

THE N/NEWS

NO. 63 APRIL 2002

NEWSLETTER OF THE
NESBITT/NISBET SOCIETY
AUSTRALIA



STARTING POINT

Since the last edition the following suggestions have been noted, the first, lifted from the NA homepage and the second from a member of the Australian Branch. They shall receive attention at our next committee meeting and from there? Only time will tell.

“Whilst the web site is of the highest quality I believe that a family tree is in order. This would allow all Nisbets to see where they are in the family in relation to the chief.”

“Why do we have three separate websites? Can we not combine them into one and share the cost? It would save us all money and there can still be an individual(s) designated to update their own sections.

I daresay that some 16 years ago Bruce Nesbit wondered at calling an “interest” meeting and look! With the interest and dedication of many N/N’s the Australian Branch grew and still has potential to grow further.

Whilst the suggestions might seem “pie in the sky” stuff, if each of us was to “do our bit” then it is a much smaller “ask” for all. This is, after all, one of the primary purposes of the Society.

I wish all of us every success in our genealogical pursuits and urge all members to make use of the resources available through the N/N Society. I implore all N/N’s and especially members to assist those seeking assistance; make that initial contact, as remote or trivial as it might seem.

NOTICE BOAR-D

(Upcoming events in the Local and Overseas Calendar)

May 18	2002 UK Gathering, Durham Castle, Durham, Northumbria
July	N/NEWS # 64
Oct	N/NEWS # 65

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

UK Gathering 2002 The UK gathering is to be held on Saturday, 18th May 2002 at Durham Castle, Durham. The Gathering this year will be at Durham Castle; upon arrival, ask for directions to the Gathering at the Porter's Lodge. David and Sue have arranged an interesting programme which will include tours of both the cathedral and castle, then a talk about Durham which also explores Nesbitt/Nisbet connections with the area.

OBITUARY

It is with sadness that we receive the news of the death of N/N member (North American Branch), Mr Ray Nesbit who died on March 24th, at the age of 90. Ray had served as a Navy officer during World War II and then eventually was assistant director of the California Wildlife Conservation Board. The following is a short extract from the obituary from an American publication, *The Bee*.

"In his later years, his taste for adventure apparently was not diminished. His son Bruce said Mr. Nesbit parasailed in Mexico, Flew onto a glacier in New Zealand, traveled to more than 100 countries from his home in Scaramento's Campus Commons area and went skydiving on his 80th birthday. He was also active in a Scottish clan society and the American Cancer Society's volunteer program."

Ray visited (Melbourne - Australia) briefly in 1992 and was keen to visit the Healesville Sanctuary and Phillip Island to see the penguins. Our condolences to Josephine and family/ies.

(NES)-BITS & PIECES

Who formed the first modern nation?
Who created the first literate society?
Who invented our modern ideas of democracy and free market capitalism?
No, not a Nesbitt/Nisbet, but ...

The Scots.

Such is the contention of the author, whose book is detailed below.

How the Scots Invented the Modern World
The True Story of How Western Europe's Poorest Nation Created Our World and Everything in It
By Arthur Herman

Stu Nisbet, President of the NA Branch of the N/N Society recently saw the author being interviewed about this book. From the details Stu supplied it sounds like a fascinating book on Scottish history.

NESBITT OF THAT ILK: (Robert) Mark, Chief of the name and Arms of Nesbitt (or Nibet) and feudal Baron of Nisbet has an entry in *Burke's Peerage & Gentry* under "Scottish Feudal Barons, Scottish Clan Chiefs".

The following article was lifted from the North American News of the N/N Society, Issue 24, Winter 2002, p.9.

WANTED by the FBI

No doubt all of us have noticed the pictures of people wanted by the FBI while waiting in line at the Post Office. None of us likes to acknowledge that one of our relatives might have appeared on one of those posters. However, digging around on the internet has revealed that a Nesbitt was included on the very first FBI "Ten Most Wanted" list.

The first list was created in 1949 when a *Washington Daily News* reporter asked the FBI to identify the "toughest guys" they wanted to capture. The story generated so much publicity, Director J. Edgar Hoover implemented the "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives" program the following year.

Number three on that first list was William Raymond Nesbit whose life of crime had begun on December 22, 1936 when he and four others stole \$37,000 worth of jewels from a wholesale jewellery company in Sioux City, Iowa. The following week a fight broke out among them while attempting to obtain some dynamite. One of the men was killed and his girlfriend severely injured when the powder house exploded. Nesbit was apprehended on February 26, 1937, convicted of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment.

Good behaviour made Nesbit a trustee and he was allowed to leave the prison to work in houses and gardens. In December 1946, he was reported missing after the night check.

On March 17, 1950, a 14-year old boy in St. Paul, Minnesota, saw a photograph in the paper and thought he recognised the hermit he had seen living in a cave by the river. He wanted to call the police immediately, but his friend persuaded him to wait so they could confirm their suspicions. Convinced, they took police to the site where Nisbet was apprehended, just two days after being placed on the "Top Ten". The boys were flown to Washington DC to receive the \$100 reward.

I note that Mr "N" started out a Nesbitt, soon became a Nesbit and finished up a Nisbet – very diplomatic - presumably because as stated, "None of us likes to acknowledge that one of our relatives might have appeared on one of those posters."

American Gathering 2002: The North American News of the N/N Society, Issue 25, Spring 2002 would seem essentially dedicated to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania and the American Civil War. All this is as an historical background to the location chosen for the American Nesbitt/Nisbet Gathering on October 5, 2002.

This is a mammoth undertaking and we wish the organising committee and the NA Branch every success.

Alexander Nisbet's Heraldic Plates – Part 3, entitled "Sir Alexander Nisbet and his descendants" is available on the N/N North American home page and makes very interesting reading.

Registrum Magnis Sigillis Regum Scotorum: The UK branch Newsletter of Spring 2002, Volume XVIII No I, pages 24 - 30 contains an excerpt of the Nisbet/Nesbit at the Register of the Great Seal (*Registrum Magnis Sigillis Regum Scotorum*). The Register of the Great Seal is an important source of late medieval/early modern genealogy of Scotland. It was published from 1306 to 1668 (eleven volumes) in 1822ff (New edition 1984ff). The Register deals mainly with royal confirmation of transfer of land. Until 1651, the charters are written in Latin and afterwards in English.

Anybody fortunate enough to have traced antecedents back to this period (1306 – 1668) may wish to peruse this listing. Contact branch secretary/ies who should be able to direct you to a copy or member with same.

Roll of N/N Voters at the Federal Referendum 1899: N/News 62 included a listing under this heading on page 2. Bruce Nesbit (convenor) penned a note to inform us that he claims one of the entries as being of his family tree:

Nesbit	William	Vine Street, Bendigo	Wheelwright
--------	---------	----------------------	-------------

who was in fact Bruce's grandfather and who had died before Bruce was born. Bruce also noted that he had visited the home many times and that it was still standing some 8 years ago.

I (editor) claim two of the entries as being part of my family tree, being:

Nesbit	William	Wedderburn	Miner
Nesbitt	James	Wooroonook	Farmer

Even though my surname is "Nisbet".

You will see from the next article that Graeme Nisbet has also claimed one entry as being of his family.

Submissions such as this are much appreciated. They allow readers to identify contacts in other N/N branches and are a small part of the larger picture. I believe that these are the "small", achievable tasks as alluded to in the "Starting Point" of this edition.

Do similar records exist for the other states? If so, could somebody please supply listings for the newsletter as well as details of their connections. I look forward to being inundated with information.

ERRATUM

N/News 62 included a "Roll of N/N Voters at the Federal Referendum 1899" that had been compiled from a less than perfect photocopy of the roll as held by the Victorian Parliamentary library. Upon a query raised by N/N member, Graeme Nisbet, it was found to contain at least one questionable, and probably erroneous, entry. The entry in question read:

Nisbet	David	96 Albert St Prahran	Cabinet Maker
--------	-------	----------------------	---------------

Graeme holds detail holds of his antecedent, being:

Nisbet	Daniel	98 Albert St Prahran	Cabinet Maker
--------	--------	----------------------	---------------

This seems too much of a coincidence. Ultimately the document held in the Parliamentary Library is the definitive source document. If anybody is in a position to confirm the entries this would be appreciated, as it is understood that the photocopy utilised included several poor quality sections of information, and is not available for further examination.

NETWORKED N/N's

A few sites that may be of interest for those tracing antecedents in the United Kingdom:

- General genealogical website (Britain & Ireland):
<http://www.genuki.org.uk>
- Public Record Office (Britain):
<http://www.pro.gov.uk>
- Family Records Centre (England & Wales):
<http://www.familyrecords.gov.uk/frc.htm>
- Family Records Centre (London):
<http://www.corpoflondon.gov.uk/archives/lma>
- New Register House (Scotland):
<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk>
&
<http://www.origins.net>
- Society of Genealogists:
<http://www.sog.org.uk>

N/Ns IN THE NEWS

The following detail is from THE WIMMERA **Mail-Times**, March 28, 2002.

The article was heralding the 2002 Stawell Easter Gift and listed the winners since its inception in 1878.

Any descendants care to fill us in or supply further information?

1896

- 1st, R.G. Nesbitt, Adelaide.
- 2nd, J. Robertson, Balmoral.
- 3rd, J. Errington, Stawell.
- 4th, J. H. Stuckey, Moonee Ponds.
- 5th, C. Rogers, Sydney.

THE WANTED LIST

Date: March 9, 2002 Time: 6:19 pm
Name: Sheila
Email Address: sheilakay@qconline.com
Subject: Nesbitts from Northern Ireland

My great grandmother was Mary Nesbitt and was born in Castlewellan, County Down, N. Ireland, on 11/27/1860. She was the daughter of Alexander and Martha Madole Nesbitt. She married Hugh Russell in December 1887. I would like to know more about her and her family tree, a Catherine Nisbet?(my

Gr. Grandmother) She married James McInall, Nov. 7, 1872 in Slamannan, Stirling, Scotland. Believe her family were from Stirlingshire. They had the following children: Elizabeth, b. 1873, Mary, b. 1879, William, b. 1881 (my Grandfather), Richard, b. c 1883, Catherine, b. c 188? James b. c1885 and Forbes, b. c1897 - Killed during WW1. Would be great to find some folks to share my research with! Informative site - will check back regularly.

Date: February 18, 2002 Time: 2:18 pm
Name: Gloria
Email Address: glencogranny@hotmail.com
Subject: Paternal Gr. Grandmother
Am doing research into my Scottish ancestors and found your great site on the Nesbitt/Nisbet family name. Wonder if anyone has in their Nisbet family

Date: January 12, 2002 Time: 11:23 pm
Name: Robert James Stewart Nisbet
Email Address: arjesson@yahoo.ca
Subject: Who goes there
I am back, looking for anyone descended from my gr. uncle Robert Nisbet born at Longgreen Farm, April 29, 1850, died 1904. He settled at reat Blunt's Farm, Stock. He moved there from Lowdon, Ayrshire in 1886. He had sons John, Tom, Bert, James. Also a sister Mrs Meadows who should have been Jeanie, born Sept. 5, 1861. Help anyone?
Rob.

Date: January 13, 2002 Time: 7:00 am
Name: Eric Nisbet
Email Address: enisbet@csolve.net
Subject: Nisbet/Runciman & Nisbet/Adie - Edinburgh
I am hoping to find someone researching John Nisbet & Janet Runciman, married Jun 3 1793 in Edinburgh OR Thomas Nisbet & Janet Adie, married Apr 12 1781 in Edinburgh. Both had sons named John and I hope to discover if either of their sons is my John Nisbet who married Isabella Nicol on May 25 1820 in Edinburgh.

Date: February 9, 2002 Time: 8:01 am
Name: Sarah Nisbet
Email Address: nisbetsarah@hotmail.com
Subject: Hello!!
I visited the site purely out of curiosity. What a lovely surprise! I had better register our family or 6 as I have relatives mainly in the UK but also in Australia.

On 24-Feb-02
Kerry Walker(kerry1@hn.ozemail.com.au) from Perth, Australia wrote:
Am seeking assistance from anyone who may have details of the passenger list of the Echunga which arrived in Victoria in 1857 with my ancestor Ann Nisbet aboard (info from Pippa Letch). I am looking for a James Wright who may have also been aboard, he is her future husband. Thanks.

Date: January 24, 2002 Time: 1:03 am
Name: John Nesbitt
EmailAddress: rjnesbitt@optusnet.com.au
Subject: Nesbitt Search
Hi. I am living in Brisbane, Australia. I was born in Northumberland U.K. I started looking into my family tree and have got back as far as 1717. A Thomas Nesbitt from a place called Watbottle just outside Newcastle moved with the work to West Wylaim nr Prudhoe in N/Land. The line that I am looking for is from Thomas born at Warbottle, to John, born at Warbottle 1751. James, born at Warbottle 1761, Charles, born at West Wylaim 1894, George born at West Wyliam 1921, and myself, born at Barington 1943. If anyone can help please let me know, and this is a great site.

Date: February 9, 2002 Time: 7:56 pm
Name: Robert Radford
Email Address: radfordr@inforamp.net
Subject: David Nesbitt of Whiteabbey, Antrim
I am looking for the David Nesbitt who married Mary Baxter 20 April 1829 at 1st Carrickfergus Presbyterian in Carrickfergus, Antrim. He then moved to Whiteabbey, parish of Carnmoney, where he worked in a factory and had two girls, Eliza-Jane and Margaret, both baptized back in Carrickfergus. Mary (Baxter) Nesbitt was living alone in Carrickfergus by 1861 so he must have died by then. This is not the same David Nesbitt listed as David Nesbitt of Carnmoney who married an Eliza.

FOUND

Reverend Henry Nisbet, LL. D. (1818-76):

The State Library of Victoria holds microfilmed copies of papers by the Reverend Henry Nisbet, LL. D. (1818-1876) who was a missionary of the London Missionary Society.

He left England for the Pacific Islands in August 1840. He reached Samoa from Sydney in August 1841 and went to Tanna, New Hebrides in the following June. He returned to Samoa in February 1843 and was stationed there for the rest of his life. He visited Australia in 1854 and 1867-8.

The collection includes a notebook, journals, hymns in Samoan and letters from Rev. Nisbet to his second wife, Lydia Lantoret.

Any more details available on the Reverend Henry Nisbet?

Mr Nisbet of Maffra, cobbler: The State Library of Victoria holds a photograph in their picture collection entitled "Mr Nisbet of Maffra", depicting Mr Nisbet repairing a shoe circa 1911. The photograph is attributed to H. B. Hammond (1866-1951). I believe that the photograph can be viewed electronically at

<http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/pictoria/a/1/5/doc/a15751.htm>

Any more details available on Mr Nisbet?

FAMILY SNIPPETS

It has been reported that Hazel Nesbitt's daughter is to be married during April and is having a Celtic ceremony including handfasting.

Congratulations to the bride and groom and we look forward to a report on the proceedings.

A change of address for Mark and Robyn Nisbet from West Melbourne to Templestowe has been noted.

SCOTS OF VICTORIA COORDINATING COMMITTEE

My daughter and I attended the Ringwood Highland Gathering on Sunday 24th March. It was a very warm day and we felt for the dancers and members of the pipe bands that were entertaining us. The displays and massed band were impressive. My daughter was impressed by the "liveliness of the activities and the energy and excitement exuded by many of those manning the "family tents". I would encourage members to consider "banding" together as a small group or we as a larger group arrange for a "family lunch" to coincide with one of these gatherings and then join our scottish-descendent brethren in the festivities. – Ed.

STOP PRESS

The Editor has it on good report that Dr. Ian T Nisbet was sighted on Australian soil recently. This was further supported by the article in the Sunday Herald Sun of April 21, 2002, page 13 entitled "Bid for major biotech centre".

Meanwhile Gwenda has found E-Bay and managed to find several "Nisbet Bears". She was recently the winning bid on a bear that was accompanied by a Nisbet Bear Catalogue that is currently out of print – she really only wanted the catalogue - *now there's a (Nisbet) bear with a complex!*

Bruce Nesbit (convenor) also recently submitted, with his note referred to on page 2, a résumé entitled "Tracing my Family Roots" which is an article or monograph in its own right and has been prepared in Bruce's inimitable, precision drafting style.

Stay tuned!

GENERAL COMMITTEE:

PRESIDENT: Ian M Nisbet, 26 Walnut Rd, North Balwyn, Vic 3104, Aust.
CHAIRMAN: Effie Todd, 2/6 Imperial Ave, Mt Waverley, Vic 3149, Aust.
EDITOR: Gary Nisbet, 37 Neuparth Rd, Croydon North, Vic 3136, Aust.
SECRETARY & ASSISTANT EDITOR: Ian G Nisbet, 1 St Johns Pde, Kew 3101, Aust.
TREASURER: Gavin Nisbet, PO Box 617, Mount Waverley, Vic 3149, Aust.
ARCHIVIST: John Barth, Unit 1/4 Nelson Rd, Camberwell, Vic 3124, Aust.
BOARD: Bruce Nesbit, Lyndell Watson, Karen Nisbet, Robert Nisbet.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:

Gary Nisbet, Ian G Nisbet, Karen Nisbet, Glen Hollebone, Robert 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.
SECRETARY: Glen Hollebone, 28 Derna Road, Wattle Grove, NSW 2173, Aust.
CORRESPONDENTS: Mary & Keith Nisbet, 4/125 Cardinal Ave, West Pennant Hills, NSW 2125, Aust.
COMMITTEE: Peter & Beryl Nesbitt, Frank Nesbit.
GENEALOGY CONSULTANT: James E Nisbet.

ACT REGIONAL OFFICER:

Brian S Nesbitt, 14 Davitt Cl, Isaacs, ACT 2607, Aust.

WA REGIONAL OFFICER:

Pippa Letch, 29 Stonesfield Court, Padbury, WA 6025, Aust.

NZ REGIONAL OFFICERS:

Margaret Vickers, Kartigi, RD2 Palmerston 9061, Otago, NZ.
Dorothy Bagnall, 45 Beulah Avenue, Rothesay Bay, Auckland 10, NZ.

OVERSEAS CONTACTS:

North America: R. Thomas Nesbitt, 39351A Sunset Drive, Oconomowoc, WI 53066, USA.
UK: Peter W W Nisbet, 7 Stafford Place, Weston-Super-Mare, North Somerset, BS23 2SQ, UK.

The Nesbitt/Nisbet Society is a Worldwide Clan Society

INTERNET SITE:

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