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LA

GAZETTE

Issue # 25

February 2010

Bastille Day 2009 - Auckland

A lunch of Auckland members of the Libeau Descendants Society was organized in celebration of Bastille Day.

The lunch was at Cornwall Park Restaurant at 1:00pm Saturday 18th July, Bastille Day being 14th July, earlier in the week.

The weather had not been kind and the day had dawned wet, so out-of-towners Ken and Julie Hirst could not take advantage of the Park grounds and bring their dogs for a walk.

Ken and Julie arrived first to be joined by Bethel Clarke and her Mum, Ruth McClymont, nee Clark. They were followed quickly by Francis Harrison speaking French and wearing a jaunty red beret. We were then joined by Robin and Peter Cusdin.

Beverly Moxan and Morgan Libeau were next. Morgan was somewhat delayed by miss-communication with her son Gary Stevenson who was not able to join us.

We were welcomed by the French flag laid out on the table for us. We were all soon chatting. The first order of business was to arrange the next Bastille Day celebration, which was agreed by all. I also shared some of the local French colour available in Auckland, particularly the Pask's Restaurant and Le Cargite market.

A set menu was available and enjoyed at a reasonable cost by all and finished with coffee and an agreement to meet again before Christmas.

Bethel Clarke.



Ruth McClymont
and Bethel Clarke



Greetings to you all!

2009 has flown by and you will be wondering what has been happening within the Libeau Descendants organization.

What has been happening since the last newsletter?

Firstly, a small group followed the Motukarara-Little River Rail Trail on March 29th. Although there were no Libeau family takers for the cycling we did see many riders enjoying the well-maintained route as we explored the making of the old railway with Ian Hill, the DOC Technical Support Officer. Ian had a wonderful repertoire of stories about the building and history of the area. It was a fantastic day weather-wise as well and we were able to discuss how the events over the years had led to the development and demise of the railway.

However, today it is developing into a great way to enjoy the outdoors as was evident by the family groups walking, cycling and picnicking along the way.

The 2009 Annual General Meeting was held on May 17 in the Alliance Francaise Rooms. After 20 years as Treasurer Norman Clark has resigned from this position. Norman was on the inaugural committee during the Reunion in 1990, was responsible for setting up our Incorporated Society, making sure it would be accepted and held the purse strings through out this time. Thank you so much for the time you have given and also for your willingness to stay on the committee.

The meeting was followed by a shared 'finger food' lunch. This gave folk an opportunity to mix more easily and catch up with family and make new members welcome.

We have two new members on the committee, Linda and son, Bradley Joughin. It is great to have a younger member join our group.

Although it was previously decided to adjourn the AGM and alternate venues every second year this has proved to be an expensive exercise. One idea is to continue this but to make it a family gathering as was held in Cambridge originally with the meeting in the afternoon on the Saturday, a dinner at night, followed by a get together and sharing photos etc on the Sunday. Any comments on this would be appreciated.

On Bastille Day a group gathered at the Soho Restaurant to celebrate the day and to make a presentation of a Pictorial Book on France to Norman as a token of appreciation for his commitment to the Libeau Descendants and his position as Treasurer for over 20 years.

Several of the Libeau members have also joined the Comte de Paris group. Leone Fuller is our representative on this committee. The group is very enthusiastic and is an integral part of the organization for the French Families at the Akaroa French Fest.

The website is being used with more people connecting through the webmaster link.

We do need your input to update the photo gallery and events that are of interest to the whole family

Richard and Sally Warlow have transferred to Dunedin but Richard is still able to be the webmaster.

It seems there are more Libeau family heading to France.

Rita Jenkins achieved her dream of reaching Rochefort, as did Chris Jourgeson.

Ideas for future activities include a picnic at Spencer Park or Godley Heads - which could include cycle rides for the enthusiastic, younger folk, a tree planting on Mt Libeau for the Libeau Family, help with caring for our family graves at Duvauchelle and Akaroa. Interested?? Do let us know.

To those who have new babies, Congratulations!

To those who have had weddings, Felicitations!

To those families who have experienced bereavements, our deepest sympathy.

Meanwhile, take care and enjoy the next year.

Regards *Patricia*

Ruth

I thought you might like to include this story in Libean material.

I, Ruth McClymont daughter of Fredrick John Clark, Grandma Libeau's son was taking a Bible Study at our Christian Care Centre held every Tuesday in Te Atatu Baptist Church.

For the first time ever so far as I can remember, I mentioned my French background. There was a new man in the group. After the meeting he came over to me and asked, "Who was your Grandma?" I responded, "Marie Libeau." He responded, "So was my wife's."

His wife was Carole Clark daughter of Roy Clark, Uncle Bert's son as far as I remember. The man himself was Ian Eldridge.

When I was teaching in Hastings I boarded with Carole's auntie Olive McEwan. I see Ian frequently as he lives not far away.

Very small world, isn't it?

Ruth McClymont
(Bethel's mum)

The above is a scanned copy of a letter sent in by Ruth McClymont. If you are having trouble reading it, follows is a typed version.

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Ruth McClymont. 2009
(Bethels Mum)

Presidents' Report to the May 17 2009 AGM

Bonjour and welcome to the 16th Annual General Meeting of the Libeau Descendants Inc Society.

Highlights of the 2008-2009 Year

As I look back over my first year as President of the Society it appears to have been relatively quiet after our hectic 2007.

However, the committee met on the dates set and continued working towards the objectives set in place.

The year began with the continuation of the AGM, which was adjourned and continued in Cambridge.

This was a valuable opportunity to involve members from the northern part of the North Island to contribute their ideas to the activities. It was an enthusiastic group who gathered. Jocelyn Benefield was elected as representative for the Western Zone. Bethel Clarke, who has typed "The Libeau Family of Banks Peninsula" into digital format, was happy to take on the role of Historian.

Richard Warlow is now placing the book onto the website.

Kevin Clark is the representative for the Southern Zone. To these members, thank you for keeping members in your groups informed.

Kevin is making steady progress with the research and writing of a book based on the Libeau Family..

The committee met four times during the year in the Alliance Francaise rooms. This has been very satisfactory, being central for all members.

- A Landing Day luncheon was held at the Cashmere Club on 17th August. This was organized by the Comte de Paris Group and very well attended.
- Contact made with Fleur McDonald, Olga Newton's daughter. She has some of Olga's research.
- As it was 20 years since the inaugural meeting of the Libeau Reunion committee an afternoon tea was at Patricia's home in Swannanoa on 28 September. Old videos were played and memories re-lived.
- Several members received an invitation to a function on board La Moquese hosted by the French Ambassador.
- The White Family of Little River had a reunion-150 present. Compiled a booklet of memories.
- The Akaroa French Fest was held on 10th October. Again it was a fantastic Spring day. Those on the boat had a stunning morning under sail on the harbour. After the parade many people showed interest in the genealogy of the French and German settlers and gathered around the tent.
- Invoice finally came from the Rochefort Tourism Office.
- Madeleine Morrisset celebrated her 90th birthday in October.
- Gert Clark, wife of the late Geoff Clark celebrated her 90th birthday on the 9th of January.
- Bookings have been penciled in for a family gathering in September 2011. This will coincide with the Rugby World Cup.
- *Little River Rail Trail Field Trip 29th March. Although only 10 members were on this trip it was an excellent day lead by Ian Hill from the Department of Conservation. Ian knew the region well, supporting his knowledge with wonderful anecdotes.
- Grant Wright was in New Zealand for several weeks. A group from the committee and family had a pleasant evening with him before he returned to France.

It has been a year of reflection and consolidation as our contact within the family groups has continued to develop. Our membership has continued to grow with members using the website to make contact and show their interest in genealogy.

Although there have been some glitches with the website most people have been able to gain access and use it well.

It now has minutes pasted, an order form for 'The Libeau Family of Akaroa' and used for the Newsletter.

Access via committee email has been excellent.

Challenges and Looking Forward.

- Finding new committee members, especially Secretary and Treasurer
- Complete recording the family tree on the website
- Re print of The Libeau Family of Banks Peninsula
- Promoting the inclusion of the next generation
- Strengthen the North Island/French family links

Challenges and Looking Forward contd

- Establishing a Libeau Family Trust.
- Continue to strengthen the relationship with the Alliance Francaise
- Heritage- persevere with the best way to apply for preservation/acknowledgement of the Libeau land/54 Rue Grehan
- Dialogue with Onuka Rununga
- Sister City Relationships with either Rochefort or Bordeaux

Open Issues for Incoming Committee

- How best to hold the AGM
- Membership retention
- Offering student membership
- La Gazette frequency, promoting electronic DTP version
- Need for to organize events for all members on a more regular basis
- Retrieving family records, archiving and publishing information
- Working with the Comte de Paris Group
- Working with NZHPT

The Committee

The members of the committee are dedicated, loyal family members who cherish their family links. Several have been on since its formation in 1988.

Over those years we have only had three Presidents. I have appreciated the support given to me over this first year in office as individuals carried out their responsibilities.

Bruce, thank you for your role as minute secretary, we still need a secretary.

Norman, thank you for your keeping of the purse. It has been a particularly difficult year because of the delay in receiving the accounts from France. Thankfully, this is now settled and routine accounting back to normal.

Leone, thank you for the dedication you have given in your role as Libeau Representative on the Comte de Paris Group. This active group has initiated quality workshops and has now become an incorporated society in their own right.

Richard (Warlow), you have made great progress developing the website and working with Robert Coleman to ensure all members have access to the site.

Richard, (Clark), you have continued to collate information for La Gazette and publish it for us. It is also pleasing to have it readily available on the website.

Heather, Rita, Joy and Ken, you have all been a valuable source of family history, contributing ideas through your passion for family and willingness to be involved.

Martine, Thank you for your support of the Libeau Family and willingness to keep us informed of French happenings in New Zealand.

We are a large family extending throughout New Zealand. Joseph came out with his small family facing a great challenge. In a modern world we need to promote family values encouraging our children to cherish their heritage and value family.

There are two bequests we can give our children, one is roots the other wings.

I would like to move that this report be adopted.

Patricia

Weddings.

John Robert Clark married Annie Rye at Sunny Downs, Gapes Valley on Saturday 14 February 2009.

John is the second son of Neville James Clark.

Birth.

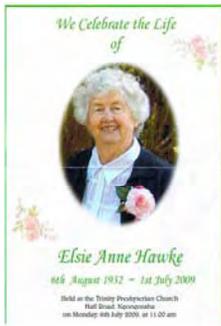
Jay Clark born at Chch Women's on 23 September 2009, 3.17 kg.

A little brother for Ethan.

Oliver Stuart Winters, in Tauranga on 2 January 2009.

Oliver is the son of Melissa and Craig Winters. Melissa, nee Donnelly, is the granddaughter of Annora Clemence Warrington nee Wright.

Death.



Elsie Hawke, passed away on 1 July 2009. Elsie is survived by her six children, 14 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

This photo taken in November 2006 at Tony Brown's wedding.

Notice sent by Wendy Brown.

Nola Dick – Blenheim. writes

Our youngest daughter Andrea married Edward John Conlan at Old St Mary's Convent, Blenheim on 14 March 2009

Eldest daughter Janine Broekhuizen and husband Niall have 2 more children – Saskia Rae b. 30 March 2004 and Kinnon Niall b. 18 June 2006

Janine and Andrea are great granddaughters of Lily Ann Norrish (nee Clark)

BIG BIRTHDAYS.

Celebrating 80 years in 2009 was Malcolm Clark from Rangiora in August and Rita Libeau from Christchurch in December.

YOUR FAMILY ADDITIONS, REUNIONS, ANNIVERSARIES etc can appear here, please send in by e-mail or post, details in committee contacts.

To join the society, send details to the treasurer, details below.

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THE WEBSITE:

We have now setup libeau-family.org e-mail addresses.

Each committee member now has an e-mail address, with all committee members being able to be contacted at committee@libeau-family.org

I urge you to please send to us your e-mail address so that a login can be setup for you to access the members area of the website and so that we can e-mail you future copies of the LaGazette and other notices.

LaGazette submissions can be e-mailed to LaGazette@libeau-family.org

Have you checked out “Places Of Interest” in the members area yet?

Richard Warlow
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L.D.S. - La Gazette #25



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