



**2017**

**Web Site:** <http://libeau-family.org/>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/Libeau.Family>

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***La Gazette***

Issue # 47

Mar 2017

# *Greetings from the President*

Bonjour chere famille

Since our last Gazette we have had Christmas, New Year, holidays and summer! Hopefully you had time to catch up with friends and family during this time.

As we met yesterday with the owners of Libeau cottage 54 Rue Grehan Akaroa to finalise details of the plaque to indicate the history of this beautifully restored cottage, we reminisced about the reunion to Rochefort in 2000.

Several strands of the Libeau family were connected and since then the past has been traced and much information gathered. Gilles Fournat has been most diligent in his research and we have so much more knowledge now about our ancestors.

The Libeau Descendants AGM will be conducted May 21 at 11.00 in the new Alliance Francaise premises- 275 Cashel Street. Kevin Clark will talk about his book about our Libeau family; the result of much research and time spent in France and the process of publication once it has been received back from the Editor.

Please bring family members to share in this special event. We have a small keen committee and will not coerce anyone at elections. However, you are very welcome to share your skills if you wish to be involved in this way.

Following the AGM we will have lunch at Maison de Crepes- Carlton Court 2 Papanui Road with a menu of authentic sweet and savoury crepes. Enjoy autumn!

Heather

## *Births, Deaths and Marriages*

### **Births**

**Hartley** Ferguson Claridge David b. 25 Jan 2017  
Son of Joanne and Reagan  
Grandson of David and Rosemary Clark  
Great Granddaughter for Shirley and the late Malcolm Clark



**Batten** Aaliyah b. 29 Jan 2017. A sister for Oakley  
Daughter of Jordan and Kieran Batten  
Granddaughter of Kathryn and Peter Plaskett  
Great Granddaughter for Shirley and the late Malcolm Clark

### **Death**

**Josephine Marie Davey** b 27 May 1938. d 13 Mar 2017. Dearly loved wife of Ken.  
Josephine was the eldest daughter of the late Hector and Dora Clark.



### **Marriage**

Cody Clark, son of Neville and Jody Clark married Storm Habib, daughter of Marie and Paul at Gisborne on 11 March 2017. Cody is the grandson of Shirley and the late Malcolm Clark.



# Alliance Française News



## Children's Holiday Programme

We offer Easter, summer, spring and winter holiday programme for children! Our holiday programmes are heaps of fun for your children. We are making French crafts, drawing, baking and playing all in French!

Get ready for a week packed full of outdoor games, tasty recipes, crazy craft projects and more - all with a Superhero theme.

And of course there'll be lots of fun French language learning mixed in there too. Suitable for children aged 5-11 years and all levels of French ability - from complete beginners to bilingual.

Programme runs 9am-3pm each day at our classrooms in 275 Cashel Street, Christchurch Central

The CHP will be held at Alliance Française Christchurch, 275 Cashel Street.

9:00am to 3:00pm 5 to 11 years old | \$45 per day\*

### Booking essential

**\*Special Offer! Get a 10% siblings discount or if you book your child 4 days in a row.**

\*\*10% discount for the children attending our After School Club

### Children Holiday Programmes 2017 Dates:

#### Winter:

10-14 July

17-21 July

#### Spring;

2-6 October

9-13 October

#### Christmas:

21-22 December

## French Classes

The Alliance Française Christchurch provides a wide range of courses at different levels. If you want to learn French in a fun and way environment, join our sessions: be it conversational French, French for Travellers, French for Children, etc.

Go to the Web site for the Christchurch Alliance Française for more information:

[www.afchristchurch.org.nz](http://www.afchristchurch.org.nz)

# Comte de Paris News

## Akaroa French Fest



**FRENCH**fest  
AKAROA, NEW ZEALAND

Event date:

Friday, October 13, 2017 to Saturday, October 14, 2017

Brief Description

The 2017 Festival will be held on 13 & 14 October. The last weekend of the school holidays. Escape to picturesque Akaroa and immerse yourself in French culture, entertainment and romance as you celebrate Akaroa's unique French connection at the Akaroa French Festival. Settle in on Friday evening and relax with sea side dining. Watch the street come alive with entertainment, music and a light show. On Saturday enjoy the French landing at the beach, the parade, flag raising and market stalls and on Sunday there will be events at Onuku this year. The programme will be coming.

Details and Contact

**Join in the festivities of the French Fest street party, festival market, family fun day, Cabaret show and fireworks over an exciting three days.**

**Festival Programme to come.**

[adp@akaroa.com](mailto:adp@akaroa.com)

**Ph 03 304 7816**

# Visits and Travels

## Our French Genealogy

Depending on which line of the family one descends from, we are likely to have a mixed heritage of mainly French, English, Scottish and Irish ancestry. Some will also have ancestors from other countries. Over the last few years I have been in Europe and exploring some of areas our French and English ancestors lived. In this article I will briefly indicate where some of our French ancestors lived. For reference the map of French departments with their departmental number provide a guide.



Administratively, France is in a process of change. At the beginning of 2016, it decreased the number of regions from 27 to 18 (13 metropolitan and 5 overseas regions). Each region is divided into a number of *départements* (departments), *arrondissements* (districts), *cantons* (sub-districts) and *communes* (municipalities). In total, there are 101 *départements*, divided into 343 *arrondissements*, 4,058 *cantons* and 36,699 *communes*.

The main sources of information I had was the genealogical research undertaken by Francis and Gilles Fournat and Anne West. They have traced the various French families; Chauvet, Libeau and Gendrot, back to the 1500s; as many as ten generations back from those who migrated to New Zealand. This research has discovered literally hundreds of family names that are relevant to our story. The name Libeau is but the tip of the iceberg.

Visiting some of the places where our French ancestors lived confirms that to a large extent they were rural folk, living in small villages and engaged in various forms of agriculture and related trades. Even today many of these areas in the rolling countryside of the Sarthe (72), Orne (61), Loire-Atlantique (44) and Vendée (85) departments are still agricultural, with large cultivated areas producing cereal crops, other areas growing grapevines for viticulture and many areas supporting livestock, in particular dairy herds. In parts there are still small forested areas, which would have been much more prominent 200-300 years ago. Water-driven mills can still be found on some waterways and the ruins of ancient windmills are still in evidence among the wind turbines that now dominate the skyline. Even those ancestors living in or around Nantes would likely have been living in small villages now incorporated as suburbs of this large city.

So who were these ancestors and where did they live? These notes give just a brief summary of some of the information available and this will be expanded in a forthcoming book to be published later this year. Information on how to obtain a copy of this will be provided in a future edition of La Gazette and on the Libeau Family webpage.

### ***The Chauvet Family***

Magdelaine Chauvet married Joseph Libeau in 1829 in Saint-Vincent-Fort-du-Lay, the village in which she was born. Soon after their marriage, they moved to Rochefort-sur-Mer in the Charente-Maritime (17) department, where they lived until the *Comte de Paris* sailed for New Zealand. The Chauvet family came from the Vendée department (85) in the Pays de la Loire region in Western France. Magdelaine's mother, Rose Auger was born in Saint-Vincent-Puymaufrais. Her father François Chauvet was a Vendée *laboureur* (ploughman) who was born in Saint-Hilaire-le-Vouhis. Madgelaines grandmother Marie Beneteau's family came from further south in the department; the village of Sainte-Gemme-La-Plaine and the town Luçon around 25 km from Saint-Hilaire-le-Vouhis. However, her mother's side of the family came originally from the Maine-et-Loire (49) and Loire-Atlantique (44) departments which border the Vendée and Sarthe. Her maternal grandfather François Auger was born in La Chaussaire in Maine-et-Loire department and her grandmother Perrine Bondu in La Boissière-du-Doré in Loire-Atlantique. Soon after her grandparents married in 1778 they moved to the Vendée, about 60 km to the south-west where Rose Auger was born in 1780.

### ***The Libeau Family***

The Libeau family came from Nantes and the surrounding countryside. Joseph was born in the hamlet of L'Elaudière, in the commune of La Loroux-Bottereau, around 20 km to the east of Nantes in the Loire-Atlantique department of France. He was one of seven children and named after his father, who was born in Nantes Saint Donatien. The Libeau family had lived in Nantes or in villages on the outskirts since at least the early 1500s including La Chapelle-sur-Erdre to the north, and Carquefou, Doulon, Sainte Luce-sur-Loire, La Chapelle-Basse-Mer to the north east. His father moved to La Loroux-Bottereau where he married Jeanne Guihot in 1802 and they settled there.

His mother, Jeanne Guihot was born in Blain about 30 km north-west of Nantes as was her mother Jeanne Françoise Jarnoux. Her ancestors came from even further afield; on her mother's side from Guenrouët and Plessé, villages about 15 km north-west of Blain. Her father, Julien Guihot was born in Guémené-Penfao around 20 km

north of Blain with ancestors coming from Redon and Rennes in the Ille-et-Vilaine (35) department of Brittany.

### ***The Éteveneaux Family***

Also on the *Comte de Paris* was Jean Pierre and Jeanne Françoise Éteveneaux and their three children. Jean Pierre was born in Le Vernois in the Jura (39) department in 1798. In 1822, he married Jeanne Magnenoz who was born in Ruffey, also in the Jura department in 1791. Their children; Marie Célestine, Marie Judith and Claude Jean-Baptiste were all born in Ruffey. John-Baptiste married Mélanie Libeau (Joseph and Magdelaine's daughter) in 1848. As the Archival records of the Jura department are not yet digitised it is not easy to trace their ancestry further back.

### ***The Gendrot Family***

Another family on the *Comte de Paris* was Pierre and Anne Victoire Gendrot, their daughter Clémence Rose (who later married Joseph Lucien Libeau) and one of Pierre's brothers, Hippolyte. The Gendrot family came from the Sarthe department. From the late 1500s, they lived in towns and villages within about 25 km from Le Mans. A number of female ancestors had their roots in villages to the north-east in the neighbouring departments of Orne (61) and Eure-et-Loir (28).

Pierre and Hippolyte and their father Hilaire Gendrot as well as his grandfather and great grandfather was born in Torcé-en-Vallée. Before that, three further generations of Gendrots were born in Savigné-l'Évêque about 10 kms nearer Le Mans. Their mother Julienne Troitin was born in Moncé-en-Belin, south of Le Mans.

Pierre married Anne Victoire Brière in November 1831 in the village of Villaines-la-Gonais about 15 km to the east of Torcé-en-Vallé where Anne was born in 1809. Her ancestors came from further east including in the Sarthe, Orne and Eure-et-Loir departments but still not far away. Her father François Denis Brière was also born in Villaines-la-Gonais. Her mother Jeanne Moussard was born in Saint-Aubin-des-Coudrais where she and François were married in 1794.

### ***The Benoît Family***

Jacques and Louise Benoît, who informally adopted Émilie Libeau, were both born in the Charente-Inférieure department (now Charente-Maritime). Jacques (known in New Zealand as Pierre) was born in 1807 in St Martin de Villeneuve (now called La Grève-sur-Mignon). Louise Marianne Terboulie was found on the steps of La Rochelle Hospice in March 1822 aged about one, of unknown parents. Jacques' mother's maiden name was Suire and Émilie Libeau would later marry a Suire.

Kevin Clark 16 March 2017



Savigné l'Evêque



Lombron



Near  
St Aubin des Coudrais

## Update on L'Hermione

L'Hermione was rebuilt in Rochefort to replicate the original frigate by this name that carried Lafayette to Boston to support George Washington in the American War of Independence.

Completed in 2015 she sailed in 2015 through the Atlantic Ocean and dropped her anchor in the harbour of Yorktown, New York and Boston among many others. She made a stop in Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon. Then she came back to France: Brest, La Rochelle and Rochefort. You can find lots of pictures and videos on the Internet about this trip.

Members who have visited Rochefort since about 1998 would have seen the frigate in its various stages of construction. This ship was believed to be very similar to the Comte de Paris.



## Visit by Leonie Longshore nee Wright

Last week we had the pleasure of a visit by Leonie from New Hampshire, USA. She was visiting her Sister-in-Law Lois Wright (Peter passed away last year). We reminisced on Family happenings and history over afternoon tea. We had not seen Leonie since the Reunion in Rochefort in 2000. Leone Fuller (nee Wright) will take her to see Ken Wright before leaving Christchurch. Leonie will visit other members of her family in Auckland on her way home.



## Overdue Subscriptions

Have you paid your subscription yet? Our Treasurer is currently chasing up those who are in arrears. It is sad to say that each year a few more people are deleted from our society and our mailing list because of failure to renew their membership.

Ensure you don't miss out on "La Gazette". **Get your 2016/17 payment made now.**

Do your bit to ensure the continuation of the society. Get your brothers, sisters, sons and daughters to join today.

Contact our Acting Treasurer, Bruce Clark ([diana-bruceclark@paradise.net.nz](mailto:diana-bruceclark@paradise.net.nz) ) for a membership form

Accounts for the 2017/18 year will be sent out in April.

## Editor's Notes

Please keep forwarding any articles of interest - travel, profiles, etc., to enable La Gazette to continue to inform and interest all our valuable family members.

Send to: Bruce Clark at [diana-bruceclark@paradise.net.nz](mailto:diana-bruceclark@paradise.net.nz)

Have you changed your e-mail or residential address? Ensure you let us know so we can continue to send you La Gazette.

Bruce Clark's contact details are at the end of this newsletter.

## AGM

The 2017 AGM of the Society will be held on 21 May 2017 in the rooms of the Alliance Francaise at 275 Cashel Street, Christchurch (its new location). Following the AGM we will have lunch at Maison de Crepes- Carlton Court 2 Papanui Road with a menu of authentic sweet and savoury crepes. Enjoy autumn!

## Across the Desk Top

There are two main topics being followed up since the last La Gazette.

The first has been the progress establishing a Historic plaque on the frontage of 54 Rue Grehan, Akaroa. The Christchurch City Council staff have been very helpful and assisted with advice on locating the relevant sections of the District Plan. In fact they are very interested in finding out more information about the cottage. Suzanne, from the Council is happy to receive more information about the 'life' of the cottage. The next step for us is meeting with the owners of the cottage to seek approval to place the Historic plaque discretely in front of the cottage.

Exciting news and straight off the press today (18 Mar 17)!!! The owners, Robyn and Stephen Matheson are very happy to proceed. So watch this space for more news!

The second activity underway is the upgrading of the website. The first task is the uploading of articles and photos of the Reunions held in France and New Zealand. Have you photos that you would like to share? Thank you for those who have already shared photos.

Lastly, for those who would like to meet up with family members in small groups in your local area it, is easy to organise. A phone call, a venue, maybe a walk or just a coffee and a chat. Send a note about the gathering to the Editor with a photo for the La Gazette.

### **Do you have a story to tell?**

Many of our older family members are no longer with us and the old stories that that we listened to are being forgotten. For those of you who would like to share a story of the 'old' days do put pen to paper and forward articles to the Editor. I have been reading articles from Under the Nor'West Arch, Picks'and Bricks and the poem 'Around the Coleridge Run'. There are some great stories recorded from the old Mavern days.

Patricia

**Photos taken on the day of ROCHEFORT'S 350TH "BIRTHDAY"/ ANNIVERSARY**

**27 August 2016**

**BY MICHELE LIBAUD.**



# *Committee Contacts*

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