



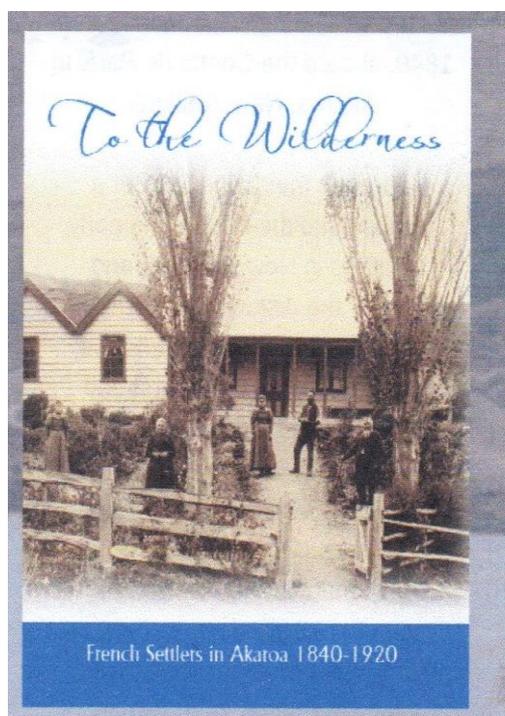
2018

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

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

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December 2018

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Greetings from the President

December 2018

President's Greeting December 2018

Is it my imagination or do the months fly by faster these days- it is hard to believe that Christmas is just around the corner. With the endless rain last month, it feels more like a northern hemisphere season!

The highlight for the Libeau Descendants this year was the publication of the latest family history "To the Wilderness". Thanks to Kevin Clark and Angela Pyke - this well researched novel pulls together significant historical events in an engaging text. It is an exceptional resource and a great gift for family members.

I would like to thank the current committee members for their continued support at regular meetings and willingness to contribute to current projects. An information brochure identifying key sites in Akaroa is in final draft and will be available soon for tourists.

We think of our French cousins with affection and wish you all Joyeux Noel et Bonne Annee.

Until next year

Kind regards

Heather Libeau-Dow

Births and Deaths & Marriages

Births



Plaskett, Bowie b 23 August 2018.
Bowie is son of Ethan and Serena.
Grandson of Kaye and Peter Plaskett and
Great-Grandson of Malcolm and Shirley Clark.

Clark, Maisey b 4 November 2018.
Maisey is the daughter of Codie and Storm.
Granddaughter of Neville and Jodie Clark and
Great-Grandson of Malcolm and Shirley Clark.

Deaths



Ronald Bruce (Ron) WRIGHT, b 17 Jun 1935 d 12 Sep 2018. Much loved partner of Shona Ross and father of Bruce and Nicola. Ron was the son of the late Stanley and Fanny Wright.

Kathleen GRIFFIN, b 4 Aug 1954 d 13 Sep 2018. Much loved daughter of Monique (nee Boussiron) and the late Gerald Griffin.

Marriage Madison Plaskett , daughter of Kay and Peter Plaskett, married Nicholas Chinnery at West Eyreton, North Canterbury on Saturday 8 December 2018.
Madison is the granddaughter of Shirley and the late Malcolm Clark.



Alliance Francaise News

MEMBERSHIP

Take your experience of French culture to the next level!

Become a member and help support French culture in Christchurch! As a member, you will receive special discounts on classes, cultural events and with our French cultural partners. You will also gain exclusive access to our French multimedia library, the largest in the South Island. With many different levels of membership to choose from, you're sure to find the right fit for you!

As the Alliance Française is a local association, it also means that you can **have your say** : you vote on all important decisions, elect your **committee members** and can apply to become one at our Annual General Meeting each November.

- Support the Alliance Française of Christchurch, a non-profit association serving Cantabrians since 1959
- Free access to our media library, the largest French library in the South Island
- Access to [Culturethèque](#), the largest French digital media library
- Free weekly activities and special discounts on some cultural and social activities
- Win tickets to concerts and shows throughout the year (check our [Facebook page](#))
- Members receive our e-newsletter and invitations to our cultural activities
- Generous discounts and discover a way of life with our [partners](#)

AFC Membership benefits are renewable once a year. If you would like to further support our French Media Library, Cultural Events and activities, you may donate directly to AFC. Charitable tax receipts will be issued for all donations upon request. Thank you for your support!

Petit Matin Croissant

Join us at AF, 275 Cashel Street on the last Saturday of every month from 9.30am to enjoy coffee, croissants (from Le Panier) and French conversation in a relaxed atmosphere. All welcome.

Cost: [\\$10 general](#), [\\$7 AFC members](#) and students, [\\$5 children](#) - coffee, tea, croissant (from Le Panier), baguette, orange juice included. BOOKING ADVISED.

Ciné Club

Discover the best of French cinema at the Alliance Française Christchurch every first Friday of the month - 6pm - Limited seating, first in first served - Koha entry

Fancy a French movie in a very relaxed atmosphere? Come to our Ciné Club! No worries, the movies are screened in the original version with subtitles.

To discover more about the Alliance Francaise, go to the web site below.

www.afchristchurch.org.nz or they have branches in other centres.

E-mail: enquiries@afchristchurch.org.nz

Family

The Church of the Holy Apostles
Pimlico

Requiem Mass
for
Kathleen Griffin

4th August 1954 – 13th September 2018



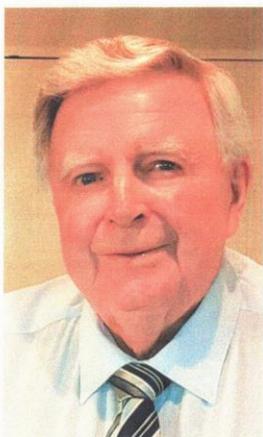
Monday 1st October 2018

11.00am

Kathleen Griffin, 64, passed away on 13th September 2018 in London. She was born on 4th August 1954 in Winchester. Daughter of Monique Boussiron and Gerald Griffin a niece of Alain Boussiron. Kathleen was a BBC journalist and managed a school for young journalists.

A Requiem Mass in her memory took place in the Church of the Holy Apostles in Pimlico, London on Monday 1st October 2018.

In Loving Memory of Ron



Ronald Bruce Wright

17 June 1935 - 12 September 2018

Ron was an original member of the Libeau Reunion Committee (1990) which subsequently morphed into the Libeau Descendants Society. He was elected Chairman of the committee at its first formal meeting on 10 Sep 1988 although meetings were held prior to that date. Following the reunion in 1990 the Reunion Committee recognised the need to continue meeting to compile all the information gained and publish a book of the Libeau family. In 1995 Ron was elected as Chairman of the Libeau Descendants Society. During his eight plus years Ron provided leadership and time to foster the aims of the Society

A former City Councillor and known for his long run as Christchurch's Santa Clause has died. Ron Wright was an icon in the Garden City, having served as a City Councillor and as Santa Clause in the annual Christchurch Santa Parade for more than 20 years. He was also a justice of the peace. Ron died suddenly at his home aged 83. He was a Christchurch City Councillor for 21 years until 2004. His "terrific community networks" brought a wealth of knowledge to the council.

Former mayor, Garry Moore said :*"If we were getting the wrong advice from staff, Ron would go and check it up on the street. That's quite an important attribute for a Councillor, that they bring that knowledge of the streets to the council table."*

Ron also supported Christchurch's Buddhist temple in Riccarton, even though he was not a practicing Buddhist. He helped establish the temple's relief service after the February 2011 earthquake. The general manager of the Buddhist Temple (Chris Bee) said: *"Because of Ron's experience with the various communities, Ron came up with all those ideas and the guys acted accordingly on them. He was a bit of a rock during those times ... he was always a phone call away."*

(An abridged version of tributes from The Press)

A Genetic Ancestry Study of New Zealand

Patricia Stoneman's story.

The Longest Journey: From Africa to Aotearoa

This was the title of a research study lead by Dr Lisa Matsoo Smith head of the Dept of Anatomy at the University of Otago in 2016.

My first link with this study came via a link with the Comte de Paris Group who had been invited to contribute to a Study based on early settlers on the Akaroa Peninsula.

The original study was based on the arrival of the Early Maori Settlers.

The introduction was led by Lisa at Akaroa and interested people who were early settlers , particularly those who arrived on the Comte de Paris. Interested people were able to meet with Lisa to register along with evidence of their background and have a DNA sample taken. A first experience! No problem for me as I took the copy of The Libeau Family of Banks Peninsula.

I do not know how many descendants participated in this research but after some time a Certificate was posted out authenticating the results of my DNA and involvement in this particular study. A website address was also posted out and the steps to access my Mitochondrial DNA and group numbers.

Reading through this information was exciting and I finally ended up with precise details of origin.

I had occasion to contact Lisa recently and there has been more recent research...

Thought about having your DNA tested?

I found it really interesting studying the process and learning about my various backgrounds.

Le Quesnoy Commemoration

Le Quesnoy is a commune and small town in the east of the Nord department of northern France .

The capture of the French town of Le Quesnoy by the New Zealand Division on 4 November 1918 has special significance in New Zealand's military history.

Just a week before the end of the First World War in November 1918, the New Zealand Division captured the French town of Le Quesnoy. It was the New Zealanders' last major action in the war. To this day, the town of Le Quesnoy continues to mark the important role that New Zealand played in its history. Streets are named after New Zealand places, there is a New Zealand memorial and a primary school bears the name of a New Zealand soldier. Visiting New Zealanders are sure to receive a warm welcome from the locals.

The Germans held Le Quesnoy for almost the entire war, from August 1914 through to its dramatic liberation on 4 November 1918. The New Zealanders scaled a ladder set against the ancient walls of the town and took the remaining Germans as prisoners. The liberation of Le Quesnoy was just one of the many campaigns that New Zealanders fought on the Western Front, the line that stretched across northern France and Belgium. The majority of New Zealanders killed in the First World War lost their lives in the battles that raged there from 1916 to 1918. More than 12,000 New Zealanders died on the Western Front in two and a half years fighting; this was more than in the entire Second World War.



The French Honorary Consul in Christchurch, Mme Martine Marshall-Durieux is present at the unveiling of a plaque.



The plaque beneath the tree planted to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the liberation of Le Quesnoy on 4 November 1918.

The Unknown Soldier

Following is the history behind The Unknown Soldier.



Coffin of the Unknown Warrior, Westminster Abbey, 2011-12

On November 7th, 1920, in strictest secrecy, four unidentified British bodies were exhumed from temporary battlefield cemeteries at Ypres, Arras, the Asine and the Somme. None of the soldiers who did the digging were told why. The bodies were taken by field ambulance to GHQ at St-Pol-Sur-Ter Noise. Once there, the bodies were draped with the union flag.

Sentries were posted and Brigadier-General Wyatt and Colonel Gell selected one body at random. The other three were reburied.

A French Honour Guard was selected and stood by the coffin overnight, of the chosen soldier.

On the morning of the 8th November, a specially designed coffin made of oak from the grounds of Hampton Court arrived and the Unknown Warrior was placed inside. On top was placed a crusaders sword and a shield on which was inscribed:

"A British Warrior who fell in the GREAT WAR 1914-1918 for King and Country".

On the 9th of November, the Unknown Warrior was taken by horse-drawn carriage through Guards of Honour and the sound of tolling bells and bugle calls to the quayside. There, he was saluted by Marechal Foch and loaded onto HMS Vernon bound for Dover. The coffin stood on the deck covered in wreaths, surrounded by the French Honour Guard. Upon arrival at Dover, the Unknown Warrior was met with a nineteen-gun salute - something that was normally only reserved for Field Marshals. A special train had been arranged and he was then conveyed to Victoria Station, London.

He remained there overnight, and, on the morning of the 11th of November, he was finally taken to Westminster Abbey.

The idea of the unknown warrior was thought of by a Padre called David Railton who had served on the front line during the Great War. The union flag he had used as an altar cloth whilst at the front, was the one that had been draped over the coffin.

It was his intention that all of the relatives of the 517,773 combatants whose bodies had not been identified could believe that the Unknown Warrior could very well be their lost husband, father, brother or son...

THIS is the reason we wear poppies.

We do not glorify war.

We remember - with humility - the great and the ultimate sacrifices that were made, not just in this war, but in every war and conflict where our service personnel have fought - to ensure the liberty and freedoms that we now take for granted.

Every year, on the 11th of November, we remember the Unknown Warrior.

At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them.

Comte de Paris Activities

French Fest

The Society has withdrawn from the Akaroa committee, planning next year's event, which will be held over **11 to 13th October 2019**. However, they will provide descendants in period dress to take part in the actual landing. Anyone interested in taking part in the actual landing should contact our Secretary Linda Sunderland – 337 5045 or 027 4100921. We would like a mix of families, men, women and children. Costumes are available from Bev Wilson – 03 741 933 or 027 2288060. Numbers on the ship are limited so if you wish to be on board contact Linda as soon as possible. C de P members will have first choice.

Heritage Park

We have been talking to the Akaroa Heritage Park Committee about the possibility of helping at their working bees and perhaps looking after an area of the Park to help them. Their Committee approved of the idea and have now staked out an area on the hillside facing Long bay, for us to tidy up, plant out and maintain.

We already have several Memorial Trees planted in that area.

Working Bees are held on the last Saturday of the month

Comte de Paris Annual Picnic

The date for the Comte de Paris Annual Picnic is Sunday 20th January 2019 at the Akaroa Heritage Park, Long Bay Road, Akaroa from 11:30 onwards.

It is usually a relaxing day out and with fantastic views of Akaroa Harbour. Need to bring something to sit on or a picnic blanket as well as your food. There is plenty of shade to be had among the lovely trees. However, it is wise to bring a sun hat and sun block too. We would love to see some of you there.

Overdue Subscriptions

Have you paid your subscription yet? 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.

Please pay your 2018/19 subscription now.

Accounts for the 2018/2019 subscription were sent out in April. As discussed at the 2017 AGM it was decided to reduce the subscription to \$15.00 a year.

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 dianabruce1970@gmail.com

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

Committee Contacts

President	Heather Libeau-Dow Ph 03 351 9006 or 021 351919	Secretary	Desiree McKenzie Ph 03 689 8872
heather.libeau-dow@libeau-family.org		deay@xtra.co.nz	
Minute Secretary and La Gazette Editor	Bruce Clark Ph 03 942 1705	Treasurer	Bruce Clark Ph 03 942 1705
dianabruce1970@gmail.com		dianabruce1970@gmail.com	
Web Master	Richard Warlow	France	Alain Boussiron
webmaster@libeau-family.org		alain.boussiron@orange.fr	
Zone Co-ordinators			
Northern North Island	Morgan Libeau Ph 029 2105430	South Canterbury	Desiree McKenzie Ph 03 689 8872
mlibeau@xtra.co.nz		deay@xtra.co.nz	
Central North Island	Jocelyn Benefield TBA	Bay of Plenty	Suzanne Donnelly Ph 027 5441145
jocelynianbenefield@gmail.com		kmdonnelly@xtra.co.nz	
Southern North Island	Cherie Cliff Ph 06 3559171	Southern North Island	Anne West Ph 06 3575716
cherie.cliff@libeau-family.org		d.m.west@xtra.co.nz	

To the Wilderness

French Settlers in Akaroa 1840-1920

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Westpac, account no. 0315370030044001

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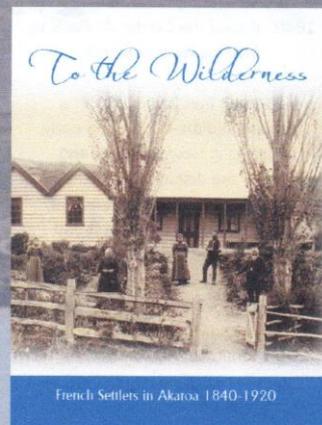
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Published
April 2018



"This is an important story for those interested in New Zealand's colonial history and in particular the French settlement at Akaroa. It answers many thought-provoking questions that, as a family, we pondered over when celebrating 150 years of French Settlement in Akaroa in 1990."

Libeau Descendants Society Committee

It is 1895, and 12-year-old Amelia Hunt is spending a week with her grandparents Clémence Libeau (née Gendrot) and Joseph Lucien Libeau. Amelia is fascinated by the stories of their earlier lives, including when they left Rochefort, France as young children in March 1840, aboard the *Comte de Paris* to Akaroa, New Zealand.

Through their tales, we get a glimpse into the lives of the early settlers in New Zealand, and discover the disturbing truth about Joseph Libeau Senior, and the hardship faced by his first and second wives, Magdelaine Chauvet and Mary Ann Hedgman.

We also learn about other descendants. Some stayed in Banks Peninsula or moved around New Zealand, while others went back to France, or moved to Australia or the USA. The book ends with the experience of 40 descendants in WWI and the death in 1919 of Joseph Lucien Libeau; the last survivor from the *Comte de Paris* voyage.

To the Wilderness is written by Angela Pyke and Kevin Clark, sixth and seventh generation descendants of Magdelaine Chauvet and Joseph Libeau.

It is the result of over 10 years of research and the compilation of stories, documents and photographs generously provided by family members who have collected, written about and recorded family history. The book also draws on research by other writers, discussion with many people, documents discovered in archives and reports from old newspapers.

Order Form

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