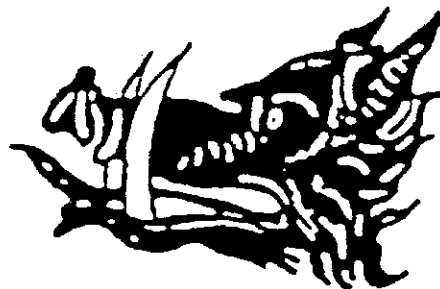


THE N/NEWS

NO. 61 OCTOBER 2001

NEWSLETTER OF THE
NESBITT/NISBET SOCIETY
AUSTRALIA



STARTING POINT

The 15th AGM is at hand, and whilst this may generally pass unnoticed by most N/N members, especially those remote from Melbourne, it is a critical activity in the life of the Society.

On behalf of members I thank all office bearers across Australia and New Zealand and members of the various committees for their voluntary efforts, so graciously given in service of the Society.

The profile/s of the Melbourne based committees have changed little from the original "line up/s", and will most likely remain so again

this year. However, whilst a dedicated group, they too are subject to ageing, work and family pressures. Please assist wherever your interests and schedules allow. Volunteer articles for publication, assist in maintaining one of the homepage views or just keep in touch with other N/N's – this is "the Year of the Volunteer".

The committee are currently reviewing many facets of the Society's activities. The homepage is being re-visited and your constructive comments and ideas are welcomed, as are articles for the N/News and nn-enews.

NOTICE BOAR-D

(Upcoming events in the Local and Overseas Calendar)

Nov 18	<i>NSW Annual Gathering of the Clans, Drummoyne Park, Drummoyne</i>
Dec 8	<i>Christmas Gathering, 26 Walnut Rd, North Balwyn, 8:00 pm</i>
Jan	<i>N/NEWS # 62</i>
May 18	<i>2002 UK Gathering, Durham Castle, Durham, Northumbria</i>
April	<i>N/NEWS # 63</i>
July	<i>N/NEWS # 64</i>

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

MEM-BOAR-SHIP

NEW MEMBERS: We welcome the following new members to the society:

- * Yvonne "Lyn" & Graham Collis of Waihi, New Zealand
- * Charles "Sam" Sampson of Stewart Island, New Zealand
- * John & Dorothy "Dot" Nesbit of Christchurch, New Zealand

(NES)-BITS & PIECES

The following details were extracted from Victorian Mining Accident List at the web address <http://www.ballaratgenealogy.org.au/miners> and under the letter "N" you will find these entries:

Name	Date	K/I/O	Status	Dep	Comments	District	Division
Nesbitt, John	1876/02/18	Killed	Married, 54 YO	5	Fall of earth	Ballarat	Smythesdale
Nisbet, Robert	1879/01/27	Killed	Married	3		Castlemaine	Fryer's Creek

The following article was taken from the UK Newsletter, Volume XVIII, Number 11, Autumn 2001, p.13.

From the Dictionary of Biographies

NESBIT, ANTHONY (1778-1859)

Schoolmaster and writer of schoolbooks, was the son of Jacob Nesbit, farmer, of Long Benton, near Newcastle-on-Tyne, where he was baptised on 3rd May 1778. In the preface to his 'Arithmetic' he states that he was educated 'under the direction of some of the finest commercial and mathematical preceptors in the kingdom', and that, having a decided predilection for teaching, he became a schoolmaster at an early age. He lived successively at Whitby, Malton, Scarborough, Bridlington, and Hull. In 1808-9 he was under master at Preston grammar school, as appears from a communication to the 'Lady's Diary' for 1809. In 1810 he describes himself on the title page of his 'Land Surveying' as 'land surveyor and teacher of mathematics at Farley, near Leeds'. About 1814 he set up a school at Bradford, removing in 1821 or thereabouts to Manchester, where his school in Oxford Road became well known. About 1841 he removed to London, and started a school at 88 Lower Kennington Lane.

His books, which had a considerable reputation in their day, especially in the North of England, are:

1. 'Land Surveying' York, 1810
2. 'Mensuration' 1816
3. 'English Parsing' 1817
4. 'Practical Gauging' York, 1822
5. 'Arithmetic' Liverpool, 1826; second part, London, 1846
6. 'An Essay on Education' London, 1841.

His sons, John Collins Nesbit and Edward Planta Nesbit, took part in the compilation of the last-named work. Some of his books went through several editions, and his 'Land Surveying,' revised by successive editors, still retains its popularity, the twelfth edition appearing in 1870. He was an excellent teacher, though somewhat severe; and in the preface to his 'Arithmetic' he laments that 'an over-fond parent too often prohibits the teacher from using the only means that are calculated to make a scholar of his son'. He contributed to the mathematical portions of the 'Lady's Diary', 'Enquirer', and 'Leeds Correspondent'. He died in Kennington Lane on 15th March 1859, and was buried in Norwood Cemetery (*Gent. Mag.* May 1859, p.547a).

[Authorities as cited; personal knowledge.] {R.B.P.}

Presumably, Anthony's son, Edward Planta Nesbit, is the same person referred to (by this unique name) in N/News No. 's 12 & 13, pp.5 & 6, as the father of Edward Paris(s) Nesbit, born in Angaston, South Australia in 1852.

Presumably, Anthony's other son, John Collins Nesbit, might well be the John Collis Nisbet (sic) late of 38 Kennington Lane, Co. Surrey, briefly referred to in the UK Probate Lists as reported in N/News No. 56, p.2?

I must admit to a degree of self-indulgence in selecting this article over various others, as being a "land surveyor" and having relatively recently come into possession of a copy of Nesbit's 'Land Surveying', 11th Edition (in reasonable condition), and not having come across this reference or author, I felt great affinity with the subject of this article. I shall now read it with great(er) enthusiasm. - Ed

N/NS IN THE NEWS

The following article is from the Sunday Herald Sun, December 17, 2000, p35.
Note Dame Nellie's son's name and also that it was her 140th birthday earlier this year.

The article reported,

"FORMER TV star Mike Walsh is leading a drive to rename Exhibition St and erect a statue in memory of Australian legend, Dame Nellie Melba.

Walsh wants the street called Melba Boulevard or Melba Avenue, with the statue of Dame Nellie on the median strip outside Her Majesty's Theatre, at the corner of Little Bourke Street.

....."



DAME NELLIE MELBA

THE soprano the world knew as Melba was born Helen Porter Mitchell, the eldest child of Scots builder David Mitchell and his wife, Isabella, in Richmond on May 19, 1861.

A plaque on a factory wall in Burnley St marks the site of the Mitchell family home, Doonside.

While living in Queensland in 1882 she married Charles Armstrong.

Their son, George Nesbitt Armstrong, was born in 1883. He was three when his parents separated. Melba first sang professionally in Melbourne in 1884 and two years later went to England.

She was accepted as a student by renowned singing teacher Madame Marchesi and made her opera debut in Brussels in *Rigoletto* the same year.

Melba's first big success at Covent Garden was in 1889 and from then fame was assured, with engagements at all the big opera houses of the world.

In 1902, she first sang with tenor Enrico Caruso in Monte Carlo and returned to Australia for her first concert tour, starting at the Melbourne Town Hall.

Melba made her first recordings in London in 1904 on her own Hisac label and continued recording until 1923.

Her first operatic performance in Australia as a world star was as star and executive director of the Melba-Williamson Grand Opera Company at Her Majesty's in 1911.

Her farewell to grand opera in Australia came at the Her Majesty's on October 13, 1924, after the second Melba-Williamson season.

She was made Dame Commander of the British Empire by George V for fundraising efforts during World War I.

At the opening of Parliament House, Canberra, in 1927, Melba sang *Land of Hope and Glory*, and the same year received the Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire.

She retired to Coombe Cottage near Lilydale, a property she bought in 1909 and where granddaughter Lady Pamela Vestey still lives.

Melba died on February 23, 1931. Melba Hall at Melbourne University, the Melba Memorial Conservatorium of Music and Dame Nellie Melba Kindergarten in Richmond are named after her, and her career is enshrined at the Melba Museum, Lilydale.

Train Mystery

Lloyd's Weekly News

March 20, 1910

The following article has been extracted from the UK newsletter, Volume XVIII, Number 11, Summer 2001, pp 18-19 and was submitted by David W Nesbit. An extract from his covering letter states:

"I thought that you might find the enclosed extract from a newspaper to be of interest. I have not yet been able to establish a link with my family, although they were living in the area at the time.

We discovered the article on a scrap of newspaper when we stripped the walls of our cottage in the Lake District. The walls had obviously remained undisturbed for over 90 years and we thought that it would be sensible to keep a piece of paper which showed the date, as a historical record. You can imagine our surprise when we realised what the article was about. The square brackets towards then end of the article denote sections, which are missing from the rescued paper.

We have been able to obtain a photocopy of the London edition of the same newspaper, which gives rather more information on the murder. Apparently his wife was called Cecily Elizabeth and they lived at 180 Heaton Road, Newcastle. I would be interested to know if anyone can link John Innes Nesbit into their own family tree."

Cashier found murdered under a seat

Seven bullet wounds

Assailant escapes with bag containing £370

Huddled under the seat of the 10:17 train from Newcastle, still bleeding from seven bullet wounds, the body of **Mr John Innes Nesbit**, cashier to a Northumberland colliery company, was found by a railway servant at Alnmouth on Friday afternoon.

There was no trace of a weapon, and a bag containing £370, which the unfortunate man was known to have been carrying, had also disappeared. The police are accordingly attacking the problem of tracing the author of a brutal and mysterious crime.

The murdered man was employed by the Stobswood Colliery Company, and lived in Newcastle, which he had left in the morning with a bag of money intended for the fortnightly pay of the colliery workers at Stobswood. The discovery was first made by a porter passing along the platform at Alnmouth, who noticed traces of blood about the compartment, and explored the interior. Death had apparently occurred only a short time before the train's arrival at the station.

Mr Nesbit had left Newcastle from the Central Station with a bag containing over £370 for the payment of the men, and his alighting station for the colliery at Stobswood was Widdrington, a few miles south of Alnmouth. The police were immediately apprised of the affair, and during the afternoon inquiries were pursued in every direction

with the object of elucidating the mystery. There was a disposition to believe that the act was the work of not one man, but of a gang who, possibly, may have thrown the empty cash bag away in the neighbourhood of the line.

Mr Nesbit was forty-four years old, and lived in Heaton-road, Newcastle. He had been married nearly seventeen years, his family consisting of two daughters aged fifteen and eleven years respectively. He had been in the service of Messrs. Payne and Burn, owners of Stobswood Colliery, whose headquarters are at Beaconsfield Chambers Sandhill, Newcastle, ever since he left school twenty-eight years ago, and had gradually risen to a position of responsibility. It was part of his duties to take the journey to Stobswood every alternate Friday, and the amount of money he carried varied between £300 and £500.

The colliery at present employs about one hundred men. The cheque for the necessary amount was signed on the previous day by **Mr Burn** and obtained by **Mr Nesbit** from the firm's cashier and manager (**Mr Thomas Anderson**) for cashing at the bank immediately prior to his starting for Stobswood. He invariably travelled by the same train and cashed the cheque as usual in the morning.

Wife's Vain Vigil

It was the custom of Mrs Nesbit to go on to the platform at Heaton station on the morning of her husband's journey and, as the train passed through from Newcastle, to wave a "Good-bye" to him, for he was usually on the look-out at the carriage window.

On the morning of the tragedy, as the train ran into the station she failed to see him at the window, but noticed that a young man was looking out of the window of an adjoining carriage. As the train actually passed her, however, she saw her husband in a carriage with the window pulled up, which prevented her ascertaining whether he was alone or not. The unfortunate cashier usually returned to Newcastle by train arriving just after four o'clock in the afternoon. As soon as Messrs. Payne and Burn were apprised of the murder they sent out another employee with a further sum to pay the wages due at Stobswood.

When the porter entered the carriage at Alnmouth he found blood all over the [floor] whilst there were wounds all over the man's head, as if he

had been bludgeoned [as] well as shot. Alnmouth is a considerable distance north of Widdrington, where Mr Nesbit should have got out, and it is [thought] that he was already dead before the Alnmouth station was reached.

The wounds of Mr Nesbit were [examined] at Alnmouth by Dr. Burman, police [surgeon] and several of them were found to [have been] caused by bullets. The right [] smashed. There were wounds on [] of the forehead, while others were [] ears and one below the left eye. [] found in the compartment of the coa[ch] was taken off at Alnmouth.

According to a news agency t[here were] seven bullet wounds in the head. [Two] on the temple, one below the left eye, [and the] other four were in the base of the skull behind the ears. No trace of the assailant has yet been found.

I could tell you "who dunnit" but I won't. I'll simply say that all /was revealed in N/News No. 47, p. 5. Our super-sleuth Ian Clarke was well on top of this case. Wasn't justice swift back then? - Ed

THE WANTED LIST

On 10-Aug-01

Lyn Collis (lyncollis@xtra.co.nz)

from New Zealand wrote:

Just becoming a member researching Robert Nisbet m Janet Simpson 1853 in Bothwell Lanark Scotland, anyone researching this line? Great site many thanks to Ian Nisbet for his help. Keep up the good work enjoyed looking over your n/n society pages and guestbook

Date: July 22, 2001 **Time:** 5:20 am

Name: Joe Nisbet

Email Address: jnisbet@student.cowan.edu

Subject: My Best Wishes To You!

I'm from Glasgow, Scotland. I now live in Perth, Australia. For many years my rellies lived in The Gorbals, an area of Glasgow which was totally rebuilt in the 1960s. I feel quite 'chuffed' that my family name, a very SCOTTISH one, is being so proudly perpetuated by proud people such as yourselves. Thanks!
SLAINT

Date: August 1, 2001 **Time:** 11:46 pm

Name: Keith Gill

Email Address: kagey@start.com.au

Subject: Annie Darge Nisbet

I'm looking for a marriage between Annie Darge NISBET to Joseph Arthur GILL. They were married in St Peters Highgate Hill London, 12/2/1899. Any help gratefully accepted. I would like to get a copy of their cert.

And then again;

Date: August 4, 2001 **Time:** 11:59 pm

Name: Keith Gill

Email Address: kagey@start.com.au

Subject: Nisbet / Gill

My grandmother was Annie Darge Nisbet, born Coldingham, Berwickshire, Scotland, 30/12/1871. She married my grandfather, Joseph Arthur Gill, born Hanover, London, 1863. I don't know exactly when. She was the daughter of Archibald Nisbet & Jeanie Chisolm. I can't seem to locate anything else. I was wondering if you may know anything or anyone with some further info for me. Thanking You, Keith Gill. Email kagey@start.com.au

On 02-Aug-01

Jackie James (Nee Nesbitt)

jjames@hunterlink.net.au

from Hunter Valley, NSW, Australia wrote:
my great grandfather Mark Nesbitt arrived in Australia with his parents Joseph & Elizabeth about 1860, does anyone have any idea from where they came? or which ship? This is a great site and I hope to get to some of the society's functions soon.

Date: August 25, 2001 **Time:** 3:00 pm

Name: Kevin Nesbitt

Email Address: nessie@rmscc.co.za

Subject: NESBITT NAME

I am the eldest of three sons of James Nesbitt who married Sylvia Clarke in Ballybay, Co Monaghan, Rep of Ireland and emigrated to South Africa in 1948 and then to Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) in 1951. He had (as far as I know) one brother and two sisters who live/lived in Ireland. I would be interested if anyone has any knowledge of the family history.

Best Regards,
Kevin Nesbitt

Date: August 18, 2001 **Time:** 2:33 pm

Name: Martyn William George NISBET

Email Address: morris.nisbet@ntlworld.com

Subject: New member ? Surely

Hi, I'm the youngest of 5 sons born in Scarborough, N. Yorkshire. Our old Dad was Oswald Nisbet (b. 1904) in Dunfirmline. We as far as we knew were the only N's in our seaside town. Excepting one lot of Nesbitts. We thought we were rare. A shock then to find a world society of (us?) you. My father had two sisters Charlotte (Lottie) and Margaret (Peggy). I think there was a set tradition on naming children in Scotland? How do the villages of Nisbet and Nesbitt fit into the scheme of things? Dads' family moved to London circa 1910. I've often wondered why as his Dad, George, was a coalminer. Early days then no doubt you will hear from me again. Meanwhile if I can be of some assistance here in Nottingham (research?) please don't hesitate to get in touch. I'm using my brothers E address as above or write :-

65 Edwin Street; Daybrook; NOTTINGHAM
Nottinghamshire. UK NG5 6AX

Regards to the family. Martyn Nisbet

Now there's a generous offer – and one not to be missed should you be interested in this area or lineage – Ed.

OBITUARIES

The Society is saddened to be informed of the death of Eric Nisbet of Riverwood, NSW. Eric and wife Jean have been long-standing NSW members. The society extends its condolences to Jean.

FAMILY SNIPPETS

Graham & Brenda Nisbett dropped the editor a note recounting some details of their recent holiday to Alice Springs & north-west Queensland where they came across "Nisbit Street" just out of Winton. Then, in Mildura, they found their neighbours to be fellow N/N members Ron & Margaret Nisbet from Penguin, Tasmania "It was a pleasure to meet them".

The history of Nisbit St., Winton was documented in N/News No. 42, p.1. Perhaps a country gathering should be considered at Mildura? – Ed.

The Society notes a change of address for:

Deborah & Jeffrey Browning to Mirboo North, Vic

Peter & Cathy Nisbet still Mitcham, Vic.

Bruce Nesbit our convenor, founding editor and publications officer has of recent times suffered ill health and, along with Helen, was unable to attend the recent AGM. On behalf of the committee and members I wish Bruce a speedy and full recovery, Helen continued strength, and anticipate their attendance at the Christmas Gathering.

What relation might that be?

common ancestor	son/ daughter	grandchild	great- grandchild	g-g- grandchild	g-g-g- grandchild	g-g-g-g- grandchild
Son/ daughter	brother/ sister	nephew/ niece	grand nephew/ niece	g-grand nephew/ niece	g-g-grand nephew/ niece	g-g-g- grand nephew/ niece
grandchild	nephew/ niece	1 st cousin	1 st cousin once removed	1 st cousin twice removed	1 st cousin thrice removed	1 st cousin 4 x removed
great- grandchild	grand nephew/ niece	1 st cousin once removed	2 nd cousin	2 nd cousin once removed	2 nd cousin twice removed	2 nd cousin thrice removed
g-g- grandchild	g-grand nephew/ niece	1 st cousin twice removed	2 nd cousin once removed	3 rd cousin	3 rd cousin once removed	3 rd cousin twice removed
g-g-g- grandchild	g-g-grand nephew/ niece	1 st cousin thrice removed	2 nd cousin twice removed	3 rd cousin once removed	4 th cousin	4 th cousin once removed
g-g-g-g- grandchild	g-g-g- grand nephew/ niece	1 st cousin 4 x removed	2 nd cousin thrice removed	3 rd cousin twice removed	4 th cousin once removed	5 th cousin

SCOTS OF VICTORIA COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Other events on the calendar are:

Nov 18	St Andrew's Day Remembrance Service	Shrine of Remembrance
Nov 24-25	Gippsland Celtic Festival	Logan Park, Warragul
Dec 1	Daylesford Highland Gathering	Daylesford

STOP PRESS

The 15th Annual General Meeting of the Society was held last weekend at Balwyn North. A group of dedicated members braved the beautiful Melbourne spring weather (a glorious day) to attend to the matters at hand, as well as the faire – a delicious Devonshire Tea. Our thoughts go out to those unable to attend due to poor health – quite a few as the apologies well attest. We hope you are all up and about by December 8th and look forward to your fellowship at the Christmas Gathering. Copies of the AGM papers and reports accompany this newsletter.

Our president, Ian M Nisbet, took great pride in launching an "occasional paper" entitled 'The Nisbets of Dalziel' authored by our esteemed archivist John Cairns-Smith-Barth. Unfortunately John was one of our many apologies. John deserves great admiration and our heartfelt thanks for his efforts in compiling and authoring such an authoritative document. Members will be notified when the paper is prepared for publication.

UK Gathering 2002 The UK gathering is to be held on Saturday, 18th May 2002 at Durham Castle, Durham. The area has local N/N connections such as Nesbitt Hall near Castle Eden. Further details yet to be advised.

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Jan Nisbet, Barbara Leslie, Helen Nesbit, Michie Jensen.

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The Nesbitt/Nisbet Society is a Worldwide Clan Society

INTERNET SITE:

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