbet Society is a Worldwide Clan Society

INTERNET SITE:

<http://www.nnsoc.org.au>