



**Comte Paris Descendants Group Inc.  
Autumn Quarterly Newsletter  
2012**

Hullo again. Here we are with the Autumn newsletter. There was a summer one, even if there was no summer!

The cruise ships continue to arrive in Akaroa, about 80 so far with two at once on some occasions. Did you read the article in the Press January 2012 about the tourist who enquired from the Akaroa Supply Store owner, "Where am I?" When told he was in Akaroa near Christchurch in New Zealand he said, "Are you sure?" He was shown a map, then asked, "Then why am I seeing all these French flags?" He seemed happy with the brief history lesson and wandered off with his friends.

Another interesting fact from the Press was the article on Okains Bay with this piece of history:

**Old Grandstand from Akaroa**



Top Left; The old grandstand from the recreation ground in Akaroa, restored and now in Okains Bay.

Top right; The same grandstand in 1940 at the centennial celebrations.

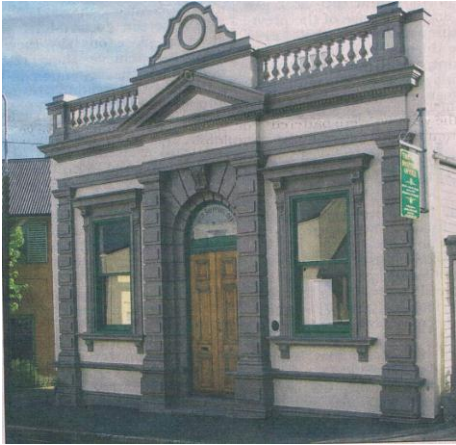
Back Row: 2<sup>nd</sup> left, Bill deMalmanche, 3<sup>rd</sup> Bill Sullivan (rest unknown)

Middle Row: 2<sup>nd</sup> left Edward Denham Wright, 4<sup>th</sup> George deMalmanche, 5<sup>th</sup> Henry deMalmanche, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Libeau twins

Front Row: 4<sup>th</sup> left Alice Newby, the next four-deMalmanche sisters, Rose Prime? Ethel Sullivan, Alice Hemsley, and Josephine Bunny?

Are you able to fill in the missing names or confirm those with question marks?

## **The Old Shipping Office**



The restored shipping office.

Owners, Jo Ruane and husband John Skevington

Joanne Ruane, a great great grandchild of Charles deMalmanche, and her husband are so pleased to have met EQC tradesman Eamonn Gaye. Jo and John knew restoration work was needed on their holiday home, the Shipping Office, but the earthquake in September 2010 saw the building yellow stickered. This kick-started the restoration.

Craftsman Eamonn Gaye began double shifts, working for EQC on contract and the Skevingtons in his 'spare' time. He recreated the street frontage in a mixture of kauri, marine ply and totara, dating each piece of the restoration, replicating pieces by hand. The building is now better than new and ready for another 100 years.

## **In Remembrance**

It seemed fitting that in the autumn newsletter, which includes ANZAC day, some mention should be made about the French descendants from Akaroa who fought in the First World War, especially those who lost their lives. Other than the names on the War memorial (damaged in the earthquakes) there does not appear to be any public record of the men's service. Many families may have photographs, post cards and or letters from these soldiers, which could be published in the newsletter. If any families have this type of information could they forward copies to us so we can compile short biographies of these men? If we receive a sufficient number the stories could be published in a separate booklet. If you have no information but would like some research done on your soldier relative please send any details you have and we will see what we can do. To access the full official files there is a charge at the moment of \$25 at web site: [Archives.govt.nz](http://Archives.govt.nz) A limited amount of information is available free of charge.

**Private Horace Stanley de Malmanche 1893-1918**

Horace de Malmanche was born in Akaroa 15 March 1893 the youngest son of Charles and Frances de Malmanche. He was killed in action at Grevillers 24 August 1918.



Pte. H.S.deMalmanche 6/3777

On the 21 August the 1V corps with the New Zealand Division in the centre, stormed the German front line and reached the Arras –Albert Railway line, and on the 23 August they advanced to Bihucourt and Inles threatening Ba Paume. On the 24 the Division surprised the German garrison of Grevillers and took that village. Like many soldiers there is no known grave but his name is on Grevillers (New Zealand) Memorial in France.

Horace arrived in France in mid 1916 and wrote to his sister Ethel (Sullivan) on postcards provided by the Army. They were generally sanitized and patriotic and bore little resemblance to the actual conditions the soldiers were experiencing. The letters were vague with no information of any substance. Further information from military files would indicate that what was in the letters was far from what was really happening.

6/3777

Pte H.S. de Malmanche

1<sup>st</sup> Company

2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion

Canterbury Regiment

C/o G.P.O.Wellington.

Dear Ethel,

13/7/16

Just a few lines to let you know I am keeping well so far, and hope you are all keeping the same. I am still in the trenches, have been for some weeks, we all hope to go out for a good rest shortly. Well dear Ethel I will write shortly so au revoir for the present.

I remain your loving brother

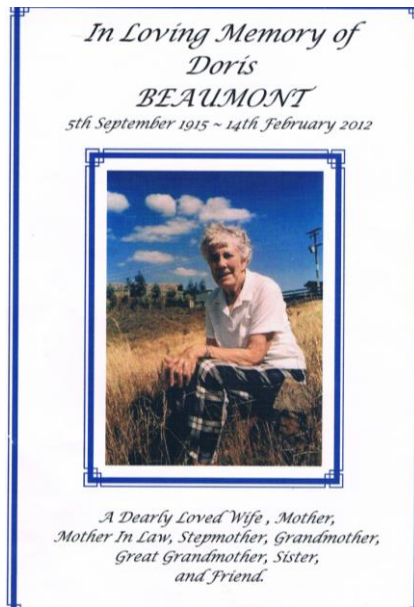
Horace Love to all xxxxxx

### Steve LeLievre's 64<sup>th</sup> Birthday

On Valentines Day, February 14 Steve LeLievre celebrated his 64<sup>th</sup> birthday, and Peter Breitmeyer had the pleasure of attending. The venue was L'Hotel in Akaroa, inside and out on the wide pavement area under a large party marquee. Also on the footpath was a blackboard with "Happy birthday Steve!" on it and party balloons spread around the area. Tables and seating were provided and Steve, known by some as Frog, put on a great party. A diesel burner gave off plenty of heat and every few minutes would belch black smoke, and flames would leap out of the flue! There were several servings of food during the evening including mussels, salmon, venison and battered fish. A huge birthday cake with candles was brought out along with the usual singing of happy birthday. It was an amazing turnout of Steve's friends and fan club making it plain to see that he is a well-liked and popular local identity and character. Peter had difficulty doing a head count but at the peak of the evening estimated over 60 people were outside celebrating with many more inside, and then there were those who had come earlier and left.

**Happy Birthday Steve**, from the rest of us. You can have a gold card next year!

### Last Grandchild of Charles de Malmanche dies



The last grandchild of Charles deMalmanche who was born two months after the arrival of the Comte de Paris died on 14 February. Doris Beaumont, formerly Crawford, nee Hemsley, was born in Lyttelton in 1915, the fifth child in a family of five girls and five boys. In a book about her life she writes of her first memories, one of those being the sharing of a biscuit with Grandad deMalmanche on the verandah of their Lyttelton home that was next door to the Timeball.

### Oktoberfest

Last year we were unable to find a venue for the Oktoberfest as St.Stephens Church in Shirley that we had previously used was damaged in the earthquake. This church has since been deconsecrated. However, to quote a report by Bev. Breitmeyer:- 'on November 19 the Breitmeyer descendants came together to celebrate their German ancestry with a wonderful array of German food hosted by Richard and Emma Breitmeyer. There were a fabulous variety of dishes from which to choose. Sauerkraut and beer, Beef and Bacon Casserole, Apple Strudel and even a Black Forest Cake in the shape of the original Breitmeyer house in Kandel, Germany. It was especially wonderful



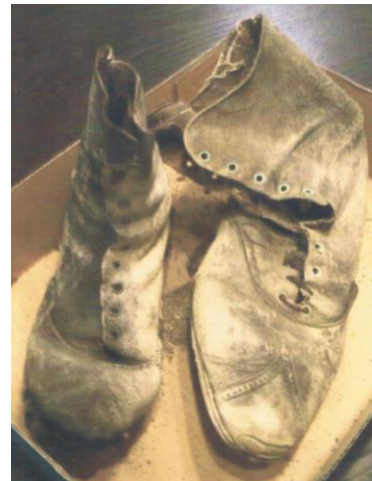
to have three generations of the wider family there sharing friendship and laughter. Gary, a Swiss houseguest of Emma and Gary posed as a tax collector for the European Union and stated the Breitmeyers owed a large amount of money in unpaid taxes dating back to pre 1840. That accumulated money was now needed to bail out Greece who had run out of money! This had us all laughing.

There were a lot of discussions and sharing regarding family information. It was interesting to hear of the old farmhouse in Little River in which Richard's father Warren lives. It was decided a couple of years back to demolish the old house and rebuild, as it was in a bad state of repair. When the foundations were broken up a few single boots were found in different sizes. It is thought that this part of the foundations were those of the musterer's hut built around 1850. The house was then added on to at a later date. Richard had the boots there for us to look at. They are in remarkably good condition. As Johann Breitmeyer was a shoemaker as well as a farmer, we would like to think that these beautifully hand stitched boots were made by him but we will never know.

The event was declared a resounding success and the family is looking forward to the next gathering.'



The edible house, Kandel, by Joe Wilson.



The Breitmeyer boots.

## **Programme for 2012**

### **May13 A.G.M South City Library 2pm.**

No new committee members are needed so don't be frightened! Of course if you are offering you will be welcome! Please come and listen to our guest speaker, Suky Thompson. She is a treasure chest of information and has kindly agreed to speak to us. Afternoon tea supplied.



Suky as she is seen in Akaroa.

**June 24 Afternoon tea and swap meet.** Landsdowne Community Centre. 2pm.  
A printer/photo copier will be available. \$2 members. \$10 non members.  
Or why not become a member for \$15?

**July 14 Bastille Day** This time it falls on a Saturday so hopefully everyone will be able to come over to Akaroa to celebrate with the locals.

**August 19 Landing Day Luncheon** Cashmere Club 12 noon. Further details in the July newsletter.

**October. Oktoberfest** The date and venue will hopefully be revealed in the July newsletter.

**November Sunday 25** The committee are planning a Christmas family afternoon at the Halswell Quarry with Father Christmas, lolly scramble and fun.

**January 20 2013.** A picnic at the Heritage Park Akaroa.

Finally a reminder of our website: [www.comtedeparisdescendants.org.nz](http://www.comtedeparisdescendants.org.nz)

Your user name: member 2011

Your log in: 1qwerty7

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