

THE N/NEWS

NO. 71 APRIL 2004

NEWSLETTER OF THE
NESBITT/NISBET SOCIETY
AUSTRALIA



STARTING POINT

I wish to thank all members that have promptly responded to the "Dues are Due" and submitted subscriptions for the year September 2003 to August 2004. This is much appreciated by the committee. It is only through the on-going support of our membership base that the Society continues to function at the current level of service.

In response to the article in N/News 70 page 4 regarding Archerfield House and its Nisbet connection I received the "letter to the editor" reproduced on page 2 and look forward to our

UK counterparts assisting in establishing credentials and historical clarification of the point/s raised.

It is sometimes easy to accept, unchallenged, material that one finds in print and, in matters genealogical, it is prudent to be wary of any material until corroboration from an independent source can be cited.

I trust that you find this edition of the N/News of interest and read-worthy. Your articles and snippets are most welcome.

Ed

NOTICE BOARD-D

(Upcoming events in the Local and Overseas Calendar)

May 15	2004 N/N Gathering, "Black Bull Hotel", Duns, Berwickshire, Scotland
July	N/NEWS # 72
June-July	<i>Social Gathering – currently under consideration</i>
Oct 10	AGM, St Abbs, North Balwyn, 3:00pm
Oct	N/NEWS # 73

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

2004 N/N Gathering, Duns, Berwickshire

On behalf of the N/N Society – Australia we wish the UK Society every success and submit warmest greetings from our Australian and New Zealand members.

MEM-BOAR-SHIP

Welcome to the following new member:

- Patricia Buckley of Gympie, Queensland.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Editor,
The N/News

Dear Gary,

I read with interest the article about "Archerfield House" on page 4 of the Jan 04 Newsletter which I note was lifted from the UK N/N Newsletter which in turn was no doubt taken from some Scottish publication. Whatever the source and not wishing to be pedantic (that is always a good opening statement?) I disagree with the line in bold type, "Archerfield Estate was bought by Sir William Nisbet of Dirleton in 1633."

I am familiar with the history of the Dirleton Nisbets but to make doubly sure of my facts I referred to R. C. Nesbitt's book "Nisbet of That Ilk", in particular to pages 23, 24 and 25. The only knight in the Dirleton line was Sir John Nisbet. He was Lord Advocate and Lord of Session. In 1663 he had purchased the estate of Dirleton Castle and on being raised to the bench took the title of Lord Nisbet. A year before his death in 1668, having no male heir, he entailed his Dirleton Estate to his cousin William Nisbet (1) of Craigintinnie and through him the Dirleton line continued until the death of Mary Nisbet in 1855. I was under the impression that Archerfield House was part of the Dirleton Castle Estate as was the nearby village of Dirleton. Mary Nisbet was closely associated with Archerfield House, the Village and its Church.

There was, however, a Sir William Nisbet but he was of the family of Dean, born 1569, died 1634. He and Sir John Nisbet's father were brothers. In 1609 Sir William purchased the lands of Dean just north west of Edinburgh and by 1621 had built a mansion thereon. The House of Dean was said to have been one of the finest mansion houses in the vicinity of Edinburgh. There is no indication in R. C. Nesbitt's writings of Sir William Nisbet having purchased Archerfield Estate in 1633, a year before he died. Please forgive me if this seems a long winded way of saying there was never a Sir William Nisbet of Dirleton but I thought the record should be put straight so as not to mislead our readers.

Kind regards,
Robert Nisbett

Robert is well qualified to raise such issue, being the author of the N/N Society monograph "The Progression of a Branch of the Dirleton Nisbets to Australia", being a descendent of this line. So should the line in bold have read "Archerfield Estate was bought by Sir William Nisbet of Dean in 1633"? or perhaps the year is incorrect or ? We shall wait and see! Thank you Robert for bringing this to our attention.

NETWORKED N/N's

Civil War Photo - Confederate Soldier – Nisbet

Seller: dolly20

Spotted on e-Bay, The World's Online Marketplace TM, by Ian Nisbet, 19-29 February 2004.

Item Description:

Civil War Confederate soldier photo, signed on the back "Mrs J. F. Nisbet, Lancaster, S.C." I am not sure if this was sent to his wife or mother. I could not find J. F. Nisbet listed in Civil War records. There were plenty of Nisbet's names listed from Lancaster, S.C. in the S.C.V. Co. I 17th Reg't "Lancaster Tigers" in Evans Tramp Brigade. At the same auction, I purchased Pvt. William C. Nesbit's Bible that he carried with him in the Civil War. He made a notation in the Bible "W. C. Nesbit's Book Co (I) 17 Regt S.C.V. Jackson Mifs.", who died at Petersburg. Possibly, this photo is William C. Nesbit. In the books that I was unable to obtain at the same estate auction, was a name written inside one book, Cap't ?? Nisbet. The 2 ¼ " by 3 ½ " (mounted on cardboard slightly larger than the photo) photograph is slightly soiled, has the number 22229 stamped on back in blue ink, the white spot apparently came off when envelope was removed. Two years ago I acquired a collection of letters written by Pvt. William C. Nesbit S.C.V. Co. I 17th Reg't Infantry, was a "Lancaster Tiger" and member of Evan's Tramp Brigade, plus family photographs. The letters were written to his wife and family in Lancaster District, S.C. The lot contained both Nesbit and Nisbet family items – I do not know if it was the same family with different spellings, or different families. The family photograph shown was from that collection. I noticed a strong resemblance of the two men. Apparently, the Nesbit – Nisbet descendants relocated to Mt. Vernon, (Ohio?) at some point in time. I donated some of the photographs to the South Carolina Historical Society in Charleston, S.C. I still have a few left – would like to find a family member. I have Pvt. William C. Nesbit's Bible listed on ebay, and an 1880 Democratic Ticket from Lancaster County, S.C. Buyer to pay shipping \$1.00 (envelope) plus insurance. Good luck bidding!

FEATURE ARTICLE

The North American Secretary/Treasurer & Webmaster, Tom Nesbitt, in an article in the Nesbitt – Nisbet Society Jan 2004 North American News has posed a challenge to both NN members and non-member NN's world-wide. I originally intended to present a précis of his article but could not decide what was critical and what was not – it is all interesting. What else might we find though? Perhaps some of those skeletons (in the closet) might now actually grow flesh & blood!

Finding our Ancestors through DNA Testing:

Nesbitt-Nisbet Society
By Tom Nesbitt 2004

Using DNA testing to find our NN ancestor connections is the best thing since:

- a. The invention of microfilm
- b. The invention of the family tree
- c. The invention of the computer
- d. All of the above

If you answered “All of the above”, you may be correct. About 10 years ago, I first thought of using DNA testing to prove my connection to the early Nesbitts of Pennsylvania, but I never followed through with the idea due to the possible costs involved. Last summer I attended a genealogy conference in Shippensburg, PA and learned that there are a few companies that do this type of testing for genealogy purposes only. Family Tree DNA was recommended to me by someone at the conference, so I followed up with this through their web page at <http://www.familytreedna.com>.

Family Tree DNA of Houston, TX works with the Univ. of Arizona who does the actual lab testing and storage of the DNA samples. Each family surname project has an administrator and I have volunteered to be ours. DNA results for each person are given to that person and the admin person only. Also, when you find a match, Family Tree emails both persons so that they may contact each other to discuss their match. The DNA results are simply a set of numbers and really are not very personal in nature, so you aren't giving any family secrets away. Family Tree does not publish anyone's results and we won't either if you do not wish us to do so. However, sharing the DNA numbers will help you and others make connections.

A simple “saliva sample” is used by the university lab to obtain peak values of your DNA represented by numbers, called markers. The easiest and cheapest testing to do is with the men. Since men have both X and Y chromosomes, and they get the Y chromosome from their father, this same Y is transferred from the father, to son, to grandson, etc, remaining unchanged for generations. This simple fact can be used then to figure out which male line of Nesbitt/Nisbets you descend from. Of course this depends on having several NN lines tested by NN Society members and others.

Knowing this, I found 4 other volunteers who also have ancestors here in early Pennsylvania. There is no public paperwork existing to prove that any of us are connected, but I hoped to find that some of us were. I received permission from them to use these results to show you what can be learned from DNA testing.

The first test is the “low resolution” test or the first 12 markers. This is a very basic test to see if you and someone else are remotely connected. In the test results below, you can see that 4 of 5 of us are a perfect match on 12 of 12 markers, meaning that somewhere back in time we are connected and have a common ancestor. Also, you will see that Steve has several different markers proving that he is definitely not connected to the other 4 people tested. The numbers at the top are just the testing numbers and have no meaning as far as having a match with someone.

Low resolution test of the first 12 DNA markers. A score of zero is a match.

DNA Markers:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Score
Charles	13	25	14	11	11	13	12	12	12	13	13	29	0
Jack	13	25	14	11	11	13	12	12	12	13	13	29	0
Chuck	13	25	14	11	11	13	12	12	12	13	13	29	0
Tom	13	25	14	11	11	13	12	12	12	13	13	29	0
Steve	13	23	14	11	11	14	12	12	13	14	13	30	5

The next DNA test that should be done is the “high resolution” or 25 marker test. This test uses DNA markers 13-25 to further define the different male genealogy lines. If you really want to see if you are connected to someone, have their 25-marker test done. The same people below ordered this additional test with their initial order and sample. Only one sample is needed for any of these tests. Since Charles’ ancestors have been documented by the Cecil Co, MD historical society, we used him as a reference and compared others to him. Look at the column on the far right side labelled “Score” which lists the number of differences found between the 4 people. The 25-marker results say we are still connected.

0=Related, 1=Related, 2=Probably Related, 3=Might be Related, 4 or more=Not Related
High resolution test of the markers 13 to 25 shown below (see table above for markers 1 to 12).

DNA Markers	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	Score		
Name	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4		Related	Ancestor
	5	5	5	5	5	4	3	4	4	6	6	6	6			
	8	9	9	5	4	7	7	8	9	4	4	4	4			
		a	b							a	b	c	d			
Charles	16	9	10	11	11	25	15	19	29	15	15	16	17	0	Reference	Joseph b.1740 PA MD
Jack	16	9	10	11	11	25	15	19	29	15	16	16	17	1	Related	James b.1718 NJ to PA
Chuck	16	9	10	11	11	25	15	19	30	15	15	17	17	2	Probably	Moses b.1740 PA to NC
Tom	16	9	10	11	11	25	15	19	28	15	15	17	17	2	Probably	Abraham b.1790 MD PA

In the chart above, the shaded DNA markers are the differences between the 4 of us.

Just announced by Family Tree DNA, is a new 37-marker test that will further define your NN male line. If you order the 12 or 25 marker test and submit your sample, that same sample can be used at a later date to upgrade your test to 25 or 37 markers, at an additional cost of course. You can also just order the full 37-marker test initially and not worry about upgrading.

What is the cost of these tests?

Many people actively searching ancestors make genealogy search trips almost every year. When I go to eastern PA, I figure on \$100 per day for room, meals, gas, tolls, parking, and photocopying expenses. As you know, some trips don’t bring much in the way of results. So for the cost of a few days of searching, you can find quite a bit about your NN male line by these DNA tests.

For the male Y chromosome tests, the price for NN members is listed below. I added \$1.00 for mailing. Non-members should consider joining our society for the reduced cost, or add \$20 for each test listed.

\$160 for the Y-DNA 12 marker test.	\$180 for Non-members	<i>approx. AUS\$220/245</i>
\$230 for the Y-DNA 25 marker test.	\$250 for Non-members	<i>approx. AUS\$315/345</i>
\$290 for the Y-DNA 37 marker test.	\$310 for Non-members	<i>approx. AUS\$395/425</i>
\$100 for the Y 12 to 25 marker upgrade.	\$120 for Non-members	<i>approx. AUS\$135/165</i>
\$ 70 for the Y 25 to 37 marker upgrade.	\$ 90 for Non-members	<i>approx. AUS\$ 95/125</i>
\$170 for the Y 12 to 37 marker upgrade.	\$190 for Non-members	<i>approx. AUS\$230/260</i>

Non-members of our society should contact Tom Nesbitt at tomnesbitt@zoominternet.net. Also see <http://www.ibydeit.com>. NN Society membership is not necessary to join the DNA testing project.

What about the women’s NN lines?

No I haven’t forgotten about the women, and they do have tests to attempt to trace the lines through the women’s side of the family. However, it is more expensive and not as accurate to test them, since only the X chromosome is present. Women should find a known NN male relative and pay for the male Y test kit and have them tested. This must be a NN relative such as a brother, nephew, or cousin that you know has the NN DNA. Step or adopted relatives will not work, as the DNA must be unbroken from generation to generation in the male NN line.

Where do I start and who do I call?

1. Go to the FamilyTreeDNA.com web page and read the FAQ's for additional information.
2. Also click on links like [DNA-101](#) that gives excellent examples from the Blair Family Project.
3. Call Tom Nesbitt anytime at 724-452-0145. Discuss DNA questions and which test is best to order for your interest. This is my in-home office phone that I always answer if I am home.
4. Mail Tom a check and your test kit will be ordered and mailed to you.
5. Submit the saliva sample to Family Tree DNA and wait 6 to 8 weeks for the results.
6. Results will be sent to you and to Tom only, and you will be emailed if there are any matches.

What the testing of 5 NN members has shown so far:

UNKNOWN COMMON ANCESTOR				Different NN Line
James 1650	Unknown NN	Unknown NN	Unknown NN	Scotland
Samuel 1697	Joseph 1730	Moses 1740	Unknown NN	James 1690
James 1718	Alexander 1754	Ross 1770	Unknown NN	John 1720
James 1773	John 1795	James 1805	Abraham 1795	John 1760
Gardner 1818	David 1826	Robert 1835	Peter 1822	John 1803
William 1855	Charles 1861	James 1862	Phillip 1856	William 1845
Clarence 1890	Charles 1887	Joseph 1897	George 1887	Frank 1887
Jack 1928	E. Charles 1925	Charles 1930	Pete 1922	Frank 1927
	E. Charles 1947	Chuck 1955	Tom 1947	Steve 1951

DNA Testing Summary:

1. DNA is the gene in "genealogy" and it can be used to assist and prove your NN connections.
2. DNA theory is very technical, but the Univ. of Arizona and Family Tree DNA do all the work.
3. Testing here in the US can help direct us where to look for our ancestors, once we find matches with other NN members or non-members.
4. Testing in the UK will help those members find matches in the UK and also assist us here in the US with finding matches with them. Overseas mailing and testing can be done by Family Tree DNA, so even Australia may wish to participate.
5. Considering the cost of research trips, the cost of DNA testing is very reasonable.

I found Tom's article very informative. NN's throughout the world stand to benefit their genealogical research (family trees/lineages) though this project, not just US members. New Zealand and Australian members have also generally descended through direct emigrants from Scotland, Ireland or England or via Canada or the United States. Presumably, similar testing is available from other sources and perhaps a member or two elsewhere hold results – are they directly compatible or has Family Tree DNA utilised a proprietary "scoring" algorithm? Similarly, if alternatives exist what are their rates? Tom/Family Tree DNA are correct in assigning a single "project administrator" this does however need be identified as a core role within the NN Society for continuity of availability of the results into the future.

Of course, whilst many hours are spent in research and research trips there are other benefits such as ancillary information and wider experiences that are also enjoyed – many of which a simple saliva test is not liable to deliver.

Religion costs scholar

On page 10 of The Age of Thursday March 18, 2004 in the "World" snippets was the article below, spotted by Ian G. Nisbet.

UNITED STATES

Mother seeks return of FBI's 9/11 souvenir

WASHINGTON. The mother of a man who died in the September 11, 2001, attacks has asked US Attorney-General John Ashcroft to return a crystal Tiffany globe taken as an FBI souvenir from the rubble of the World Trade Centre.

Adele Milanowycz said her son Gregory, 25, received the globe as a gift from his girlfriend and kept it on his desk on the 93rd floor of the south tower. The chipped Tiffany paperweight, worth \$350, is at the centre of controversy over the handling of debris at the Fresh Kills landfill on Staten Island, where investigators sorted World Trade Centre rubble. The globe turned up in 2002 on a secretary's desk at the FBI's Minneapolis field office. FBI agent **Daniel Nesbit** has been named in a justice Department report as having taken the globe from the landfill.

*The article (to the right) is from the **Herald Sun**, Wednesday March 10, 2004, page 27. Supplied by Bruce & Helen Nesbit.*

A PREGNANT university student has had her \$11,000 scholarship stripped because her mother isn't a Protestant.

Jemima Holmes, of Brisbane, lost her scholarship after the father of another student alerted the principal to the matter and threatened legal action.

Ms Holmes, 18, received a universities admission index of 99.3 in her HSC at Lismore High School in northern NSW last year.

The **George Nesbitt** scholarship was set up for the highest-achieving student, as long as their parents were Protestant. Ironically, it's not a student requirement.

Ms Holmes, who was dux of the school, said she was told her cheque had been cancelled because of her mother's religious background.

"I was asked to provide proof of my parent's religion. I can't believe it. I'm so angry," Ms Holmes said.

"It is discrimination. It should be for all students or they should get rid of it."

"I'm not religious and neither is my mother. But my father is Protestant."

"Before they gave it to me a lady from the school asked me if I was Catholic. That's it."

(NES)-BITS & PIECES

*Found by Ian Clarke in the "Desperately Seeking..." section of the **Sunday Herald Sun** of the 29th February 2004.*

Betts Reunion

REUNION for descendants of Richard James Betts and Amy Laura Lewis including family names Niven, **Nesbit**, Milley, Lewis, Hickmott and Holmes. At Swan Hill on November 12, 13 and 14.

**Tim and Adele Betts, 5034 6260
Tueloga, RSD via Swan Hill 3585.**

Renee Viellaris

The father who contacted the school had a good motive because his daughter was the second highest achieving student, she said. It is understood the scholarship has been redirected to the family who complained.

Ms Holmes said the other student was a friend but she had not discussed the matter with her.

Ms Holmes, who is six months pregnant, said she and her boyfriend, Chris Taeni, would struggle without the money.

"I was also going to put it towards text books, uni fees and things for my baby," she said.

"Chris is an engineering student, and no one's going to give me a job (because I'm pregnant)."

A NSW education department spokesman said the department was seeking legal advice.

"The award has a long history," he said. "It's not our practice to hand out awards based on religious affiliation and we are seeking legal advice as quickly as possible about how to proceed in the present situation."

George Nesbitt was a devout Protestant who had strong ties to the school. The scholarship was created in the 1950s.

Nola Matuschka submitted a photograph of a plaque she observed, bearing the inscription:

“THIS EUCALYPTUS
STEW POT
WAS ORIGINALLY
OWNED BY
LES & ERIC NISBET
OF WEDDERBURN”

Eric Nisbet is a current member of the Society and a relative of mine (Ed). For many years he and his late brother, Les, distilled eucalyptus oil at Woolshed Flat near Korong Vale, Victoria. What a fine brew it was too – it would cure just about anything! There is a story to tell there & it should be documented. PS. Where did you spot the stew pot?

FOUND

Date: January 14, 2004
Time: 4:02 pm
Name: Malcolm Nisbet
Email Address:
malcolmnisbet@tiscali.co.uk

Subject: Site visit

I have just checked the Nisbet site and you must be congratulated on a 1st class site.

I reside in Glasgow, Scotland and have visited the Nisbet locations on a regular basis en-route to visit relatives in England. I would be very glad to assist any Nisbet if they have any enquiries regarding trying to trace ancestors in Scotland. Give me an e-mail if I can assist anyone.

OBITUARY

It is noted that Professor Stanley Nisbet, a founding member of the UK Society, recently passed away.

SCOTS of VICTORIA

The major events are:

May 30	Scottish Heritage Day, Dandenong
June 12-14	National Celtic Festival, Portarlington
July 4	Kirkin' o' the Tartan, Scots Church, Melbourne
Sept 3-5	Victorian Scottish Union Annual Conference, venue to be advised
Nov 19-21	Beechworth Celtic Festival, Beechworth
Nov 21-22	Gippsland Celtic Festival, Warragul
Dec 4	Daylesford Highland Gathering, Daylesford

The Victorian Highland Pipe Band Association is mounting a display in collaboration with the Immigration Museum to celebrate the history of pipe bands and the long tradition of Scottish pipe music in Victoria. The display is on show from March 10 to May 23, 2004, at the Immigration Museum, 400 Flinders Street, Melbourne.

INTERSTATE GATHERINGS

May 22 Caboolture, QLD – Caboolture Highland Gathering at Apex Park, Centenary Lakes, Morayfield Road. Info 07 5495 7143 or 0404 889 115.

STOP PRESS

According to the Scottish Banner, the largest Scottish newspaper in the world outside Scotland, April 2004 edition, page 7:

Tartan Day

Remember April 6th is Tartan Day in the United States and Canada. If you don't have a clan there are many tartans that you can wear proudly. Royal Stewart, Black Watch, Flower of Scotland, Scotland's Heritage. There are many district tartans, for towns and counties in Scotland. Each county in Ireland has a tartan as well as the St. Patrick and Tara tartan. All Canadian provinces have a tartan as well as the Maple Leaf and Centennial tartans. The US has many lovely variations of red, white and blue tartans. Australia has a lovely gold tartan. Other national tartans include the Netherlands, Wales, and the Isle of Man. So there is no excuse to not proudly wear the tartan.

GENERAL COMMITTEE:

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Vacant.

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Ian G Nisbet, Gavin Nisbet.

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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>