

THE N/NEWS

NO. 69 OCTOBER 2003

NEWSLETTER OF THE
NESBITT/NISBET SOCIETY
AUSTRALIA



STARTING POINT

Well, another year gone! I recollect that I opened with this line in N/News #68. However with this issue, we report on the 17th AGM of the Australian Branch of the N/N Society. Copies of the reports accompany this newsletter.

The AGM saw the retirement of our Chairman, Effie Todd, and our Treasurer, Gavin Nisbet. Both have agreed to participate on the general committee when they are available. Personally, I would like to thank Effie and Gavin for their efforts and leadership. A précis of their time in office can be found within the President's Report. The current office bearers, committees and contacts are listed on the back page of this newsletter.

Protocols for the homepage are the first item to be considered by the committee. Members are encouraged to visit the homepage, sign the guestbook and make the site "more homely" and interesting for visitors. The committee will endeavour to maintain a currency that was identified as lacking on the previous site layout, but rely on material from the wider membership to attain this. I look forward to receiving copious submissions of material for the newsletter and/or homepage – dig deep – and ensure that "little piece of you", that snippet of your life is shared with your clansfolk.

As 2003 draws to a close I wish you well for the coming festive season and start to 2004.

Ed.

NOTICE BOAR-D

(Upcoming events in the Local and Overseas Calendar)

Oct 26 th	AGM – revised date
Dec 6 th	Christmas Gathering, St Abbs, 26 Walnut Road, North Balwyn, 8:00 pm
January	N/NEWS # 70
April	N/NEWS # 71
May 15	2004 N/N Gathering, "Black Bull Hotel", Duns, Berwickshire, Scotland

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

(NES)-BITS & PIECES

The following was lifted from the UK Nesbitt/Nisbet Society Newsletter of Spring 2003, Volume XX, Number 1, page 4. Milngavie is approximately 5 miles NW of Glasgow, in county Dunbarton.

The following extract came from a book published by a local Milngavie man Nigel Orr Dec 2002. Further research will need to be carried out as I understand there is a painting of the farm within the archives of the Lilley gallery. In the meantime

all we know is that a Nisbet had a farm as well as a shop in Milngavie & his bull was said to be famous. So much so a poem was written about it, "Auld Nisbet's Bull".

Nisbet Farming & Bull

Nisbet & Drumclog Farm Milngavie

Farming around Milngavie. Cattle droving has been going on since the sixteenth century, with principal markets or “trysts” formerly held at Perth and Falkirk. The first local market was held where Westerton of Mugdock now stands. Remains of some drove roads may be seen in the area. Early last century butter was made at Keystone Farm using a churn powered by a horse. Milk, which went sour, was taken into Glasgow to be sold – “by the soor milk cart”. Farm markets were an established feature of life in Milngavie. Jessie Brown’s tat tie scones were famous – they were so thin, she was accused of putting them through her wringer! Until the early 1930’s the cattle market was in Sinclair Street. The slaughter-house was near where the Scout Hall is today. During the war years Land Army girls and Italian and German prisoners of war augmented the labour available for farm work. During the 1950’s mechanisation reduced the need for manual labour and tractors replaced farm horses. Most farms were small dairy farms and some had sheep. The local ground was not suitable for large-scale arable farming. Crops were oats, hay, turnips, potatoes and grazing. A list of local farms and their employment will be found in Appendix 2. In addition there were stables at Easterton, Craigend, Strathblane and Bankend.

Mr. Nisbet, of Drumclog Farm, was very well known locally, as was his bull:

Auld Nisbet’s Bull

*A fisher gaed a-fishing on the Clober baggy-bum,
He got twa below the
“Warren” an ither at the turn;
Conditions were ideal for a record basket-full,
But he hadna got a permit frae auld Nisbet’s bull:
His basket was got lyin’ at the Clober drying shed,
An’ the doctor sent the fisher for a fortnight to his bed.
Noo, dinna tak’ ower literal this history in rhyme,
If thae things hinna happened, thay micht happen ony
Time – But tak’ it as a warnin’ lest by fancy you be
drawn,
Alang the bum’s meander, forgettin’ whaur you’re gaun;
The horns o’ a dilemma, ye micht tyackle wi’ guid wull,
But keep the bum atween ye and auld Nisbet’s bull.*

N. A. Macdonald

Editor’s challenge – supply me with a translated version for N/News #70, preferably with some bibliographical notes if possible.

Over the year’s we have noted many variant spellings of our surname/s. Some typographical errors, others genuine variations sometimes accompanied by some reasoning as to how/why/when the “morphing” took place. Looking at the North American guestbook I noticed several entries that either included variations/derivatives I had not come across before as well as a single entry that appears to include several spellings all in the one family across several generations. The entries follow:

Date: September 25, 2003 **Time:** 4:00 pm
Name: Beryl Nesbit
Email Address: Beryl.Nesbit@gems6.gov.bc.ca
Subject: website

I'm just starting to get into genealogy for the family. My uncle Ken **Nisbett** did some work with the family tree before he died but there are several blanks in the picture. There were five males born into this branch of the tree. Ken, Donald, Eugene, Robert and William born to James **Nisbet** and Marion Cossette. James had a brother Fred, and there are numerous other half siblings in that family. I don't have my notes handy but would be interested if anyone has any ties to this branch of the **Nesbit/Nisbet** family.

Date: August 5, 2003 **Time:** 5:28 pm
Name: Colin Naisbitt
Email Address: cnaisbitt@hotmail.com
Subject: family

Hi I come from England, not far from our ancestral home in Northumberland. Last week I visited the castles of our great past fathers and was inspired, the village of **Nisbet** in Northumberland is our starting point. See ya for now, I Bye It.
Colin John **Naisbitt**.

Date: September 2, 2003 **Time:** 4:57 pm
Name: Brenda Martin **Nesbitt**
Email Address: bjoyness@aol.com
Subject: **Related Interest**

Black Female; married Wilbert
Nesbitt; name of other family members
with name spelled: **Nesby**; Home town:
Montgomery, Alabama

Date: September 2, 2003 **Time:** 6:41 pm
Name: Jay-Michael Sutton
Email Address: bootska@carolina.rr.com
Subject: **Nesbitt/Noblitt**

Searching for any connection one
might have to the huge **Nesbitt/**
Noblitt population in western NC

FEATURE ARTICLE **(in two parts)**

Sir Alexander Nisbet RN, MD, has made many mentions in previous editions of our newsletter, the most recent being in N/NEWS #66, page 7. The following article is an extract from one of his journals recounting, his general remarks on the voyage of the convict ship "Asia", as transcribed by Ian Sutherland Ross. The article will conclude in N/News 70 with a further excerpt from his journal describing, in detail, the symptoms and treatment of one of the convicts entrusted to his medical care on the voyage.

Background

The convict ship "Asia" departed the Cove of Cork on 10 September 1829 with 200 female convicts on board and set sail under the command of Master Thos. F. Stead. After a voyage of 125 days, the "Asia" ended her journey in Port Jackson on 31 January 1830.

*** This was in fact Nisbet's fourth voyage as surgeon superintendent and his second carrying female prisoners out of a total of seven voyages on convict ships.*

Journal of Asia **Female Convict Ship**

Alex. Nisbet M.D. Surgeon

Between
The 9th of July 1829
And 26th of January 1830

An extract describing
The diagnosis and treatment of
Julia Byrne
With
General remarks
On the voyage

Transcribed by Ian Sutherland Ross

General Remarks

In the foregoing journal I have undertaken to make a selection of the more interesting cases, being such I considered would best illustrate the nature of the prevailing distress and the means of treatment supplied therein.

Those which prevailed to any extent will be seen on reference to have been Fever and Dysentery, few cases of other diseases occurring except what may be expected in such a society; trifling accidents & slips & cases of obstruction of the bowels. Of the two prevailing diseases mentioned above Dysentery was that which proved the most active and whilst two cases proceeded to a fatal termination, the fever proved much more manageable and in general yielded readily to the means employed.

This difference may be described partly to the period of the voyage in which the two diseases chiefly, the earlier and middle part being that in which the fever and towards Oct. when we had arrived in a Southern Latitude that the Dysentery committed its' ravages; where a scorbutic taint must have commenced developing itself, and their clothing never very good when new have become old & thin requiring considerable ingenuity to keep the woollen jackets together, with most miserable deficiency of shoes which had been supplied of a very inferior quality.

On leaving Cork for N.S. Wales we encountered a good deal of wet blowing weather, which produced most extreme and distressing seasickness and kept the decks for several days that may be much better imagine^d than described, and it was nothing but the utmost determination that could get them cleaned. However they all got over it easily remained exceedingly healthy until our long detention between the limits of the trade winds, when a few slight cases of fever arrived, but not to any extent as may be seen by referring to the meteorological journal. This state of things continued until our leaving the Southern Tropic, when instead of the fine weather usually found at those latitudes, we had gales of wind with which saw rainy weather, which confined all the convicts below for a week at one time. Those women who were compelled to be on deck, such as cooks & monitors to take their provisions, etc, below, had to be supplied on the 25th degree of latitude with blankets, jackets & petticoats. No immediate perceptible effect was produced, but there was no little doubt but that it assisted in laying the foundation for the subsequent sickness; and altho' the remainder of the voyage could not have been said to be unfavourable, yet there was a great deal of rainy hazy weather, which kept everything damp, and with two hundred women below, a circumstance to be regretted under the most favourable auspices.

Toward the close of the voyage which was protracted one by upwards of three weeks, a scorbutic seemed to in & to have aggravated the disease in the severer cases, and in fact through the whole of the convicts these aggravated cases only appeared at a time when under ordinary circumstances the voyage would have been completed, and all traces of disease disappeared immediately on our getting into warmer climate and being provided with a full diet of fresh meat, bread & vegetables.

The means employed in these diseases were bleeding, purging, Calomel, the warm bath & opium, but having detailed most of the cases at considerable length, I shall not write on the subject here but refer to the cases themselves. I have added to these accounts a meteorological journal containing of weather, number of sick etc. and will now proceed briefly to notate the general mode of treatment of the convicts in so far as it regarded the preservation of health.

For the sake of cleanliness and ventilation the convicts were never allowed to be below during the day except it rained or the weather otherwise unfavourable. The prison doors were always open in the morning that the upper deck was washed and dried and every person allowed free egress until after breakfast when they were all sent on deck where they remained until dinner.

After dinner they came on deck & remained until being mustered down below for the night, usually half an hour before sunset. Night and day windsails were kept constantly turned down each hatchway.

In cold or unsettled weather they commonly came up by division of one half, that number being better sheltered, more easily removed below in the event of rain. Within the tropics they were almost constantly on deck, awnings being spread under which they breakfasted dinner & supper.

Being of the opinion that dampness is a fertile source of evil on board ship I endeavoured to guard against it as much as possible by not allowing the prison deck to be wet any time, & when from accidental circumstances it may have become damp the stoves were immediately lighted and carried to the different parts of the decks. Wet clothes were never allowed to be taken below.

By means of the work put n board by the recommendation of the ladies committee the minds of the convicts were kept pretty well employed, and towards the close of the voyage when this source became expended, the ship was very well found in junk, the converting of which into oakum was found to be excellent to be an excellent employment.

Alex. Nisbet MD

Surgeon

SOCIETY NEWS

17th Annual General Meeting: The 17th AGM was held on October 26th at the home of Ian M & Joy Nisbet. It was good to catch up with those in attendance, some 10 members (with apologies from some 12 or so members). A typically delectable afternoon tea was made more pleasant by the N/N fellowship. Thanks once again to hosts Joy and Ian Nisbet, and members of the social committee.

N/N's ~~IN~~ ON THE NEWS

BBC corespondent: *I was driving home on the evening of October 28th, listening to the news on the radio, when the newsreader crossed to BBC correspondent, **Robert Nesbit**, to file his report on the Florida fires. Well spoken was he and well presented was the report.*

NETWORKED N/N's

Scottish Music: *The Society was recently contacted regarding interest in a Scottish music website, which is about to be launched. Some details follow:*

The site will be launched in the next few weeks and is aimed at being a focal point for the Scottish Community throughout the world. It is aimed at promoting Scotland and its proud heritage. The website can be viewed at: <http://www.scottishmusic.co.uk>

Nisbet for sale: (Well, was for sale): *Boston correspondent and ebay enthusiast, Gwenda Nisbet recently drew my attention to the following which was found at www.ebay.com regarding a painting by Robert Hogg Nisbet N.A. entitled "Red House in South Kent". Following are excerpts from the information supplied on ebay for prospective bidders.*

Description:

Title of item: R. H. Nisbet N.A. (1879 – 1961) Kent, CT Listed

Type: Painting
Oil

Age: 1900-1949

Subject: Landscape

Dominant Color: Primary/Jewel

Country/Region: North America

Largest Dimension: 24" – 40"

Winning Bid: US \$2,500

ROBERT HOGG NISBET, N.A. (1879-1961) Kent,
AMERICAN, LISTED

"RED HOUSE IN SOUTH KENT"
ORIGINAL OIL ON ARTISTBOARD 15" X 19"
ANTIQUE AMERICAN FRAME 20" X 24"
SIGNED LOWER RIGHT SIDE/ARTIST'S ESTATE STAMP ON BACK
CONDITION: EXCELLENT (MUSEUM QUALITY)

CATALOGUE ITEM FROM THE ARTIST'S OWN ESTATE

A VERY FAMOUS NATIONAL ACADEMY AMERICAN ARTIST

If you like to collect American art this is a must have painting! (see biography below) This Robert Hogg Nisbet, N.A. (1879-1971) painting is wonderfully done in the style that made him so famous. Research indicates this maybe a painting titled "Page's Place in the Sun" which was exhibited at the National Academy of Design in 1936. Page may have been artist friend of Nisbet's and the house appears to have a studio adjacent to the house. Please notice that the door is open and there appears to be a figure in the doorway (maybe Page). In any event, it is an elegant work that simply glows with color and it is simply magnificent in real life, so, if you are looking for fine American Art, then please consider this piece carefully. Based on auction sales (see below), gallery, and private sales the estimated value of this work would exceed \$5000. However, I plan on negotiating a sale to the any interested bidder if it does not meet reserve.

SHORT ARTIST BIOGRAPHY:

Robert Hogg Nisbet was born in Providence, Rhode Island on August 25, 1879. His parents were William Douglas Nisbet and Isabella Hogg. He entered the Rhode Island School of Design when he was eight. He later studied in New York and abroad. He taught at Brown University and was president of the Art Students League of New York, where he served as president from 1909-1910.

He was elected an Associate Member of the National Academy of Design in 1920 and a National Academician (N.A.) in 1928. He was an Artist Life member of the National Arts Club. One of the incorporators of the Society of American Etchers, he was also a member of the Philadelphia Society of Etchers. During the early 1900's, Nisbet summered in Old Lyme, Connecticut, and eventually settled in Kent, Connecticut where he founded the Kent Art Association whose members included Willard Metcalf.

His work won him three National Academy awards, several etching awards, and the National Arts Club (Painting) prize. His etchings and paintings were exhibited in Paris, France, Yale University, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York Library, National Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, and Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. The Smithsonian Institution has a database with references to fourteen of his works.

He took up rifle shooting as a boy, and during World War II was a commissioned rifle instructor. He won a number of shooting competitions. He was also interested in archery, and he owned collections of minerals and sea shells.

In 1951 he lived in South Kent, Connecticut in a house in the country with his wife, Mrs. Nisbet. They had a large house and studio, and he was considered quite wealthy. He had a collection of four thousand books. He was a member of the Masons, and was the Deputy Grand Master of the Masons of Connecticut.

His final life was a tragedy as his wife became a complete invalid following a stroke about 1953 and required 24 hour-a-day nursing care which just about bankrupted him. On Robert's death, April 20, 1961, she was put in a Masonic home where she died in less than a week.

This is a museum quality piece in every way. The painting would greatly ENHANCE ANY AMERICAN FINE ART COLLECTION. For any art collector this would be a FANTASTIC acquisition, since American art is in great demand and has been selling way above estimates. This painting would make a great addition to any office or home decor. This is a wonderful work of art from my personal fine art collection and it comes with personal guarantee, so please bid in confidence.

COMPARABLES - Recent Sales & Value Estimates of "ROBERT HOGG NISBET, N.A." at MAJOR AUCTION HOUSES:

Robert Hogg Nisbet Title The fisherman Medium Oil on Canvas Size 24.0 x 30.0 in. / 61.0 x 76.2 cm Misc. Signed, Inscribed Sale Of Sotheby's New York : Thursday, May 27, 1999 [Lot 106] American Paintings, Drawings & Sculpture Specialist Peter B.Rathborne/Dara Mitchell Estimate 10,000 - 15,000 US\$ Sold For 25,300 US\$ Premium

THE WANTED LIST

Date: September 27, 2003 **Time:** 1:05 pm
Name: Jean Caffrey
Email Address: jdcaffrey@tiscali.co.uk
Subject: James Nisbet

I am trying to find the parents and family of my great grandfather Charles Nisbet who was born in Scotland, place unknown. Charles married Elizabeth Patterson 9 Feb 1878 at Houghton-le-Spring, Durham and they had 8 children; Charles, Mary Ann, Minto, John, William, Joseph, Agnes and Margaret. The father of Charles was James Nisbet who died before the marriage of Charles and Elizabeth. I would love to hear from any-one with any information.

Date: June 6, 2003 **Time:** 7:18 pm
Name: Carol Nisbet
Email Address: Robmac6@hotmail.com
Subject: Any connection?

Hi have just came across this interesting web page and I would be interested to know if anyone out there is related to this branch of the Nisbets!! My grandfather was called James Rodger Nisbet born 07041904 and came from Cambuslang Glasgow Scotland. He had four brothers one immigrated to New Zealand and one went to New Zealand many years ago, there names were Hugh and William and their families are still living there.

Scotland the Brave
A Celebration of the Scottish Clans
Ballarat Tattoo
23rd-25th January 2004

The above was noted in the November 2003 edition of RACV RoyalAuto magazine, p.65 – contact RACV or www.racv.com.au for details.

Date: September 9, 2003 **Time:** 2:58 pm
Name: Heather Nisbet
Email Address: tripleshot@shaw.ca
Subject: The Nisbet Pub in Glasgow...any info?

Hello to all my clans-men and women! I heard through my father that the Nisbet family at one time owned a public house in Glasgow called, oddly, The Nisbet - apparently it burnt down some time ago, but I would love more info. Also, I am looking for some genealogy regarding James Nisbet who married Blanche ?? and emigrated to Canada in the early part of the 20th century...any leads would be helpful!

FAMILY SNIPPETS

- Robert Nisbet recently returned to Perth. *The committee wish him well with his endeavours, thank him for his efforts whilst in Melbourne and hope he will continue to contribute from afar.*
- Elyse Classon is now in improved health.
- Ian M Nisbet has again moved office.
- The following were noted in the latest UK Newsletter, Autumn 2003, Volume XX, Number 3.
 - that clan chief Mark Nesbitt and wife Delwen (nee Samuel) were blessed with a second daughter, Melissa Joyce Lydia Nesbitt, born 6th June 2003. *Congratulations to our clan chief and his (expanding) family*

GENERAL COMMITTEE:

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

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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>