

NESBITT/NISBET SOCIETY

Australia



NEWSLETTER NO. 6.

JANUARY 1988

STARTING POINT

(Latest News and Views from the Editorial Staff)

BICENTENNIAL: The beginning of our nation's 200th year of European settlement seems to be an appropriate time to think of the past, present and future role of N/Ns in this country. Few of our name would claim to rank highly in the Australian history books (although there certainly are some distinguished people on our membership list). What we would like to do is track down all of the early N/N settlers. In the process we would like to identify the first of our name to come to this country. We invite all members to send details of their immigrant ancestors. Several that we know of arrived for the goldrushes of the 1850s - 1860s. Hopefully there are some in our midst who can claim a longer association with this country. Assuming a good response from members, we hope to be able to reveal the identity of 'the first N/N in Australia' in the final newsletter for 1988. Don't let us down. Ian T. Nisbet.

(NES) BITS AND PIECES

(Snippets of General Interest By N/Ns For N/Ns and About N/Ns)

CLAN GATHERING: On Sunday Nov. 5th, 1987, descendants of William Watson Nisbet and Sarah Smith met at Wedderburn in central Victoria. As this was the second such gathering in twelve months, it was not a matter of renewing old acquaintances, but rather keeping in touch with those from the year before. For those from the city it was a good chance to 'get back to the bush', while those from the country enjoyed catching up with their 'city cousins'. Further gatherings will be announced in the N/N newsletter. Ian T. Nisbet.

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GATHERING: A small group of the descendants of John George Mitford Nesbit Sr. (1821-1873), Mary Charlton Beautyman (1821-1864) and Catherine Pascoe Urand (1833-1921) gathered at the Botanical Gardens, Castlemaine on November 29. This was the second gathering of the group and once again the weather was kind. A sunny Sunday followed the days of miserable rain which we had experienced during the week. We had a pleasant afternoon and are looking forward to our next get-together. Thank you again Pearl Norris Nesbit and husband Stan for arranging the event. Editor.

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HENRY NESBIT DROWNED IN THE SKERNE 1846: 1846, November 26. Great excitement pervaded the town this day on the intelligence being received that the conductor of the mail cart from the York and Newcastle Station was drowned in the Skerne, and the bags lost. The poor man whose name was Henry Nesbit, but who was better known by the cognomen (nickname) of Harry Boots, set off from the station as usual, with the night mail bags, but not arriving at the King's Head Inn. Enquiries were made, and one of the omnibus drivers said he had seen

something like a cart upside down in the Mill-pot. The cart and horse were found, but poor Harry was not discovered until the morning of the 27th, the body having been moving about in the Mill-pot the whole of the previous day, as the place where it was found had been dragged previously without success. The river was considerably swollen, and it would appear that the deceased must have attempted the narrow and dangerous passage called the Mill Bank; where there is no railing, and slipped off the bounding wall into the water. The mail bags were found in a tolerable condition by Mr. Gent, of Polam, a considerable distance down the stream. "Harry Boots" was buried with much respect, and is commemorated by a tombstone in the churchyard. Many accidents have occurred in the time of the floods which rapidly rush down the Tees and Skerne.

From the "History and Antiquities of the Parish of Darlington" by W. Hylton Dyer Longstaffe. F.S.A. First published in 1854; republished 1973 by Patrick and Shotton. (The parish of Darlington is in Co. Durham England, Editor).

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THE NISBET BOATHOUSE: The Nisbet Boathouse is situated amidst the superb scenery of the mid-Teviot Valley. It lies approximately five miles N/E of Jedburgh and can be approached from the A.698 Hawick/Kelso main road, or the B.6400 Ancrum/Kelso secondary road. It stands on the north bank of the Teviot river and enjoys wonderful southerly views of the river, Teviot Valley and the Cheviot Hills. It is built of stone with slate roof and provides accommodation for a maximum of six people.



There is a three-car garage, with a fuel store and fishing tackle room, with rod hooks and tackle table. Night storage heaters in the sitting room and landing provide background heat and air the premises. The gardens are maintained by the Estate. The exclusive rights to fish the "Nisbet Beat" of the Teviot are let with the cottage. The Nisbet Beat has approximately 2.5 miles (4.2 km) of double bank fishing and there are nine recognised pools on the Beat with other places that hold fish in various water conditions. Information can be obtained from Lothian Estates.

From the Official Guide Roxburgh District (Flower of the Scottish Borders).
Material supplied by Mrs. Sarah Chambers of Oakleigh, Victoria.

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ROBBIE BURNS' BIRTHDAY: From Bill Kelsey, editor of the N.A. & U.K. newsletter. "As the son of a Scottish Highlander who never lost his burr after 50 years in America, I don't need such excuse to brag a bit about the contribution of the Scots to the whole wide world.. Robbie Burns birthday (Jan. 25, 1759) is a great time to do just that -- and here's a delightful wee piece that fits the bill".

"An Englishman enjoys his breakfast and MARMALADE, invented by Mrs. Keillor of Dundee Scotland, reaches for his RAINCOAT, patented by Charles MacIntosh from Glasgow Scotland, to dash to the station on his BICYCLE, invented by Kirkpatrick MacMillan, blacksmith of Dumfries Scotland, whose TYRES, invented by John Boyd Dunlop of Dregthorn Scotland, run on a TARMAC ROAD developed by John MacAdam of Ayr Scotland. The journey by train, whose STEAM ENGINE was invented by James Watt of Greenock Scotland, takes him to work at the BANK OF

ENGLAND, founded by William Paterson of Dumfries Scotland. While opening his mail with ADHESIVE STAMPS affixed, invented by James Chalmers of Dundee Scotland, he puffs on a CIGARETTE, first manufactured by Robert Gloag of Perth Scotland.

He later rings his wife on a TELEPHONE, invented by Alexander Graham Bell, born in Edinburgh Scotland. She tells him dinner will be his favourite ROAST BEEF, from Aberdeen Angus raised in Aberdeenshire Scotland. He arrives home to find his daughter watching TELEVISION, invented by John Logie Baird of Helensburgh Scotland, a programme on the U.S. NAVY, founded by John Paul Jones of Kirkbean Scotland, and his son reading TREASURE ISLAND, by Robert Louis Stevenson of Edinburgh Scotland, and on lifting the BIBLE, he finds the first name mentioned is again a Scot--King James VI, who authorised its translation.

The Englishman is unable to turn from the ingenuity of the Scots. He could turn to WHISKY, but Scotland supplies the best, or to end it all, he might put his head in a gas oven--COAL GAS was discovered by William Murdoch of Ayr Scotland. He could shoot himself, but his BREACH-LOADING RIFLE was invented by Captain Pat Ferguson of Pitfours Scotland. If unsuccessful he could be injected with PENICILLIN, discovered by Alexander Flemming of Darvel Scotland, or given an ANAESTHETIC, discovered by Sir James Young Simpson of Bathgate Scotland. His last hope a transfusion of Scots blood, then he could ask, 'wha's like us? Damn few and they're a 'deid'".

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NEWSLETTER SPONSOR: Bill Kelsey is sponsoring the postage of our newsletter for one year to nine addresses in Scotland and Ireland. Dot Nesbit certainly started something. Our newsletter now goes to a total of eleven U.K. genealogical societies. Thank you Bill for your generosity.

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NISBET N.S.W. RECORDS: James E. Nisbet of Cremorne, who has the N.S.W. Births, Deaths & Marriages indexes up to 1906 on microfiche has extracted the N.S.W. NISBET entries and has kindly supplied a copy to the society. Time permitting James will work on the other spelling variants. Many thanks James. Editor.

SOCIETY NEWS

CHRISTMAS PARTY: A group of around forty members and guests attended the first annual N/N Christmas party on Dec. 5th, 1987 at the home of Ian M. and Joy Nisbet. All present seemed to enjoy the evening and in particular, the two highlights of the night: our own personal bagpipe concert and a sumptuous supper (full of good cheer and calories). Mr. Bill Walker, of the Rats of Tobruk Pipe Band, serenaded and entertained guests (and neighbours) with some stirring bagpipe playing. His enthusiasm and cheerfulness was only matched by the loudness of his pipes! Even our newsletter editor (who has a hearing problem) had no trouble in appreciating Bill's playing.

Supper was provided by the ladies of the social committee and would have done justice to any five star hotel. Despite the large number of people, there was plenty for all and I'm sure the Nisbet household had many delicious left-overs. From all present, many thanks to Ian and Joy once again for their hospitality, to the social committee for organising and catering the event and to Bill Walker for his piping. Ian T. Nisbet.

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FAMILY PICNIC: Once again I have the pleasure of inviting you to join our "Gathering" - a picnic.
The date: Sunday, 21st February, 1988.

Time: From 11.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. (The idea being, "come when you can").
 The place: Studley Park (near Foot Bridge) Melway Ref. 2D - F8.
 B.Y.O.: Everything including yourself and family. BBQ facilities including ample car parking.
 Pray for good weather and I will be waiting to meet you there.
 Yours in tartan. Joy Nisbet for Social Committee.

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INTERNATIONAL CLAN GATHERING

The Society's Gathering at Glasgow in August 1983 was attended by some forty people and a wealth of interest was generated in the Society.

It was then unanimously decided to arrange a similar major event in five years time that would receive worldwide publicity.

Time passes quickly and we now find ourselves about to fulfill this promise with the news there will be an International Gathering of Nesbitt/Nisbets in the Border Country, Scotland on Saturday 28th May 1988.

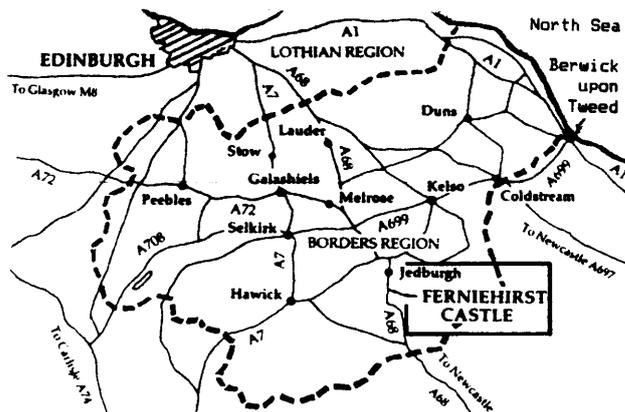
With kind permission of Lord Lothian, the Gathering will centre on FERNIEHIRST CASTLE, JEDBURGH - deep in Nisbet Country. A local map will show the village of Nisbet only three miles away to the north via Jedburgh and Nisbet House, Duns a few more miles distant. (Nisbet is not shown on the map to the right).

All of those who bear, or are interested in our family names will enjoy this occasion and it is hoped that the affair will be well attended.

DIRECTIONS: The Castle is reached from the A68 and is situated about 1.5 miles south of Jedburgh. It can be reached by a scenic route via the Jedburgh/Mosburnford/Camperdown Road.

AGENDA

- 1100 Assemble at Fernieirst Castle.
 - 1130 Introductions.
 - 1200 Regional Workshop.
 - 1300 Luncheon.
 - 1430 Reports from Workshops, regions and discussion.
 - 1530 Speaker - Border Families.
 - 1600 U.K. Society Annual General Meeting.
 - 1615 Any other business.
 - 1630 Gathering closes. Tea.
- Registration:** Registration is required by the 14th May 1988.
- Accommodation:** Details of accommodation can be obtained, and reservations made by applying to:- The Tourist Information Centre, Murrays Green, Jedburgh - Roxburghshire.
 Tel. 0835/63435
- For further particulars please contact the secretary, Ian G. Nisbet.



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MEMBERSHIP GROWTH - YOU CAN HELP: Membership in the Society continues at a satisfactory level but there are many N/Ns who we have not been able to contact, particularly on the distaff (maternal) side of the family. This is where your Executive needs your help.

We are asking every member to forward the enclosed 'invitation to join' to a known N/N. With every member a recruiting officer, the future of our society is assured. Please remember to insert your name on the invitation before posting.

Ian M. Nisbet.

FEATURE ARTICLE

(Continuing with part 2 of THE NISBETS by J.W. Nisbet)

Although primarily a Scottish family, there have been many branches in other parts of the world. The Nisbets established themselves in England, Ireland, Canada and the U.S.A. They also had a close connection with Europe. In the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries some of them were mercenaries in the Scots Life Guards in the service of France. Others made their mark in Danzig, Prussia, Holland and Norway. Perhaps the most notable overseas branch settled in Sweden. It began with Welam Nisbeth, born in Scotland in 1596 and an emigrant to Sweden in 1627. He rose to the command of the Upland Regiment. He died in 1660 and was buried in Uppsala's Church of St. Lawrence. Vilhelm, his son, was ennobled in 1675 and since that time the Nisbeth coat of arms has been in the House of Knights in Stockholm.

While the Nisbet roots were in Berwickshire several branches gradually spread northwards. One, going northeast, tended to settle around Edinburgh.

In 1368 Alexandri de Nesbet made many bequests to the Cathedral of St. Giles. He expressed a wish that a Register of its revenues should be kept. That document was the basis of a volume of the Bannatyne Club; and in it there were many references to Nisbet burgesses of Edinburgh between the fourteenth and sixteenth centuries.

Three families from this branch call for mention - the Nisbets of Craigtinnie, Dean and Dirleton, all descended from a certain Henry Nisbet, born in 1535 and in 1561 a free burgess and guild brother of Edinburgh. In 1597-98 he was Lord Provost of the City. He died in 1607 and was interred in Greyfriars.

James, his eldest son, settled in Craigtinnie. Like his father he was an Edinburgh burgess. So too was William, his second son, born in 1569 and Lord Provost in 1616-19 and 1622-23. On the occasion of the visit of King James VI to the City in 1617 he was created a Knight. Meanwhile in 1609 he had purchased the lands of Dean, and before 1621 he caused to be built the splendid mansion house of Dean where Alexander Nisbet laboured over his System of Heraldry and where Sir Walter Scott found some inspiration for his description of Tully-veolan in Waverley. But soon after the Herald's death in 1725 the estate of Dean was acquired by Archibald Murray who renamed it Murrayfield. The house itself was demolished in 1845 to make way for the Dean Cemetery.

As the seventeenth century progressed Patrick, the third son of Henry Nisbet, emerged as Sir Patrick Nisbet of Eastbank and one of the Senators of the College of Justice. A Royalist, he had to relinquish his legal office in 1641 and died seven years later. His son John, born 1610, followed his footsteps and became both a Knight and a Senator of the College of Justice. In 1641 Sir John was one of three council for the defence of the Marquis of Montrose. Between 1664 and 1667 he filled the dual office of Lord Advocate and Lord of Session. He had purchased Dirleton Castle as a residence, and, after being raised to the Bench, he took the title of Lord Dirleton. In 1677, having incurred the hostility of the politically powerful Maitlands, he was obliged to resign his position of Lord Advocate. Leaving no male issue, he died in 1688, and of him Bishop Burnet could say that "he was one of the worthiest and most learned men of the age". Material supplied by our secretary Ian G. Nisbet. (This article will be concluded in the following newsletter.)

WANTED

(Members' Searches)

James Nesbitt, m. Louisa Harris, (b. 1837) Lewisham, Kent England.

Their children: Henry James, b. 1859, Melbourne Victoria.

Louisa Ellinor, b. 1862, Melb., Vic., d. 1880, Melb., Vic.

Edith Alice, b. 1864, Christchurch, N.Z.

Mrs. Raewyn Hodgson of 50 Malton Road, Beecroft 2119, N.S.W. seeks information.

of Louisa Harris Nesbitt.

Mrs. Hodgson is a non member. The details shown are from her letter to the editor received in October 1987.

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Seeking parentage of Nathaniel Nesbitt, b. 1763, Ireland, probably in the County of Monaghan at Ballybay; and his wife Jane Kennedy. Nathaniel migrated to the U.S. with his son William and other children in 1826/27 and settled in Ballybay Bradford County, PA.

Contact Mrs. Philip Gustafson, Stanford Road, Columbus OH 43212, U.S.A.
From the N.A. & U.K. N/N Society Newsletter Vol. 5. No. 4, 1987.

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COLE: Thomas Cole or Coll, b. 1811 Belfast, convicted at Carrickfergus, Co. Antrim 23 March 1831 and transported for life. Arrived Sydney 13 Dec. 1831 in "Bussorah Merchant". Shoemaker on goldfields Turon, Sofala and others. Married at Queenbeyan 26 Dec. 1853 to Bridget Fitzgerald; 12 children. Died 9 March, 1883 Dubbo, N.S.W., Dau. Martha Cole married John James. Descendant, Mrs. Mary Nesbitt, 3 Dunrossil Crescent, Bathurst, 2795, N.S.W., seeks relatives in Ireland.

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WANTED: Please remember, we do want members to forward SEARCH information for publication in our newsletter. We have had our successes since the formation of the society. See FOUND below, A LINK.

FOUND

WHOSE ANCESTOR: A LINK. Mrs. Marie Foley of Horsham, Victoria and our president Ian M. Nisbet have discovered an ancestral family connection. They share the same gr. grandparents, John and Catherine (Thomson) Nisbet. John and Catherine were born at Tranent Scotland, c1828 and c1826 respectively. John arrived in Melbourne in October 1852 on the 'Julia' (?) having departed Liverpool in July of that year. John and Catherine married at Collingwood on 23 June 1854 and lived at Ararat where they raised six children. John died in 1916 aged 87 years.

Mrs. Marie Foley, 96 Natimuk Road, Horsham, 3400, Victoria.

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From "Victoria and Its Metropolis Past and Present 1888".

Nesbitt C.E.C., Kyneton, is a native of England, born in Northampton where he was engaged by the local bank of which his father, an eminent medical man was a director. In 1867 he emigrated to South Australia and joined the English, Scottish and Australia Chartered Bank of Australia. He was transferred to Melbourne, Victoria and appointed manager of the Kyneton branch in 1878. He married the same year.

It is likely that Charles Edward Connelly Nesbitt b. Northamptonshire, and who married Mary McCulloch Russell, b. c1860 at Warnambool, Victoria, is the person referred to above.

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NOTICE BOARD

(Upcoming Events in the Local and Overseas Calendar)

- 1988 Feb.19 Executive Meeting.
- " Feb.21 Picnic Gathering at Studley Park. (please see pages 3 and 4).
- " Apr. Newsletter No. 7. (Closing date for material 1st March).
- " May Evening Meeting with Speaker. Details in April Newsletter.
- " May 28 International Gathering at Ferniehirst Castle near Jedburgh, Scotland.
- " July Newsletter No. 8. (Closing date for material 1st June).
- " Aug. Picture Night followed by supper.
- " Oct. Newsletter No. 9. (Closing date for material 1st Sept.).
- " Dec. Christmas End of Year Function.

OBITUARIES

We are sad to learn of the passing of the following and offer our condolences to family members:

NESBITT, Florence, who died on Oct. 25, 1987 was the wife of John, mother of Jack and grandmother of Vickie Birchall, both society members. She was aged 92 years. Florence and John had recently celebrated 63 years of marriage.

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NISBET, Beverley, died Dec. 26, 1987, was the wife of Tom, mother of Ian G., (our secretary) Peter S. and Margie. Beverley's husband and two sons are society members.

TRIVIA

"Do you mind the time"? An Irish way of saying, "Do you remember"?

From Irish Link No. 14, September 1987, P.O. Box 135 Sth. Melbourne, 3205 Melbourne, Victoria.

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DO YOU KNOW: Travelling down the coast of Northern Ireland one comes to INVER, a fishing village where lies buried the body of Thomas Nesbitt, b. 1730 who invented of all things, the harpoon gun used in whaling.
From "Here's Ireland" by Brian MacMahon.

Material supplied by Mrs. Evelyn Clark of Eden Hills S.A.

STOP PRESS

(A Belated One)

OUR SURNAME: I would be surprised if there is a member who has not had his/her name misspelt at some time or other.

In 1979 when I commenced researching my family history based on the faded pages removed from several very old family bibles (earliest entry 1779), I experienced for the first time incorrect spelling of my surname in official records.

Although my great-grandmother, aged 37 years and two of her three children could read and write, the surname shown for the group on the shipping list of the 'John and Lucy', which arrived at Melbourne in December 1858, was shown as Nesbitt. Correct spelling, Nesbit. Positive identification was possible, as christian names and ages shown for the four tallied with those of the pages of the family bibles.

Identifying my great-grandfather, a mining engineer, proved to be more difficult. John was a popular name in those days. He came out alone two years prior to his wife and children and there were several John Nesbits of variant spelling on the lists for the period indicated as a possible time for his arrival. The only John who fitted was a John NISBET aged 35 years, who arrived in Melbourne on the 'Acadia' in 1856. Although the spelling was wrong (although some N/Ns may disagree), I was confident and accepted him as mine as the age and arrival time matched perfectly by calculation with other information in my possession.

Any lingering doubts I may have had were dispelled by Pearl Norris Nesbit of Castlemaine Victoria, a relative and a N/N Society member. I learned from Pearl that our great-grandfather's home in Carpenter Street Bendigo, Victoria, bore the nameplate 'Acadia' after the ship on which he arrived. I had selected the correct John N.

Editor.

GENERAL COMMITTEE:

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Ian T. Nisbet, Gavin M. Nisbet, Karen Nisbet.

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The Nesbitt/Nisbet Society is a Worldwide Clan Society

