

THE N/NEWS

NO. 67 APRIL 2003

NEWSLETTER OF THE
NESBITT/NISBET SOCIETY
AUSTRALIA



STARTING POINT

For some time now this has been the forum for appeals for support and calls for volunteers to assist in replacing office bearers who have long, generously and favourably served the Australian Branch of the N/N Society. As previously reported several committee members have flagged that they are currently serving their final year in office. This message is further reinforced by the recent "stepping down" of Peter & Beryl Nesbitt from the NSW committee. The general committee wish to thank Peter and Beryl for their services to the Society and more specifically to the NSW members over many years.

Every time that you contact a fellow N/N, peruse papers, documents, books and the like for N/N's and accounts of their lives or exploits, you are in fact serving the society and assisting it achieve one of its basic aims; it really is that simple. Any articles, snippets, items from your own research and family news is sought and most welcomingly received. So are any offers to serve the society in a more formal manner.

We are also saddened to report in this newsletter the passing of one of our members, Brigadier Thomas G. Nisbet.

Ed.

NOTICE BOARD-D

(Upcoming events in the Local and Overseas Calendar)

| | |
|----------|---|
| May/June | Social Gathering – <i>details to be advised as a separate mailing</i> |
| July | N/NEWS # 68 |
| October | N/NEWS # 69 |

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

(NES)-BITS & PIECES

Tales from the Crypt

This was the headline of an article in THE AGE of Friday February 7, 2003 on page 3 of the *Culture* section. The article may be of interest to many N/N's who have had ancestors that lived and/or died in Melbourne. The article is about the St Kilda Cemetery – more specifically about the Friends of St Kilda Cemetery, a group of local amateur historians, who have traced tales behind some of the deceased residents and now take guided tours of the cemetery. The cemetery comprises some 50,000 graves and includes that of Alfred Deakin "the father of federation", Australia's Prime Minister on three occasions between 1903 & 1913. Call 9531 6832 for details of tours.

In N/News 66 on p.5 it was reported that an oil painting by Noel L Nisbet was for sale on eBay. A description of the piece for sale was also supplied. Gwenda Nisbet has advised that she was successful in obtaining the masterpiece, has since had it framed and now proudly displays it in their residence. It did eventually "go" for a little more than the US\$3.75 reported as the current bid at the time of N/News 66.

No further details regarding Noel L. Nisbet have yet been forthcoming.

In this newsletter there are several items with a bit of a difference, two about individuals with N/N as a christian name, which I presume indicates a relationship to N/N's, perhaps on the mother's or grandmother's lineage and then also two items featuring the surname "Naisbit". The first of the items is the "Feature Article" on General Nisbet Balfour of Dunbog. The others appear in the "N/N's in the News" and "The Wanted List".

FEATURE ARTICLE

General Nisbet Balfour of Dunbog

1744 - 1823

Nisbet Balfour was born on 20 January (OS) 1744, at Dunbog in Fife (then spelt 'Denboig'), the third but second surviving son of Henry Balfour of Dunbog (1708-64) and his wife Katherine Porterfield (1721-91). Nisbet's grandfather, Major Henry Balfour of Dunbog, formerly of the Scots Greys, was the third son of John, third Lord Balfour of Burleigh. Major Balfour had represented Fife in the old Scots Parliament, opposed the Union of Parliaments, and later supported the Jacobites in 1715, as did his brother Lieutenant Colonel John Balfour of Fernie, who was actually forfeited for treason.

Nisbet joined the 4th Foot as Ensign in 1761. He progressed through the regiment steadily over the next few years: Lieutenant, 1765; Captain, 1770. Meanwhile, on 31 July 1764, his father Henry died, aged 58, leaving the family estate to Nisbet's older brother Harry (b. 1741), an officer in the Royal Scots (1st Regiment of Foot).

Nisbet was wounded in the side at Bunker Hill in 1775, narrowly escaping death as the ball struck his cartridge box, and was sent back home. He returned the following year and participated in the Battle of Long Island, 27 Aug. 1776. He inherited the family property later that year, following the death on 1 October of his brother Major Harry Balfour at Fort George, near Inverness. A passing comment of Patrick Ferguson's suggests that Harry was killed in an accident with a double barrelled gun, then regarded as technically unreliable and dangerous. The family suffered another bereavement shortly afterwards, when Nisbet's aunt Emilia, widow of David Clephane of Carslogie, died at Anstruther on New Year's Eve. Nisbet continued to progress to brevet Major, 1776; Major, 1777. After the Philadelphia campaigns, he was appointed Lieutenant Colonel of 23rd Foot in 1778 while in Philadelphia, selling on his Majority in the 4th to Sir James Murray (future Secretary at War, Sir James Murray Pulteney), a cousin of Patrick Ferguson. He matriculated his arms as Balfour of Dunbog with the Lord Lyon on 24 April 1779. He took part in the Charleston Expedition, 1780. As Commander at Fort Ninety-Six, he didn't get on with Ferguson. He was later promoted Colonel, and ADC to the King. Nisbet Balfour was heavily involved in supervising and administering grants to Loyalists. He served as MP for Wigtown Burghs, and as Major-General under Abercromby in Flanders. He became Colonel of the 93rd, 1793, and of the 39th in 1794; Lieut. General in 1798, full General 1803. General Nisbet Balfour died, unmarried, on 16 Oct. 1823, aged 79, at Dunbog, where he is buried.

Nisbet Balfour is buried in a walled family enclosure in the small cemetery in Dunbog. He rests between his unmarried sister Euphan or Euphemia (1750-1829) (right), and his grandnephew Lieutenant-General William Stewart Balfour of Arbigland (1800-69), formerly of the Coldstream Guards (left). Euphan's headstone was raised by her nephew Francis Balfour of Fernie (c.1777-1854) the son of Amilia or Emily Balfour (b.1751, twin of Janet), another of the Dunbog sisters, and her husband (and second-cousin) Dr. Francis Balfour of Fernie.

The above article was lifted from the UK Nesbitt/Nisbet Society Newsletter Winter 2002, Volume XVIII, Number IV.

N/N's IN THE NEWS

Cliff Nisbet spotted an article in THE WATCHTOWER of April 1, 2003, pp26-30.

The article is a Life Story as recounted by Robert Nisbet and is entitled *My Share in the advancement of Global Divine Education*. Robert was born in Scotland (presumably Edinburgh) in 1908 where he was first introduced to the Bible Students (as the Jehovah's Witnesses were then known). Robert underwent training and was asked to pioneer ministry in Africa – a vast southern portion of that continent, which he did. Robert was then posted to Mauritius and then later to Japan, after marrying an Australian missionary, Jean Hyde. Robert and Jean have retired to Armidale, New South Wales.

This is an inspirational story of an N/N with a mission in life that has taken him to a number of continents, where he has visited many countries and lived amongst a variety of nationalities. He has dealt with people of all social standings from slaves to local tribesmen, businessmen, plantation owners and managers to King Sobhuza II of Swaziland.

Whilst not exactly in the news, Nesbitt featured proudly in a recent book review of the biography of Peter Cook, entitled "Tragically I was an only Twin: the Complete Peter Cook", edited by William Cook (Random House) found on page 13 of THE AUSTRALIAN, Monday December 30, 2002. It is part of the well known Pete & Dud (Peter Cook & Dudley Moore) sketch "Sitting on the Bench":

"Yes, I could have been a judge but I never had the Latin for the judging. I just never had sufficient of it to get through the rigorous judging exams. They're noted for their rigour. People came staggering out saying "My God, what a rigorous exam" – and so I became a miner instead. A coalminer. I managed to get through the mining exams – they're not very rigorous. They only ask one question. They say, "who are you?" and I got 75 per cent for that.

Of course, it's quite interesting work, getting hold of lumps of coal all day. It's quite interesting, becauseAnd of course their wish was granted.

I am very interested in the universe – I am specialising in the universe and all that surrounds it. I am studying Nesbitt's book – *The Universe & All That Surrounds It, an Introduction*. He tackles the subject boldly, goes through from the beginning of time right through to the present day, which according to Nesbitt is October 31, 1940. And he says the earth is spinning into the sun and we will all be burnt to death. But he ends the book on a note of hope. He says: "I hope this will not happen." But there's not a lot of interest in this down the mine.

The trouble with it is the people. I am not saying"

In the credits of the movie "Addicted to Love" one Nesbitt Blasedel was noted.

Unfortunately the credit item and exact spelling of the surname remain to be advised/confirmed. Any further details?

Dr Ian T. Nisbet, our American correspondent submitted the following articles.

Globe's Nesbitt feted by coaches

The Massachusetts High School Football Coaches Association has named Globe Northwest staff correspondent Andy Nesbitt its winner of the 2002 Football Media Award.

Coaches from across the state were eligible to vote for a person involved in high school sports media who they felt best displayed, through coverage of the recent season, the dedication of those participating in high school football.

"Through his writing, Andy

proved that he cared about the high school game and the players who participated," said Peter Flynn, Billerica head coach and Merrimack Valley Conference coaches representative.

The award will be presented this spring at the Massachusetts High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame Induction ceremony. Players and coaches, who have yet to be determined, will also be honored at the ceremony with the awards for courage and civility.

The Boston Globe, Sunday 26 January 2003.

Q&A Paul Nisbet, of JSA Research, on Raytheon's prospects

A possible impending invasion of Iraq. Heightened tensions with North Korea. A war on terrorism that's well into its second year. These should be boom times for Lexington-based defense and aerospace contractor Raytheon Co. But you'd never know it from the company's stock price, which was down 6 percent in 2002. Globe reporter D.C. Denison asked veteran aerospace and defense electronics analyst Paul Nisbet, a cofounder of JSA Research in Newport, R.I., if he could explain the disconnect.

Q. So why isn't Raytheon doing better in these dangerous times?

A. Well, 85 percent of their business, the defense side, is doing extremely well. It's other things that are dragging them down.

Q. What parts of the business are holding them back?

A. Their aircraft group, the former Beechcraft Aircraft, which is struggling in a weak market. Also, the ongoing loss of monies pertinent to the sale of their engineering and construction business a few years ago — that's had a negative impact.

Raytheon sold that business to the Washington Group, which subsequently went bankrupt, and that left them with all sorts of warranties and guarantees relative to the facility construction. They have lost about \$1.5 billion since they sold it, and they were losing money when they sold it. Their pension fund is also dragging down their earnings.

Q. Because it has performed poorly?

A. Yes. After three years of down markets, Raytheon is

looking at something in the order of \$400 million in pension fund expenses this year, and \$900 million next year. That comes right out of their earnings per share, which means they are facing at least two years of declining earnings per share.

That is not going to appeal to potential investors. Also, the entire aerospace and defense group has declined over the past six months, as many investors sold their stocks in a sector rotation.

Q. Anything favorable on the horizon?

A. The 2002 earnings reports for Raytheon, and the other defense companies, will be out in late January, and they should contain some good news. Also the 2004 US defense budget will come out in early February, which may influence investors in a positive way.

If there is an attack on Iraq or a war with North Korea or another terrorist incident — those will get people thinking about Raytheon and the other defense companies again, in a better light.

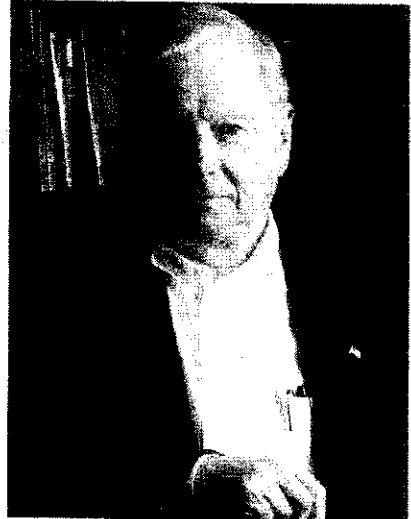
Q. You sound pretty positive about their prospects.

A. Raytheon should have close to 7 percent top-line growth next year, and top \$17 billion of sales. Their earnings will drop, because of their pension problems, but they should be free of their engineering and construction obligations by late spring.

We currently rate the Raytheon stock a "hold" because of the prospect of down earnings this year and next. We would likely change the rating to a "buy" if and when the Financial Accounting Standards Board or the aerospace industry switches its earnings per share computations to economics EPS thereby excluding pension fund earnings/expenses.

Q. So the company may ultimately benefit from an increasing emphasis on defense?

A. No question about it. It's a majority of their business, so the current climate should have a positive effect on their bottom line.



Paul Nisbet sees growth for Raytheon this year.

The Boston Globe, Sunday 5 January 2003.

The following is an excerpt from an article found by Ian Clarke in THE PHARMACEUTICAL JOURNAL (Great Britain) (VOL 269) dated 21/09/2002, on p.412. The article is entitled BRITISH PHARMACEUTICAL CONFERENCE:

"Indicators of prescribing aim to draw attention to issues that may need investigation. However, **H. E. Kendall and S. M. Naisbitt (pR54)** have queried whether an improvement in the benzodiazepine prescribing indicator reflects more appropriate prescribing of hypnotics. Lower prescribing of temazepam and nitrazepam was replaced by increased prescribing of the newer hypnotics, with an overall increase in total hypnotic prescribing."

SOCIETY NEWS

My son and I attended the 37th Ringwood Highland Games, along with approximately 8,000 others, on 30th March and thoroughly enjoyed the pipe bands, the tartan everywhere and the various scottish and clan displays. However my son found it a little frustrating when he was unable to locate any N/N crests, badges, books and found only a few minor mentions in the many texts and history books that were on display. We did receive an explanation of how the bagpipes work, but stopped short of buying a chanter or set of pipes – perhaps next year. Unfortunately, the "heavy" games activities were not competed this year due to concern over insurances, so those who attended witnessed gumboot throwing and haggis hurling along with plenty of scottish (highland) dancing. It was a most enjoyable outing.

Ed.

NETWORKED N/N's

Subject: Mr Pitt Nisbet – fact or fiction?

According to what would appear to be a "new version of the old Nigerian Scam" one of our members received an e-mail from "Barrister Thomas Doyle" as attorney to the late Mr Pitt Nisbet, an employee of the Shell Petroleum Development Company in Nigeria. Mr Doyle desires that any "Nisbet" he contacts agree to be nominated as Mr Pitt Nisbet's nearest of kin so that some US\$3.5M can be accessed before the government confiscates it – "under legitimate arrangement that will protect you from any breach of the law", states Barrister Thomas Doyle.

Is it possible to obtain any detail on Mr Pitt Nisbet who reputedly "died as the result of a motor accident with his wife and only daughter on 21st April 2001 in Nigeria"?

We received an entry on our website from a Tracey Nisbett, as below:

On 08-Mar-03
Tracey Nisbett (traceynisbett3@hotmail.com)
from Southend on Sea - England wrote:

Just like to say hello to all the Nisbetts down under. There aren't too many of us in Essex, it would be nice to hear from any distant Nisbett cousins out there in Australia or anywhere in fact. Love Tracey

Whilst members with internet access are free to respond, we have also received a note from a member who is happy to correspond by more conventional mail. Members are encouraged to further the aims of the society as they are able. The President is currently contacting Tracey to facilitate this arrangement.

THE WANTED LIST

Date: Jan 17, 2003 Time: 1:50 am
Name: Graeme Sinclair Nisbet
Email Address: gsnisbet@extra.co.nz
Subject: NZ Nisbets

Hi from the New Zealand branch of the family. I am son of Donald Ian Nisbet, son of James Sinclair Nisbet, son of Robert John Nisbet, son of Robert H Nisbet, son of Alexander Nisbet of Berwickshire. My mother is collecting genealogy for the family in this part of the world. We have some info further back than mentioned. But want to track more..eml as follows.
don-gael@extra.co.nz or
gsnisbet@extra.co.nz Cheers Graeme

Date: March 30, 2003 Time: 3:29 am
Name: Jacolene Whippy nee Nesbit
Email Address: jacolene@maxnet.co.nz
Subject: Maori Nesbit from NZ

It's great to be able to read about our genealogy. My grandfather was Alan Nesbit whose father as far as I know was Alexander Nesbit. My father was raised by his mothers family who were a Maori whanau. My father married my mother a beautiful Maori woman from Dargaville and they had five children, three boys and two girls. I have in-depth knowledge of my Maori ancestry however I have been a Nesbit all my life and know very little about this heritage. I think this sight is awesome and would like to hear from anyone who could enlighten me.
Arohanui.

Date: March 3, 2003 Time: 10:08 pm
Name: Trevor Nisbet
Email Address: cdog55@aol.com
Subject: Nisbet Family

Father, William Guthrie Nisbet born Glasgow, Nov 1911, Mother, Dora May nee Harrison born Swansea Wales October 1913. Searching for any family links. Great website.

Date: Feb 28, 2003 Time: 4:50 pm
Name: William G. Richmond
Email Address: netid@excite.com
Subject: Jessie Nisbet - Paternal Great Grandmother

Jessie Nisbet (born abt 1846 to Richmond Nisbet and Margaret Boyd) married my great grandfather George Richmond in 1865 (Loudon parish, Ayrshire, Scotland). As with many of my searches I have hit a dead end - partly due to the dates, partly due to maiden names, but more than likely due to me being a truly frugal Scot who won't put out a penny for a real search.

Just thought I'd add a note here for my great grandmother's sake. There is a great web site that I came across when I started searching in earnest - if you haven't already been there, check out www.ayrshireroots.com Peace!

Date: March 17, 2003 Time: 1:39 am
Name: Myrna McGhie
Email Address: mlee2001@gci.net
Subject: Taylor/Nesbitt

I have enjoyed going through your site very much. It packed with great information.

My interest is in finding my Nesbitt ancestors. My 3rd great grandparents were John and Sarah (Nesbitt)Taylor. The only information I have on them is that they were married 15 Dec 1793 in Norton, Durham, England. I have no birth or death dates for Sarah but I believe she was born in Scotland. Both Sarah and her husband John are buried in Lac-Beauport, Quebec, Canada, sometime in the mid-1800s. One of their children, my 2nd great grandfather, was Moses Taylor, born in Leitrim, Ireland on 8 Mar. 1819. He married Elizabeth Gosnell.

I will hope that I will find some long-lost cousin here. Thank you for providing this wonderful site.

Myrna McGhie
Fairbanks, Alaska

Date: Feb 21, 2003 Time: 2:47 pm
Name: Diana Hawkins
Email Address: dmhawkins@aol.com
Subject: Scottish coal mining Nisbet ancestors

A great site. I have visited it many times over the years, but this is my first posted message. I would love to exchange family history and genealogical information with other Nisbet family members, whose ancestors lived and worked in the iron ore and coal mining districts around Glasgow in the 17-1800 and early 1900s. Those place names and communities in Old Monkland Parish, which now sound so familiar to me, include Coatbridge, Airdrie, Faskine, Calderbank, Woodhall, Cairnhill, Gartsherrie, etc.

Date: January 6, 2003 Time: 2:04 pm
Name: Louise Bashford
Email Address: loubashford@yahoo.co.uk
Subject: Naisbits of Northern England & Isle of man

Hello! My mother is descended from the Naisbits. The earliest I've traced is Cuthbert Naisbit who married Jane Parkin c. 1838. They moved from somewhere in England to Ballygawne, Rushen, Isle of Man in the 1840s, and had at least three sons (Thompson, Isaac and John) and one daughter Jane. They moved to County Durham and two of the sons, Thompson and John, became miners. Would love to hear from anyone who knows anything about them.

Best wishes, Louise

FOUND

Continuing from an entry on p.5 of N/News 65 from Diana Paige, who is in possession of some china that is adorned with an initial crest (DN) and boars head which was then followed by extra detail on p.7 of N/News 66 Ian M. Nisbet received the following e-mail, which has been passed onto Diana to explore further:

Dear Ian,

I read with interest the Australian article on Diana Paige's china (*reprinted in*) page 23 Volume XX (*Number 1 of the UK Newsletter*). I also have some armorial Chinese china monogrammed GN (George Nisbett - my great x 04 grandfather) and just wondered if they might be from the same stable.

With all good wishes, Patrick Nisbett.
(UK member, address supplied)

A coN/nection even if not necessarily a direct link - evidence that the clan network can assist.

Date: March 9, 2003 Time: 9:26 pm
Name: Ramona Baker (Nesbitt)
Email Address: ramona6097@hotmail.com
Subject: Samuel Nesbitt

My g-g-grandfather was Samuel Nesbitt b. 18 Feb 1830 in Ballymartin, Antrim, Ireland. I believe that his father's name was John but am not sure. Samuel married Elizabeth McConkey 2 Sep 1853 in Carnmoney Parish Church of Ireland She was born 4 Oct 1831. I would appreciate any other information or if any one interested can provide about Samuel descendants.

On 04-Mar-03
Earl Nisbet (e.nisbet@worldnet.att.net)
from Aptos-California-USA wrote:

I just ran across your N/N site a few minutes ago, and of course very interesting. My Father was Charles Frederick Nisbet, born in South Shields, England. His Mother was a Knox supposedly directly related to John Knox, who started the Presbyterian Religion. My Father had a brother who went to Australia in the late 1800's. ? . .If anyone is interested something about me can be found by searching: [the sai chow doo house by earl Nisbet].

Also of interest, can anybody supply detail of Charles Frederick Nisbet's brother who went to Australia in the late 1800's?

Date: March 26, 2003 Time: 6:13 am
Name: Dianna Adrienne Nisbet
Email Address: tamamalee@aol.com
Subject: just hello

My sister Christina told me about this site and I just wanted to say hello to you all. I am the daughter of Adrian Home-Nisbet and Elsbeth Spoliansky. I was born in London and have two sisters, Christina and Carolyn. I have recently found a half-brother living just down the road from me!!
Best of luck to you all and have wonderful lives.

Date: March 9, 2003 Time: 9:18 pm
Name: Chuck Sadosky
Email Address: ctwzrd@cox.net
Subject: E.A. Nesbitt
Does E. A. Nesbitt & Co. have a history. Who would have signed something as such? I may have a very old object?

Date: March 25, 2003 Time: 5:09 am
Name: Kenneth Nisbet
Email Address: KennethNisbet@bigpond.com
Subject: Nisbet

I moved to Adelaide Australia in 1998 from Parkhouse, Glasgow, Scotland. I've discovered that there are more Nisbet's outside Scotland than in it. If anyone's interested, the name originates from the town of NISBET in Southern Scotland. Cheers.

The cutting at right is an advertisement from a wedding advertising feature that appeared in the Herald Sun, 14 February 2003.



Clan do: wear your family tartan.

CELEBRATE your heritage with a traditional Scottish wedding.

The House of Scotland, Australia's oldest Scottish shop, stocks a full range of more than 1350 family tartans and accessories.

Scottish dress hire, including kilts, is one of the biggest aspects of the House of Scotland's business. Owner Bill Gibson has provided kilts and Scottish outfits for many prominent Melbourne couples.

More and more couples are choosing to include elements of their heritage in their wedding celebrations.

"I think people are trying to follow a little bit of Scottish tradition," Gibson says.

The House of Scotland can also provide pipers, tartans, tartan ribbons and Scottish wedding rings in gold or silver to add a special touch to any wedding celebration.

The House of Scotland, 115 Whitehorse Rd, Balwyn/Deepdene. Ph: 9817 5151

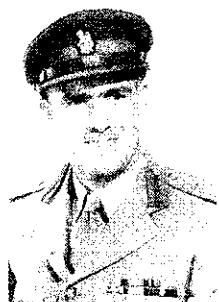
FAMILY SNIPPETS

- Jan and Gavin Nisbet recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. - *Congratulations on achieving such a milestone.*
- *Elyse Classon is currently unwell. Our thoughts go out to Elyse and John at this time.*

OBITUARY

It is with great sadness that we advise of the passing of N/N member, Thomas Granger Nisbet, on 8th April 2003. Tom was a member of the society since the Australian Branch was first formed, being an active social member up until the last year or so. His son Ian G. Nisbet is the society's founding and current secretary. Our condolences to Ian, Lesley, Thomas & Anna and the wider family as they mourn the loss of "Tom senior".

A service for the celebration of the life
of



Thomas Granger Nisbet

12th November 1919 - 8th April 2003

On a Friend

An honest man here lies at rest,
As e'er God with his image blest;
The friend of a man, the friend of truth,

The friend of age and guide of youth:
Few hearts like his, with virtue warm'd,
Few heads with knowledge so inform'd

If there is another world, he lives in bliss;
If there is none, he made the best of this.

*Robert Burns
(1759-1796)*

Above is the facesheet from the order of service and a Robert Burns poem read at the service.

STOP PRESS

As this edition goes to print the 10th Australasian Congress on Genealogy & Heraldry is being held at the Melbourne Convention Centre, 23 - 27 April 2003.

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The Nesbitt/Nisbet Society Australia is a member of the Council of Clans

The Nesbitt/Nisbet Society is a Worldwide Clan Society

INTERNET SITE:

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