

THE N/NEWS

NO. 97 October 2010

NEWSLETTER OF THE
NESBITT/NISBET SOCIETY
AUSTRALIA



STARTING POINT

It would seem that once again I need to apologise for my tardiness. I will keep this introduction brief and allow you to do two important things – firstly, read this edition of The N/News, and secondly, complete your subscription renewal for 2010/11 – please find accompanying.

Subscriptions can now be paid directly into an N/N Society account. Please find instructions on the back of the subscription notice. Should you have any problems please contact our treasurer for assistance.

Your prompt payment will allow us to continue to produce the Newsletter and support the homepage.

Articles, snippets and wanted/success stories for the next edition of The N/News would be appreciated.

Greetings and all the best for Christmas and the New Year – perhaps a few members might find that they are now in a position to volunteer their services?

Chairman & Editor



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MEM-BOAR-SHIP

We have pleasure in welcoming the following new member to the Society:

Leanne Nisbet White of Armadale, NSW
and we note a change of address for:
Mark & Robyn Nisbet from Berwick to
Beaconsfield North, Vic.



NOTICE BOAR-D

(Upcoming events in the Local and Overseas Calendar)

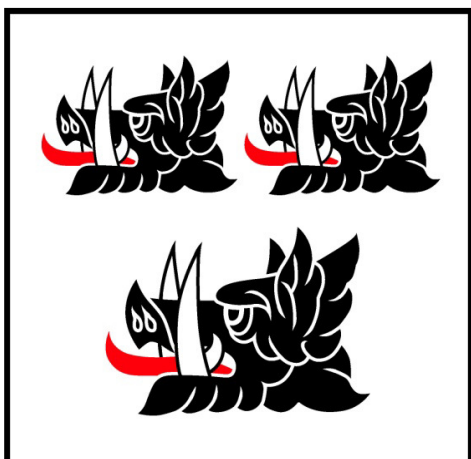
Jan	N/NEWS # 98
Apr	N/NEWS # 99

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



(NES)-BITS & PIECES

Chief's Banner



Our Chief's Banner, represents the shield from the Chief's Coat of Arms, blazoned as: *Argent three boars heads erased Sable, armed Argent and langued Gules*

- * Argent - refers to the silver or white background color of the shield
- * Three boars heads erased - head torn off the body
- * Sable - the black color of the boar heads
- * Armed - the horns, teeth, and tusks of beasts
- * Argent - here refers to the color of the teeth or tusks, which are silver or white
- * Langued - term for the tongue of beasts when of a different tincture (color) to that of the body
- * Gules – red color (of the tongue).

The Nesbitt cultivar – 100 years of breeding

The following item is a selection of excerpts from an article entitled:

Muscadine Grapes in the Home Garden

**Revised 06/06 -- Author Reviewed 06/06
HIL-8203**

Barclay Poling, Professor and
Extension Specialist

Connie Fisk, Muscadine Extension
Associate

Department of Horticultural Science,
NCSU (Duplin County)

Introduction

Muscadine grapes are well adapted to the Coastal Plain of North Carolina, where temperatures seldom fall below 10°F. Considerable injury generally occurs where winter temperatures drop below 0°F. Some of the more hardy cultivars such as 'Magnolia', 'Carlos' and 'Sterling' survive northward to Virginia and westward to the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Muscadines have a high degree of tolerance to pests and diseases that makes the production of bunch grapes nearly impossible in eastern North Carolina. There is no other fruit with such strong personal associations for so many native North Carolinians. The fruit has a distinct fruity or "musky" aroma, while the juice by itself is sweet with a light taste and aroma. The fruit is very popular with native Southerners for making into wine, pies and jellies.

Origin

Muscadines grapes, (*Vitis rotundifolia*, or alternatively, *Muscadiniana rotundifolia*) are often referred to as *scuppernongs*. Muscadine is native to the Southeastern United States and has been cultured for more than 400 years. Native Americans preserved muscadines as dried fruit long before the Europeans inhabited this continent. As early as 1565, Captain John Hawkins reported that the Spanish settlements in Florida made large quantities of muscadine wine. For much of the history of the crop, varieties were simply selections from the wild. The first recognized muscadine cultivar was a bronze selection, found before 1760 by Isaac Alexander in Tyrrell County, NC. It was first known as the 'Big White Grape', and was later named 'Scuppernong' after the area in which it was found. With time, the name scuppernong became generic with all bronze muscadines, regardless of actual variety name. However, this is incorrect nomenclature, since 'Scuppernong' is only one of many cultivars of muscadine grapes. Bullis and its variants

(bullace, bullet grape, bull grape) are very old names for dark-fruited muscadines. Some authorities have written that the name "Bull" grape reflects comparison of the berries with cow or pigs eyes; or, alternatively, muscadines were called "Bullace" because of their resemblance to a European plum of the same name, and that Bullis, Bull and Bullet are all corruptions of the Bullace!

Nearly 100 years of breeding work has resulted in the release of many improved cultivars. 'Carlos', 'Doreen', 'Nobel', 'Magnolia', and '**Nesbitt**' are some of the most important cultivated varieties in North Carolina.

Varieties

'Scuppernong' bronze and 'Thomas' black are the cultivars most widely known and asked for by the public. The following are much-improved, recommended cultivars.

- **Carlos** -- bronze, mid-season, medium size, perfect flowered, very dry stem scar, good fresh or for wine.
- **Doreen** -- bronze, very late, medium size, perfect flowered, dry stem scar, good fresh or for wine.
- **Magnolia** -- bronze, early, medium to large size, perfect flowered, wet stem scar, excellent fresh flavor, wine and juice.
- **Nesbitt** -- black, early, large size, perfect flowered, dry stem scar, good fresh, but poor wine color.
- **Noble** -- black, early, small size, perfect flowered, wet scar, good fresh, wine and juice.
- **Regale** -- black, mid-season, medium size, perfect flowered, wet scar, good fresh, wine and juice.
- **Triumph** -- bronze, early, large size, perfect flowered, dry scar, good fresh, fair wine.

All of these cultivars are perfect flowered (male and female flower parts), so a single vine will be fruitful. Other available cultivars such as 'Fry', 'Higgins', 'Scuppernong', and 'Jumbo' have flowers with only female flower parts and must be planted near a perfect-flowered cultivar.

Potential for Organic Production

Muscadine grapes can often be grown successfully without insecticides or fungicides. Japanese beetles are often the most damaging insects. Selecting cultivars with some disease resistance such as 'Carlos', '**Nesbitt**', 'Noble', 'Triumph' or 'Regale' will reduce the losses without fungicide applications. Netting may be required for bird protection; however, birds are generally a much more serious problem on blueberries and bunch grapes.



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Service**

Biographical Dictionary – re-vamped

“Also received the bio dictionary *Mark II* another marathon effort me thinks. Having all the families grouped together is certainly an advantage; I for one did not realise than Peter Nisbet, Lawyer/Judge was related to Gary. He went to the same kindergarten in Shenton Park WA, that this Nisbet family attended.”

In the above note, Ian G was referring to the latest reformatting of the Biographical Dictionary to group families by their tree number & related branches. This becomes a very powerful tool providing whole branches/trees to a researcher once they have identified an individual.

Several clippings re: Peter Nisbet have appeared in the N/News over the years and I did not realise that he was a distant relative until an edition or two ago.



NETWORKED N/N's

Probate Calendar – goes online

*The article below is from the **Herald Sun** of Friday August 13, 2010 page 42.*

Wills go online

HER parents may have lived in a ruined Scottish cottage, but Dame Nellie Melba left enough to buy a mansion when she died.

An online historical database shows the estate of the Australian opera singer, who died in 1931, was valued about \$2.2 million in today's money.

The England and Wales National Probate Calendar is an online index to more than six million wills from 1861-1941, including those of more than 4500 Australians.

In 1857, the Court of Probate Act transferred the power to administer estates from the church to the state.

The probate calendar books, in which the transfers are documented, are now listed for history buffs to search online through ancestry.com.au. - AAP



N/N's IN THE NEWS

N/N's – well read

*The **Sunday AGE** of October 31, 2010 published the PRC 2010 Achievement Honour Roll as a supplement. Listed within this were a number of N/N's who had undertaken the Victorian Premier's Reading Challenge – well done to the following:*

	Year 3
Annabelle Nesbitt	Carla Nisbet
Ashlyn Nisbet	
Luke Nisbet	
Year 2	Year 4
Darcy Nesbitt	Jessica Nisbet
Bailey Niblett	



FOUND

Nisbet / Mitchell - connection

Ian G submitted the following in response to an article from Peter & Ros Coffey.

I am responding to an item in the recent N/N Newsletter (No.96) in which you make reference to Hugh Steven Nisbet marrying a Mitchell.

Hugh Steven Nisbet married Barbara Mitchell 23 August 1848 at Mauchline (N/N OPR Vol 2).

Barbara (ms Mitchell) Nisbet died 28 December 1849 and I surmise during childbirth. This information is from a gravestone erected by HS Nisbet in Mauchline.

Hugh Steven Nisbet marries Sarah Dunlop on 19 November 1850 at Mauchline.

They have a number of children including Barbara Mitchell Nisbet, baptised 5 September 1857. On the gravestone mentioned above she dies in 1857 aged - months.

On the same gravestone a Sarah Bishop, his wife, is recorded as dying in 1878 aged 52. (I have not been able to reconcile this on the very limited research I have done.)

On other gravestones in the Mauchline Cemetery are recorded:

- Thomas Mitchell, schoolmaster, 3 June 1875, aged 83;
- Janet Paterson, eldest daughter [of Rev John Walker and Margaret Paterson] wife of Thomas Mitchell, artist.

In my direct family, Hugh Nisbet, uncle of Hugh Steven Nisbet also marries a Mitchell, a widow, Agnes (ms Mitchell) Walker in 1843 at Mauchline, his wife Agnes (ms Steven) Nisbet predeceasing him. (I have not done any investigations into the Mitchells but have linked into the Walker family.

Agnes Steven is the sister of Hugh Steven Nisbet's mother, Harriet Steven who married Robert Nisbet, Hugh Nisbet's younger brother.

Hugh Steven Nisbet is a local printer/newsletter publisher and records in detail a flood which ravaged Mauchline in 1859. See: www.ayrshirehistory.com

I will be pleased to receive your comments and any further information.

Cheers, Ian G

Being of the same family tree as Peter & Ros I too have noted Ian G's response with interest. Any other members who have links to Mitchell's, Walker's and/or Mauchline – I am sure that Ian G would be keen to hear from you.



SUCCESS

William George Nisbet – antecedents

In response to a Guestbook entry (from our newest member) Ian M Nisbet wrote, on 02/08/2010:

I have been able to download the details of your father, Douglas Clive Nisbet. I have carried out a general search in the Riverina without being able to pinpoint your great-grandfather. We have a number of members in that area and I will ask them to assist. This will need to be through your grandfather William George Nisbet. Will you advise his residential address at the time of his death. This should give a link to Scotland.

Leanne responded:

Thank you so much. My grandfather owned a property called 'Dry Lake' - which was just out of Moulemein (near Hay) in NSW. I know he had also lived in Maude and Deniliquin (which is where my father was born). I'm not exactly sure where my grandfather was when he passed away. I thought it was probably at his property in Moulemein.

I know that my great grandfather had a property called 'Grassmere' (or something like that name) around Deniliquin.

On 07/08/2010, Ian M Nisbet wrote:

I believe I have located your Sydney family. I suspect that your GF William may have married twice? Would be pleased to hear from you.

I noticed a reply to your guest book entry from Ian G. Nisbet who is secretary of our society and was unaware of our contact.

Leanne responded:

You were right in your thought that my grandfather had married twice. He had several sons with his first wife before she passed away. His second wife was my grandmother, Violet Louise Hamilton-Gordon (or she might have used the surname, Mitchell). She came as a governess to my grandfather's property, with a young daughter - and then they eventually married. I understand my grandmother had two sons with my grandfather, William George. Their names were Freddie (who passed away as a toddler) and my father, Douglas.

My father moved to Sydney in the 1950's, where he met my mum, Lola. They were based in Sydney (Earlwood) ever since - and my Mum still lives there. My father's half brother Albert, also moved to Sydney with his wife, Mary. They lived in St Ives. Uncle Albert passed away about a year after my Dad - but Aunt Mary is still there. If you've located any other Sydney based Nisbets I'd be pleased to know. The remaining brothers have passed away, but most were in Melbourne (Hugh and Rupert were the ones I remember spending time with during my childhood). The daughter my grandmother brought with her to my grandfather's property (Dry Lake), was called Muriel.

My grandmother has her own amazing story, which I will follow back to London - where she came from. Her story's a bit easier to track down - but my grandfather and his family, his story about his own father coming from Scotland with his brother - and where in Scotland they might have come from, is a mystery to me. My cousins on my Dad's side, are much older than me - and we didn't have a lot to do with my father's half brothers (except for Uncle Albert - who had no children, and my uncle Bill - who lived at Dry Lake).

Leanne responded to Ian G:

My grandfather died in Hay, NSW in the 1950s. His father (my great grandfather) was also called George - and I'm guessing that he too died in or around Hay - it would have been in the 1930's. Sorry for confusion - it was my great grandfather who came out from Scotland in the late 1800's. The story goes that he came out to take up a land grant with his brother (don't know the brother's name).

On 10/08/2010, Ian Nisbet wrote:

Some feedback, but there is much to follow up and this is lacking in detail as online records not all that informative.

John Robert Nisbet died 1963 Hay NSW, father John and mother Helen Jane Nisbet (Snr), daughter of William and Annie (Irvine) Skene. Where?

William George Nisbet (snr) died 1954 Hay, NSW father John and mother Helen Jane Nisbet (Snr), daughter of William and Annie (Irvine) Skene. Where?

Helen Jane Nisbet (jnr) died Victoria 1983, presume daughter of Helen Jane and John.

John Robert Nisbet dies in Victoria 1985, parental details unknown however a John is living with Helen Jane (snr and jnr) at Moama in the 1930+ electoral rolls.

William George Nisbet (jnr) living at Dry Lake in 1954 (electoral Roll).

Arthur John Nisbet dies Victoria 1984 father William George and Ethel _.

I suggest that John Robert Nisbet (snr) is the John referred to above listed as JP 1912 and farmer at Grassmere (various spellings) in the early electoral rolls and the Sands and Mac directories.

Muriel Frances Nisbet is recorded in the 1943 electoral Roll for Hay.

Frederick Hamilton Nisbet dies 1936 at Hay, parents William George and Violet Louise Nisbet.

Violet Louise Mitchell dies in 1978 in NSW.

Leanne responded:

Funnily enough, I find myself working for a gentleman who has recently come to Australia from Scotland himself. I had told him of my desire to try to find the place our family came from, and he told me with much astonishment that he lived in part of a castle that was once owned by the Hamilton Nisbets - there is a link to it at: <http://www.wintonhouse.co.uk/wintonhistory.php> . Imagine my surprise then to find that my father's brother (Fred) had a full name of Fredrick Hamilton Nisbet. I think that's probably a coincidence, but it's interesting all the same. Before my grandmother married my grandfather, she had been a Hamilton-Gordon (then a Mitchell).

The story of the long paddock also has me fascinated.

On 15/08/2010, Ian Nisbet wrote:

There is so much info. I suggest that we get back to your original question-- the name of your gggf. We know that but what we really want to know is where and when he died . His death certificate should provide details of his parents and date of arrival in Australia. If this is so then we well may have the missing link. The Skenes are very prominent in East Lothian.

A starting point--

6044/1885 Nisbet John m Skene Helen Jane Deniliquin, daughter of William and Annie (Irvine) Skene.

A legal notice in The Brisbane Courier, 3rd May 1884 gave details of an application for a grant of Letters of Administration in the goods of William Skene, late of Normanton in the Colony of Queensland, but formerly of Conargo, in the Colony of New South Wales, Gentleman, Deceased, Intestate. The application was made by the duly appointed Attorneys of Annie Skene, of Booroorban near Deniliquin in the Colony of New South Wales, Widow of the said deceased. (Booroorban is 47 km south of Hay. Conargo is close to Deniliquin.) This poses some more questions?

Leanne responded:

Perhaps I can help with understanding why John was in Qld. My father told me that his grandfather died in an accident with his horse (my Dad so elegantly and simply explained 'he fell off!') - and didn't return from a stint out with sheep/cattle. I had always thought he must've fallen on the property at Grassmere, but as you mentioned the long paddock in your earlier email ... perhaps that's where he was?

Stay tuned – as this success story unravels. Leanne is keenly pursuing the leads that she has been given. Do any other members recognise any of these names, places, events, etc? If so, please contact either Ian G, Ian M or Leanne directly. It would appear that a number of Australian N/N's could be from this lineage, and it would be a wonderful achievement to be able to “piece them all together”.

FAMILY SNIPPETS

NZ N/N's - shaken

Greetings John & NZ N/Ns, we have been viewing the terrible earthquake damage to your beautiful city. No doubt some of our N/Ns have been affected in some way. We wish them well and a quick restoration of limb & property. We send clan greetings to all our cousins.

The above note from Ian M Nisbet was sent to our NZ coordinator on news of the earthquake and numerous post-quake tremors that devastated parts of New Zealand, especially around Christchurch in early September. An excerpt from John's response follows:

Hello Ian, thank you for your message of concern.

My family & I have come through largely unscathed, (among the fortunate ones).

It is not good, you will have seen images on TV etc.

The really good news is of people supporting each other at this time.

It would be great if this caring continues post-earthquake.

Joy & Ian M Nisbet

Ian M continues to deal with matters N/N albeit that both he and Joy are not enjoying the best of health.

On behalf of members I wish them improved health and pass on regards and thanks for their dedication.

Kirsty Nisbet – café manager

Gwenda and Kirsty Nisbet, of the Ian T Nisbet family, recently moved into the Café business – and can be found running the “Citrus Tart” in Lambourn Road, Watsonia.

Pearl and/or Ian are also liable to be there.

Recently Helen Nesbit was taken there by a friend who had made the connection when chatting to Gwenda & Kirsty – Helen is well and enjoyed the catch up.

Andrew Nisbet – marriage

N/N member Andrew Nisbet married Helen Meyer on 23rd October 2010 at Labassa, Caulfield North.

Congratulations, and we wish Helen and Andrew much happiness together.

Robyn Meikle – civil celebrant

Robyn Meikle, wife of Mark Nisbet, was recently granted her licence as a civil celebrant and officiated (with “L” plates) at the wedding of Andrew & Helen, her brother & sister-in-law.

Well done!



Bagpiper

From my office who are anglo! IMN

Those of you with even the slightest trace of Scottish ancestry will appreciate this.....

As a bagpiper, I play many gigs. Recently I was asked by a funeral director to play at a graveside service for a homeless man. He had no family or friends, so the service was to be at a pauper's cemetery in the Kentucky back country. As I was not familiar with the backwoods, I got lost and, being a typical man, I didn't stop for directions. I finally arrived an hour late and saw the funeral guy had evidently gone and the hearse was nowhere in sight.

There were only the diggers and crew left and they were eating lunch. I felt badly and apologised to the men for being late. I went to the side of the grave and looked down and the vault lid was already in place. I didn't know what else to do, so I started to play.

The workers put down their lunches and began to gather around. I played out my heart and soul for this man with no family and friends. I played like I've never played before for this homeless man. And as I played 'Amazing Grace,' the workers began to weep. They wept, I wept, and we all wept together.

When I finished I packed up my bagpipes and started for my car. Though my head hung low, my heart was full. As I opened the door to my car, I heard one of the workers say, "I never seen nothin' like that before and I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years."

Apparently I'm still lost...

NESBITT/NISBET SOCIETY CONTACTS

GENERAL COMMITTEE:

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PUBLICATION OFFICER:

Vacant

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Ian G Nisbet, Gavin Nisbet.

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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>