

THE N/NEWS

NO. 92 July 2009

NEWSLETTER OF THE
NESBITT/NISBET SOCIETY
AUSTRALIA

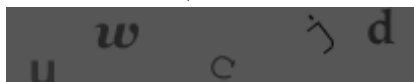


STARTING POINT

This newsletter marks 23 years of Nesbitt/Nisbet Society – Australia; and doesn't that make me feel old? It also reminds me of all the N/N members that I have met, corresponded with, spoken to on the telephone and socialized with over that period, both within Australia and from our two overseas branches. People that I would probably not have otherwise met – and I am the better for it. A cross section of Australian society and each with their own story as well as family history.

The N/N Society facilitated this interaction and it continues to do so today, albeit perhaps with less physical interaction and more electronic and postal communication. All members are encouraged to contact fellow N/N's – even those that you've never met, unrelated, but who I am sure would be thrilled to correspond. That is the unique facet of the society – all we initially share is a surname (or variation thereof) and perhaps a genealogical bent.

Unfortunately, the homepage guestbook has for the past month or so been under regular attack from some automated spamming, making it difficult to manage and appearing to be in poor state of maintenance, which in turn detracts from the site and lowers users willingness to participate. The secretary has negotiated for the homepage to be re-visited by the developer and rectify this by the addition of "Captcha" verification before being able to submit a Guestbook entry. An example of a captcha screen is shown below:



We will also consider "cleaning up" some other functionality. The site may be down for a day or so in the near future for this purpose, but please persevere and continue to support the society by visiting and utilising the homepage, guestbook and other facilities to keep in touch with the committee and other N/N's.

The UK website has a few brief notes and links to lots of pictures regarding the Gathering of the clans in Edinburgh in June. Lots of tartan, plenty of boars heads, penants, etc. I look forward to a full report from the UK Society.

My sincere apologies for the delay in the production and distribution of this newsletter, but I simply ran out of time, with family and work commitments having to be given preference.

As always articles, snippets and genealogical material for publication in future newsletters is welcomed.

Chairman & Editor



MEM-BOAR-SHIP

**We have noted change of e-mail address for:
Pippa & Tony Letch**

Please remember to advise us of any changes to your e-mail or postal addresses and contact details so that we can keep our records current.



NOTICE BOAR-D

(Upcoming events in the Local and Overseas Calendar)

Oct	N/NEWS # 93
Oct	AGM, details TBA
Dec	Christmas Gathering, details TBA
Jan	N/NEWS # 94

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



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(NES)-BITS & PIECES

John Innes Nisbet – Mementos

Attached is a copy of part of page 48 from the Northumberland & Durham Family History Society's Journal , Summer 2009, Volume 34, Number 2. Supplied by Ian Clark.

TRAGIC MEMENTOS

I have in my possession two items in relation to the murder of John Innes Nisbet which occurred on Friday 18 March 1910, in a railway carriage between Newcastle and Alnmouth. One item is a Memorial postcard, the other contains verses describing the unfortunate incident.

I wish to pass these on to any descendants of the Nisbet family, should they find them of interest.

If you wish to contact me, please state your relationship to John Innes Nisbet.

Many thanks.

MICHAEL CURRY

m.curry190@talktalk.net

8 Broadwood View, Consett, Co. Durham DH8 0RY

DNA Group 3 – dividends

Jean Skar, a member of DNA Group 3 (from which my line also descends) has issued an invitation to other Group3 members to supply information to try and build a group resource and interaction.

Jean's invitation is reproduced (in part) below:

I belong to DNA group 3 with the rest of you (*recipients of the e-mail*) and was born in Montana, grew up in Saskatchewan and Alberta and have lived in Norway for more than 40 years. My Nisbet connection is my maternal grandfather who was born in Scotland in 1899 and I have been doing genealogy for over 30 years although only seriously started on my Nisbet branch about five years ago. I do take a trip at least once a year to Edinburgh or Glasgow to do research.

I have missed having a place where one can find the ancestors of the DNA groups, one belongs to, so am contacting our group to get details. I also find it frustrating all the information one finds on the internet that is not correct or conflicting, with no idea where the information comes from. I would really like to see the references.

Therefore I have started putting information on link below for our group, please check your information and any additions, corrections, references, are always very welcome.

If you want your email shown so people can contact you let me know and I will do an image like mine so it can't be picked up by spammer programs.

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nisbet/Nisbet%20branches/group3.htm>

Regards Jean

And for lots more of Nisbet information

My web site is:

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nisbet/index.html>

I am impressed by the website/s– what a splendid idea and I congratulate Jean on this effort. I am sure that all N/N's, even those who have not undertaken DNA sampling will find much material of general interest to N/N's here and perhaps be able to link into one of these so far disparate family trees. I am now keen to supply my (scant) family tree and further explore and utilise the magnificent collection of material available on the website/s.

Nisbet House – Planning Appeal

Recently an application for a planning permit to develop housing adjacent to Nisbet House was lodged and the Nesbitt/Nisbet Society submitted the following for consideration by the authorities when making their determination.

The Nesbitt/Nisbet Society is a Scottish clan society with over 1000 members in the United Kingdom, North America and Australia. The ancestral roots of the clan are documented since 1139 as being at the 12th century castle of West Nisbet, now incorporated within Nisbet House. We therefore have a keen interest in the safeguarding of this historic site. After many decades in which Nisbet House was unoccupied and vulnerable, we have welcomed the careful restoration of Nisbet House by its current owners. We are deeply concerned that advice from your Heritage & Design officer and from Historic Scotland does not take account of the historic significance of the overall Nisbet estate, or give adequate weight to the Category A listing of Nisbet House and Walled Garden and Stables. This group Category A listing of all these structures reflects the fact that the whole forms an exceptionally complete and unaltered group of landscape and buildings spanning the period 1600 - 1800, including the 17th century tower house built by Sir Alexander Nisbet, and the Georgian assemblage of west Tower, walled garden, stables and gardener's cottage. The subsequent history of the estate has, very unusually, preserved it from the insertion of later buildings for over 200 years. We are also concerned that your advisors do not take account of the wider historic landscape

of the Nisbet Estate, designed by Thomas White in 1784, including extensive tree plantings that are still present and form the visual boundaries of the estate. This landscaping is referred to in Historic Scotland's listing notes, and should be taken into account in deciding planning matters.

In view of the listing of such a substantial assemblage of buildings and gardens, the presumption must be against any new development in this group, except on truly exceptional grounds. In particular, the visual and historical integrity of the Walled Garden will be deeply damaged by any new construction that is visible from within the Garden walls. In any case, the architectural quality of the proposed dwellings is of a highly suburban nature, and highly inappropriate to the setting. We are also concerned that advice given by your officers appears to be based on the position of the 1980s, when Nisbet House, Stables and Walled Gardens were essentially unoccupied. The recent restoration of the House and Stables has been carried out to the highest standard, and these are now family homes with a long-term future.

Any assessment of planning matters must therefore take account of the fact that the future of the Category A listed assemblage is now assured, and that any new planning proposal must be scrutinised in the closest terms for its impact on neighbours and on the listed structures and gardens. It should also be undertaken with reference to the exceptionally full documentation of Nisbet House and its estate in records at the RCAHMS and elsewhere.

Yours faithfully

Mark Nesbitt of that Ilk
(Chief of the Name & Arms of Nisbet and Nesbitt), & the Committee of the Nesbitt/Nisbet Society (UK)

David Nesbitt Harvey IV, President,
Nesbitt/Nisbet Society (USA)

Ian M. Nisbet, President, Nesbitt/Nisbet
Society (Australia)

Nisbet House– Prints

An e-mail was received regarding the production and availability of an architectural illustration of Nisbet House. The e-mail is reproduced below.

From: tweisenfeld99@yahoo.com

Subject: Nisbet House architectural illustration available

Dear Sir,

My name is Terry Weisenfeld and in advance, thanks for reviewing this e-mail regarding the completed illustration of the Nisbet House in Dunns, Scotland.

I am an architectural artist, and have recently completed a commissioned rendering of the Nisbet House (from an old 1935 postcard) for an old university friend of mine, Craig Nisbet of Chicago, Illinois here in the U.S.

He has graciously allowed me to make a fine art print of the illustration for sales to Nisbet Society members. The original illustration hangs proudly in his home and Craig thought we should do a Limited Edition Print series to make the memory and image of the place available to those in the Nisbet lineage. It is fairly large, 14.5"x22", and is illustrated in the pen & ink and airbrush medium.

I am working with the Clan Chief, Mark Nisbet of Teddington in the UK, and he has agreed to show a print sent to him, at "The Gathering" in Edinburgh this July for sales to those in attendance. He will also be using the image as a source for sales and advertising in the Summer newsletter. I'll enclose an attachment of the finished portrait in this mailing, and you can view samples of all my art at my artist's web site at:

www.FineArtStudioOnline.com/TerryWeisenfeld
The image is there as well as are sales details. I would be glad to send you a sample print for the membership to view. If you would like to handle sales, I have a wholesale value with a minimum purchase if you would like to make a percentage off the sales by way of offering it to your membership.

Otherwise, I can sell to individuals, or in sets of 5, 10 or whatever number, to save shipping costs, as the distance is rather exceptional for shipping.

I have totally enjoyed the opportunity to get to know the history of the Nisbet Clan by my affiliation through my friend Craig, and hope to be able to offer this high-quality art print and keep sake to your membership.

My sincere intent is to offer an illustration of significant value with regards to the memory of the Clan's roots, and for those who cherish the affiliation of their ancestry in Scotland.

Feel free to contact Mr Mark Nisbet in the UK or Mr Craig Nesbit in the U.S. for references and to vouch for the sincerity of this offer.

They are Society members. Contact me with any questions regarding the art, sales and distribution of the print and if you would like to have an image for use in a newsletter or web site.

Look forward to working with you and providing your membership with an art work that speaks of their heritage and the proud history of the Nisbet clan.

Best regards,

Terry J Weisenfeld
Branch Hollow Graphics



**NISBET HOUSE,
Berwickshire, Scotland**
Pen & Ink and airbrush on Paper
14.5" x 22"

Cost: \$95U.S., \$59 BR Pounds, \$68 EUR for 20"x24" print. Shipping included.

Prices as per website – check first if interested.

The Drum

The Drum is a country house in Gilmerton, approximately 6km southwest of Edinburgh city centre.

Lord Somerville had a tower house built at Drum in 1584 but which twice burnt before 1644.

The current house was built as Somerville House between 1726-34, was designed by William Adam and was originally intended to have two flanking wings, but only one was ever built; the west pavilion incorporating the earlier tower house.

The house was used as a billet by Jacobite troops after capturing Edinburgh in 1745; it is said the Somervilles saved their silver by throwing it from the Dining Room window. It also goes by various other names such as Drum House, Drum House Estate, Drum House Policies and is noted for its fine plaster stucco work found on the ceilings and in the wall panels and chimney pieces. It is listed on the national heritage register.

The More Nisbett family acquired the house in 1862.

Extracted from:
<http://canmore.rcahms.gov.uk/en/site/53463/details/edinburgh+gilmerton+the+drum/>



Drum, Gilmerton

Hamilton More Nisbett – of the Drum

Hamilton More Nisbett was born on 4th January 1868, the second son of John More Nisbett, 8th of Cairnhill, Ayreshire of the Drum, Gilmerton and his wife Lady Agnes Dalrymple, daughter of the 9th Earl of Stair.

He trained as an architect and practiced as a an architect. During World War I he was reserved as a Special Constable, having trained with the Mounted Blacks as a Territorial. He was joint Master of the Edinburgh Foot Harriers of Beagles, but incurred heart strain.

Hamilton More Nisbett married Ivegh Marguerite Gladys Bayly Jones, daughter of Commander Frederick William Bayley Jones RN of Dunclutha on 7 November 1905. He succeeded to the family estates as 11th of Cairnhill and 4th of the Drum on the death of his elder brother, North More Nisbett, 5 January 1939.

After the outbreak of World War II the practice was moved to the Drum. He was author of several books, 'Drum of the Somervilles', 'Oxenfoord and its owners' and 'Cairnhill'. He died on 24 December 1955. His wife had predeceased him on 15 July 1943.

Extracted from:
http://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk/architect_full.php?id=202310

The Drum continues to be the residence of the More Nisbett family.

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From:

<http://www.geograph.org.uk/reuse.php?id=837106>

N/N's IN THE NEWS

Mr & Mrs Albert Nesbit

*Below is a paper clipping from the **Manawatu Evening Standard** of 1:4:2009 Regarding the parents of our NZ Regional Officer. (Manawatu is rural Palmerston North.)*



Supplied by John Nesbit

Rab C Nesbitt – the Govan philosopher

Steve Nesbitt (NZ member) e-mailed me to advise that Rab C Nesbitt, a Scottish sitcom, is due to make a TV comeback, with a new series being recorded in late 2009 to be screened in early 2010. Steve provided the following internet links:

<http://www.theglaswegian.co.uk/entertainment-lifestyle/entertainment/2009/02/25/rab-c-nesbitt-set-to-return-with-new-series-102692-21152140/>

and,

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rab_C._Nesbitt

Obviously the show has a cult following and is able to be understood by its viewers, having run for 8 seasons between the pilot in late 1988 then from 1989 to 1999 and returns after a hugely popular Christmas Special was aired in 2008, viewed by approximately 3.5 million people across the UK.



Rab C Nesbitt

Rab has never graced the Australian TV screens, nor NZ screens, from what Steve advises; and from what I read and saw I am glad that his name is spelt as it is (the other way) and I am extremely relieved to know that the character is fictitious, so hopefully no family traits or genetic material anticipated amongst our members and/or clan.



OBITUARY

Col. William Nesbitt

Along with the latest UK Newsletter came a notice regarding the sad death of their past editor Col. William Nesbitt.



STOP PRESS

Life– consider this

“The life of every man is a diary in which he means to write one story, and writes another; and his humblest hour is when he compares the volume as it is with what he has hoped to make it.”

Sir James Matthew Barrie, Scottish dramatist-author (1860-1937)

“Bloody Code” – available on-line

In the *Herald Sun*, Tuesday, August 4, 2009 p.24 an article entitled “Ripper yarns revealed” reported:

“Details of criminal trials in England dating to the 18th century, including the infamous Jack the Ripper suspect, went online for the first time yesterday”.

The penal code which had about 50 offences that carried the death penalty in the early 18th century rose to more than 200 by 1815 and became known as the “Bloody Code”.

Records of trials in England and Wales from 1791 to 1892 can be searched at ancestry.co.uk and holds over a million records of sentences ranging from imprisonment to transportation to execution.

Scottish – another first

In the *Herald Sun*, Tuesday, August 4, 2009 p.4 an article entitled “Tartan tikka” reported:

“A chef from Glasgow claims he invented the curry dish, and”

Also in an expanded article in *The Age*, Tuesday, August 4, 2009 p.7 an article entitled “Och aye, chicken tikka masala might be more Scottish than a bonnie haggis” reported:

“Glaswegians claim the invention of Britain’s most popular curry, but was haggis a Sassenach treat?”

Chicken tikka masala is claimed to have been invented by the Ali family in the 1970’s in their restaurant the “Shish Mahal” in Glasgow by adding a creamy sauce to mildly curried, but otherwise “dry” chicken dish.

Erstwhile an historian, Catherine Brown is reported to have discovered references to a recipe for haggis in a recipe book entitled *The English Hus-Wife* dated 1616. This is 171 years before Robert Burns’ poem *Address to a Haggis* and 131 years before the earliest mention of Scottish haggis that Ms Brown could find.

The article closes with a quote from James McSween, whose Edinburgh-based company makes haggis, and believes it will remain a Scottish icon irrespective.

“I didn’t hear of Shakespeare writing a poem about it,” he said.

A Wee Scottish Tale.

A man is cupping his hand to scoop water from a Highland burn.

A Gamekeeper shouts:
‘Dinnae drink tha waater! Et’s foo ae coo’s shite an pish!’

The man replies:
‘My Good fellow, I’m from England. Could you repeat that in English for me?’

The keeper replies:
‘I said, use two hands - you spill less that way!!!’



WANTED

Your help wanted

Twenty three years and still going! Through the dedication of the committee members over the years and the steadfastness of a supportive core membership the Nesbitt/Nisbet Society - Australia continues today.

Our committee is below minimum numbers and thus functionality; and has been for the past few years. I have, over the twenty three years been involved with the newsletter almost continuously and of more recent times served as chairman, albeit far from my forte.

I have previously made regular requests for members to volunteer their services and share the load or take up a role within the Society. These requests have gone unanswered. I now reiterate my earnest request for your on-going and active support:

- *articles for the newsletter,*
- *offers of assistance, and*
- *volunteers to serve on committee.*

The clan motto is “I byd it”; and whilst this should be our personal motto also the “I” is, in this case, not restricted to the individual - it is the clan (our society), it’s aims and purposes, that must endure – that we have been entrusted to persist. You can and should be a part of that!

Please consider! Please respond!



NESBITT/NISBET SOCIETY CONTACTS

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ARCHIVIST: Vacant
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PUBLICATION OFFICER:

Vacant

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Ian G Nisbet, Gavin Nisbet.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE:

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

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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.asn.au>