



LA

GAZETTE

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Libeau Descendants Inc.

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Our aim is to keep in touch, and keep you informed on what is happening within the family generally and / or present items with a French flavour.

To do this, we need your input, includes photos, info on births, deaths, marriages and family stories that can be emailed to

website@libeau-family.org

or posted to PO Box 185 Kaiapoi. NZ

Annual General Meeting. 11:00 am Sunday 25 May 2008

At **Seventy 7** Restaurant, corner Wilson Rd and Stevens St, Chch. (same venue as last year with a change of name)
Lunch at 1:00pm in the restaurant following the AGM.

Items on the agenda include Guest speaker, Election of Officers, update of the North Island group and activities planned throughout the year, plus an opportunity for discussion about items of interest. The AGM will again be suspended in CHCH and continue in Cambridge on 21 June at 1.00pm for the North Island group to participate. This will be at the Hotel No 1 Motel convention room. Meet for brunch at 12.00pm

If you have items you would like to share or questions please contact Patricia (03)312 6345 or Leone (03)327 2829

Other dates to note.

Bastille Day 14 July
Landing Day 17 August
French Fest 2008 Sep-Oct,
date not yet set.

**Any family event
to advertise here?**

FrenchFest 2007

by John Coleman

This year the FrenchFest was organized by the Christchurch City Council Events Team with the Akaroa Heritage and Festival Committee acting as a board of governance.

September 22nd was a brilliant day after a foggy start and approximately 7000 people took advantage of the fine weather to enjoy a taste of France in the heart of Canterbury.

The Comte de Paris Group manned a stall with displays showing heritage photographs and Joseph Libeau's bricks. Approximately \$60.00 was raised from the sale of the 1990 Souvenir bricks on behalf of the Libeau Family.

Many of the innovations tried by the Events Team were very successful especially the circus displays of the Premier d' Akaroa.

Although the comedy duo compering the re-enactment of the landing was felt by many to be inappropriate, the re-enactment itself went without a hitch. The Libeau family was strongly represented with Richard and Sally Warlow and their two children, Heather Libeau Dow, Sarah Single and Zoe Coleman all participating.



The Alliance Francaise had a site immediately adjacent to the Comte de Paris Group and this produced a fine balance of French Heritage and Culture with several Alliance Members speaking French almost exclusively for the day.

Another excellent touch was the use of French and English

for the public announcements.

All in all, the new format showed excellent promise once the teething problems are rectified.

Family gathering in France in September 2007

What a lovely time shared with our cousins from New Zealand!

Two busy weekends visiting Rochefort ... La Rochelle ... Ile d'Aix ... and between the two weekends, Bordeaux ... Saint-Emilion ... Lacanau ... les Châteaux de la Loire ... and even further ... Portugal! Everyone could go wherever they wanted. There was a cocktail party at the Town Hall in Rochefort for us with Mr Grasset the Mayor of Rochefort. Speeches and gifts were exchanged. It was a moment of emotion, as you all know that the roots of the family are in Rochefort. We were very pleased that Madeleine Morisset, grand-daughter of Emilie Libeau, was present to welcome our cousins from New Zealand.

A visit to the cemetery of La Grève-sur-le-Mignon and everybody looked deeply moved in front of Emilie's grave.

The stay ended with a big picnic in Jeanne and Baudouin's garden : a cheerful atmosphere all day, a remarkable show of the haka, an exciting match on a big screen, and late in the afternoon, a lot of people jumped and played in the swimming pool!

Everybody went on the podium and received gifts selected with care.

Libeau Rochefort / Akaroa Association AGM

On the 24th of November, the members of the Libeau Rochefort Akaroa Association met as usual for their annual AGM.

Were present: Madeleine Morisset, Grant Wright, Alain and Annick Boussiron, Christian and Danielle Fournat, Francis and Andrée Fournat, Gilles and Micheline Fournat, Marie-Claire Gautronneau, Michel and Michèle Libaud, Jeanne and Baudouin Mazet, Annie Morin. Four new members joined us: Jocelyne Bardet-Victor, Marc Fournat, Kathleen Griffin, Annie Libaud ... the family is getting bigger!!

We thank Grant Wright very much for his presence and invaluable support at each reunion. A delicious lunch was served in a convivial atmosphere at the restaurant "L'Aunis" in La Rochelle. Then we went to Jeanne and Baudouin's place where we looked at all the photos taken at the family picnic in September in their theatre on the big screen. Everybody marvelled at each photo and we were able to relive all the good times we had all together.

We thank our cousins very much for all their kindness and thoughtfulness. I'm sure that already many of us are dreaming about a future trip to New Zealand (perhaps in 2011)!

See you soon!

Michèle

Rochefort

Mary Ann Hedgman

For some time there was a mystery as to the whereabouts of the burial site of Mary Ann Hedgman, second wife of Joseph Libeau snr.

Madeleine, her grand-daughter, came out for the 1990 reunion along with other family members from France.

Mary Ann was the mother of Emilie, who had travelled back to Rochefort in 1863 with her adopted Benoit family. Emilie later married Theophile Suire.

On a cool 2007 August Sunday afternoon in the Sydenham Cemetery, Christchurch, family

members gathered around a recently placed headstone

and took part in a special service taken by Father

Peter Williams from St Micheals Anglican Church.

This service was to bless the new headstone and

offer prayers for Mary Ann as it is unknown if she

received a proper funeral in 1901.

The event was recorded and a copy on DVD is available for \$10.00 each, includes postage.

Requests to website@libeau-family.org

or post to PO Box 185 Kaiapoi, NZ



Text on
headstone

In Memory Of
MARY ANN LIBEAU
NEE HEDGMAN
BORN IN SURREY, ENGLAND ON 26TH MARCH 1827
ARRIVED IN LYTTTELTON ON THE LADY NUGENT
ON 18TH SEPTEMBER 1851
DIED IN CHRISTCHURCH ON 24TH APRIL 1901

SECOND WIFE OF **JOSEPH LIBEAU SNR.**
INTERRED AKAROA ANGLICAN CEMETARY
ERECTED BY THE LIBEAU DESCENDANTS SOCIETY

On a trip to Brussels.

John Coleman

In early October 2007, I was invited to participate in a Disaster Medicine Workshop in Brussels and Holland. This was at very short notice, but I found myself in Brussels on 24th October. I was able to visit Gilles and Michelline Fournat for a couple of days and also to catch up with Christian and Danielle Fournat and Michel and Michelle Libaud.

Gilles and Michelline took me to Joseph Libeau's birthplace (below)



Gilles outside Joseph Libeau's birthplace

in the hamlet of L'Elaudiere which is part of the commune of Le Loroux-Boutereau near Nantes.



The hamlet is very small and the local records did not need to identify individual houses so even the impressive records of the local genealogist/historian were unable to help us there. The hamlet is a cluster of 6 or 7 dwellings around a large residence in the middle of Muscadet vineyards.

We took some photographs and also bought some excellent wine from a vineyard that borders on the hamlet. It is possible that Libeaus may have even worked there 200 years ago. Gilles has spotted several Libaud surnames in the local directories and will follow up these leads when time permits.

I was also very lucky to visit when there was a very low tide which is the best time for gathering oysters on the Il d'Aix. Gilles, Michelline, Christian, Danielle, her sister Dominique and her partner Pierre (with several well behaved small dogs) joined a large group of folk on the ferry. The experienced "hunters" take a small trolley or barrow with all the gear for shrimping, oyster and shellfish gathering and, naturally, a picnic. For me this was a unique experience and I felt very special being able to join a traditional family activity.

As you can see it was a short, but memorable visit and well worth the 1600 km drive!

The workshop was also an intense 4 days, but I won't bore you with that.



My other activity on the last free day was to visit some

of our family who died in WW1 and are buried in Flanders. I hoped to get to Northern France too but navigation problems meant I spent several hours doing trips of a few minutes on the motorway.

I visited and paid my respects to: Walter Payne, Leslie Hunt, Arthur Shrimpton, Stephen Hunt and Stanley Shrimpton.

I have the photos for Kevin Clark's history, but if any close family to these folk would like a copy I will be privileged to oblige.

Contact me thru **website@libeau-family.org**

or post to PO Box 185 Kaiapoi. NZ

Eteveneaux news.

Some of the Christchurch Family members may remember Jean and Joelle Eteveneaux who visited in July 2006.

They have recently hosted Lexie, one of the NZ Eteveneaux cousins. She was presented with a Medal from the Town of La Mulatiere on her visit. They are keen for Libeau family members to visit too.

Contact John Coleman for details thru website@libeau-family.org or post to PO Box 185 Kaiapoi, NZ



L - R
Guy Barrett, Mayor of La Mulatiere,
Chantal Eteveneaux. Lexie, Joelle

RIGHT.

The wedding took place in Tauranga, on 12 May 2007, of Melissa Fae Donnelly and Craig Stuart Winters.

Melissa is the daughter of Mike and Katrina Donnelly (nee Warrington); and the granddaughter of Annora Clemence Warrington (nee Wright).

Annora is herself the granddaughter of Lenore Libeau. The happy couple will make their home at Oripi, near Tauranga.



WEBSITE

A new page has been added to the members area called "Places Of Interest", here you will find access to a Google Map that has been created showing Libeau family places of interest.

To access, login to <http://www.libeau-family.org/members>, go to <http://www.libeau-family.org/browse/places-of-interest> to see the map.

Once logged into the map, most of the place marks I have added have information and in most cases photo's, the map viewpoint can be changed a huge number of ways so please login and have a play.

From the next issue we intend to email the newsletter in PDF format to you unless instructed otherwise. Those without internet access will still receive a paper copy.

It will be available in the members area of the website as well, so I need your EMAIL ADDRESS asap please. If already sent please inform of any changes since.

Send to website@libeau-family.org or post to PO Box 185 Kaiapoi, NZ

Richard Warlow
webmaster

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Publication - "*The Libeau Family - the Early Years 1800 - 1919*"

Writing has begun but research is ongoing. We hope to have the book finished, translated and published by mid 2009. We are still keen to hear from family members with information on the early generations (Joseph and Magdelaine, Joseph and Mary-Ann, their children and grandchildren) or photographs and other memorabilia that will help illustrate the book. You can contact either of us at kevin_clark@xtra.co.nz and/or angelapyke@clear.net.nz or through the Libeau Descendants Society at website@libeau-family.org or post to PO Box 185 Kaiapoi. NZ

We would be particularly interested in any stories/dairies/correspondence of those who fought in WW1. To date we have information on 29 of our relatives who went to war, 9 of whom were killed, and many others injured.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Kevin Clark and Angela Pyke

100th and 200th Anniversaries

"Le hazard..." another case of "coincidence" or is there more to it?

See the text of my speech on 15th August 2004 in LA GAZETTE N°18, February 2005.

November 8th 2007 - a special day for me and my family: the 100th anniversary of our father, grandfather and great-grandfather Francis Henry (Frank) WRIGHT, born on 8th November 1907 in Christchurch, New Zealand. (Grandson of Frank William & Lenore Wright, née Libeau).



And a special day for all Libeau cousins as it was the 200th anniversary of the birth of our common ancestor Joseph LIBEAU, born on 8th November 1807, in Le Loroux-Boutereau (near Nantes) in the departement of Loire Atlantique, France.

Thinking of them both on this day.

Grant Wright;
Paris, November 2007

Book - 'French Akaroa'

Are you trying to locate a copy of Peter Tremewan's book 'French Akaroa' which was published in 1990? We are still accepting orders for this. A reprint is planned, however, a run needs to be more than 200 copies if this is to proceed. Should you be interested in purchasing a copy would you kindly contact Patricia Stoneman to indicate your interest, details in committee contacts.

Your family story, event could start here.
Send details to website@libeau-family.org
Or post to PO Box 185 Kaiapoi, NZ

Space for event photo

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NL22 competition

3 correct entries were received.
Answer - Joseph Libeau, Sen and Jnr.
Garden shop vouchers have been sent
to these winners.

NL23 competition.

What is the name of the vessel used to
bring "*the settlers*" into the Akaroa
harbour from Greens Point to the
shoreline at the annual Frenchfest?

Send answer to -

Email - website@libeau-family.org
or post to PO Box 185 Kaiapoi. NZ

BIRTHS

CLARK Ethan Aaron, 6lb 2oz,
born 10th August 2007.
Son of Aaron and Michelle, Rangiora.

CLARK Zara Grace born
22 February 2008 at Christchurch.
Daughter of Greig and Shelley.

SANWALD Elynne Alice
born 1 August 2007 and
Jamie Erika, born 9 October 2004
both at Herisau, Switzerland.
Daughters of Vivienne Faye
Sanwald-Clark and Marco Rudolf
Sanwald.

PARSONSON Jasper George
8lb 5oz, born 1 May 2008 at
Burwood Christchurch.
Son of Cameron and Heidi.
(more details on website)

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DEATHS

JENKINS Stanley George
on 16 June 2007 at Christchurch.

MERCER Noelene
on 14 February 2008 at
Christchurch.

WARRINGTON Annora
Clemence (nee Wright) on 5 April
2008 at Tauranga.



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 R M CLARK
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