



# 2019

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

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

## Contents

President's Greeting  
Births  
Alliance Francaise News  
Family News  
Researching and Writing Your Own Family Story  
Comte de Paris  
AGM Notice  
Overdue Subscriptions  
Editor's Notes  
Committee Detail  
Photos from the Jan Shuttleworth Collection



April 2019

# 53

# *Greetings from the President*

## *April 2019*

President's Greeting April 2019

The tragic event recently has challenged our city on many levels. We appreciated the empathetic email from Gilles as our French relative share a strong connection to this city.

This term several members joined with the Comte de Paris descendants for the annual January picnic at Akaroa. Our committee and others enjoyed the Petanque morning at the courts in Hagley Park and were schooled in the rules of play. Lunch at the Ilex café in the Botanic Gardens was relaxing and combined with our committee meeting in the fresh air.

The focus has been on developing a brochure about the Libeau family suitable for tourists visiting Akaroa. This is now in final draft and we look forward to sharing this with you at the upcoming AGM.

This will be held again at the Alliance Francaise rooms- 275 Cashel St at 2pm May 19th

After the election of officers and reports, guest speakers will share details of their latest publications documenting Akaroa history.

Kevin Clark will tell us of exciting developments since the publication last year of the family history " Into the Wilderness".

After the formalities we will share afternoon tea. Contributions can be left in the AF kitchen area prior to the meeting.

The AGM last year was a fabulous event. It would be great to see new family members attend and make connections with the wider Libeau community.

Warm regards

*Heather Libeau-Dow*

## *Births*

### **Births**



**Hawke, Bodhi Alan** b 7 August 2018.  
Bodhi is son of Ethan and Serena Hawke.  
Grandson of Brendon and Claire and  
Grandson of Janet and late Alan Hawke.

**de Jeu, Elyssa Leona** b 7 August 2018.  
Elyssa is daughter of Robert and Daniela de Jeu.  
Granddaughter of Shirley and Marinus de Jeu.

# 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!

### 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.**

From 9.30 am: \$5 for children, \$7 for AF members, \$10 for Non-members

### French Language Courses

*2019 Term dates for adults:*

Term 2 10 weeks - 29 April to 5 July

Term 3 10 weeks – 22 July to 29 September

Term 4 10 weeks – 14 October to 13 December

### 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

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

[www.afchristchurch.org.nz](http://www.afchristchurch.org.nz) or they have branches in other centres.

E-mail: [enquiries@afchristchurch.org.nz](mailto:enquiries@afchristchurch.org.nz)

# Family News

## **Christchurch Terrorist Attack**

Following is an E-mail received from Gilles on 19 Mar 19. Some, but not all, the membership received this email.

Dear cousins, dear friends,

The whole world is now aware of the horrible attack against your beautiful and peaceful country - which is also ours - and we can feel the deep sorrow of the New Zealanders. We simply cannot imagine how evil can take its source in a human being's brain : cowardice, deadly ideology, stupidity : there must be a sort of wrong connection!

Since ten years, France has also been stricken by fanaticism mainly inspired by religion (Islam) and sometimes by far-right ideology (against Muslims or Jews). The aim of these crazy nuts is always to raise hatred between communities and to start endless wars. So, let's keep our eyes wide open and enjoy friendship with goodwill people.

Please tell us what you know about this event. The police were very efficient and Madame Jacinda Ardern uttered a strong speech. We noticed placards saying, "This is not NZ". Right !

Vive la Nouvelle-Zélande ! Nous vous embrassons.

Long live New Zealand! We're kissing you.

Micheline et Gilles Fournat

## **1944, 70 Years Later -- Fascinating Photography from France.**

Amazing pictures, indeed, the comparison between past and present is stunning. Micheline and I visited these places in Normandy and were moved as we could imagine the poor soldiers, only naked human beings against fire and steel storms. At that time, in 1995, we didn't know anything about the story of our family. About New Zealand, we knew quite nothing, except the thrashings we got against the All Blacks. We only knew that brave soldiers of the United States and all the countries of the British Empire, including New Zealand had crossed the ocean to come and help France and crush the German Nazis. Our parents had explained us how lucky we were to live in the countryside and avoid food deprivation. But, in 1944, I was 4 and Micheline 3 and we didn't care about misfortune and war! My only reminding of that time was the roar of British bombs bursting on the submarine base of La Rochelle and the window's panes falling in pieces cling-cling : so funny for me! As for Micheline, she remembers the alert sirens and the family rushing to the shelters. There were also rationing tickets for bread, butter, milk or soap and, after the war, she played with other little girls with the useless tickets: one was the shopkeeper and the others the customers. They said "Nous jouons à la marchande". (*We play the merchant*).

So, later, it was a sort of duty to visit the beaches of the Normandy landings on June 6th 1944. One of Micheline sisters, Danièle is married with Henri Lecouey, born near in a village near Périers in the very middle of the landing area. In 1995, we went there to meet them and we visited Caen, Saint-Lô, Sainte-Mère-Eglise, Arromanches, Omaha Beach, Juno, Pegasus Bridge and the "Bunkers" destroyed by the huge Navy guns. Of course, the houses, cities, villages were more or less smashed to pieces and Périers was turned into stone heaps. Perhaps some of our Kiwi cousins were there in 1944 (as they were in Le Quesnoy in 1918) and we feel always grateful to them.

As for Rugby, in the top 14, La Rochelle is 4th, after Toulouse, Clermont and Lyon. It seems that the French clubs are much better than the French national team. But the best of the best is now Charlotte Rose McCaw, 3 kg, the lovely daughter of Gemma and Richie !

And now, it's midnight and for you, midday et nous vous embrassons bien fort (*and we embrace you very much*).

Micheline et Gilles Fournat

**Fascinating photography can be accessed on the link below..**

Please note that some of the facade of the buildings in the background remain the same but restored.

**Directions:**

Just click on each 1944 photo anywhere and it will fade into the same view from 2014.

Click again and it will go back to 1944.

Scroll down to the next photo.

<http://interactive.guim.co.uk/embed/2014/apr/image-opacity-slider-master/index.html?ww2-dday>

## *Researching and Writing Your Own Family Story*

By

**Kevin Clark and Angela Pyke**

Researching and writing "To the Wilderness" ended up a long process (off and on for 12 years). In the process we made exciting discoveries as well as mistakes, and many lessons were learnt. Hopefully what follows is helpful if you are interested in researching and writing about your own family.

### **1 Where to begin?**

The main decision in relation to this question is: who are the people around which this story is written? It could be yourself, yourself and your partner, your parents, your grandparents. This decision will determine what is past and what is present. If you are the starting point then your life is the present, your children are the future and your parents and generations before them are the past.

## **2 How broad or narrow do you want your research to go?**

You then have to decide how narrow or broad you want your research to be and this involves both people and areas of interest.

People - If you are the starting point, you have your own life, the lives of two parents, four grandparents, eight great-grandparents and this number doubles for each generation you go backwards or forwards. If you add your partner as well, you double everything again.

Places - It may be that your ancestors originate from several countries. Do you want to explore them all or focus just on one or two? Maybe you want to focus on your ancestors after their arrival in New Zealand or the countries/places they came from.

Areas of interest - As you gather information you may find some common themes emerging (e.g. people's backgrounds, education, work, sporting interests, urban/rural settings). You may be interested in the lives of female ancestors and what their lives were like, what they did, etc. You might want to delve into some of these areas and read about them to give some historical context to the lives of your ancestors.

It is probably better to start with a narrow scope and broaden it out depending on what information you can find and what you are particularly interested in.

One place to start may be to put together a family tree and there are many computer programmes that you can use to do this.

## **3 Organising your information**

One thing you will soon discover is that you have lots of information (some from the internet, some from books or documents, some from oral history told to you by relatives). Somehow you need to organise this in a way that you can find it again. One way to do this is to have a file or folder (in a filing cabinet or box and/or on your computer for each individual you are researching.) If a document mentions two people you are interested in, then put it in both folders otherwise you may not know where to find the information again.

Important - When you put a piece of information into a file or folder, always note at the bottom of it where you found the information (e.g. Papers Past website - The Akaroa Mail, Feb 28 1904, or a book - French Akaroa, p303 or discussion with grandmother on 15 January 2018). It is good to acknowledge the people who give you information or leads so note this beside the information as well.

## **4 Research**

Research continues throughout your investigations as new information will keep coming to light. But where to start. The best place is talking to relatives who may have stories to tell (oral history), or who can suggest others to talk to or documents to find and read. It's also good to write things up as you go and share this with other interested family members as this leads to new information or correction of mistakes.

## **5 Things to avoid**

Inaccurate information - It is always best to try to get primary information; that is the source documents such as a birth, marriage or death certificate, letters written by an ancestor, proof of address from Electoral Rolls, etc. Often, we end up using information others have given us which may or may not be correct. And you will often find that information from different sources is contradictory, so the need for further research.

One thing to be wary of is computer websites where you can write up your family tree and share this online. You may find other people's family trees that are related to yours. It is dangerous to copy what they have written to fill gaps in your own family tree as this can lead to mistakes which get repeated. You should also never rely on information in newspaper reports as a reporter may have noted down information incorrectly or interpreted something told to them inaccurately. It's good material to have to help you build up a story, but it always pays to be a little skeptical when using secondary sources such as these, unless you can verify it with other information you have or find.

A warning note - Information in archives which may be handwritten can also be inaccurate. For example, names can be spelt incorrectly or transcribed incorrectly so it pays to search names with alternative spellings. In writing "To the Wilderness" we found 13 different spellings of 'Libeau'.

Good practice – Try to find at least two different sources of information to verify its accuracy, and preferably primary sources.

## **6 Sources and Resources**

### Family

Family members and relatives are the best source of information and they can often tell you things, which brings the people in your story to life. They may also have photographs and documents that you don't have and be willing to share these with you. Always check that they are happy for you to use the information they give you. Where possible always give them something back; a story, a photograph, etc. so it becomes a mutual collaboration. You can increase your research if others become interested and also start looking for information.

### Websites

There are now many websites that one can search for genealogical information such as ancestry.com, findmypast.com, familysearch.org, myheritage.com, legacyfamilytree.com, billiongraves.com. Most of these require payment of a subscription although some allow shorter searches for a daily fee or similar.

Note - The information on these different websites is not all the same. The commercial sites compete for access to archives and records. You may be able to access some of these websites for free at your local library.

More generally, doing google searches can turn up information as well.

### Libraries

Many libraries now have a section on local history/family history and staff are interested in helping you find information related to your ancestors. They can often point you in the right direction to get started. As mentioned above you may be able to access some websites at the library without paying the subscription.

### Archives

The National Archives has a website called 'Archway' and you can search this online by any name and you never know what might crop up. If necessary, you can order material to view (either in Wellington or in some regional centres). These also hold copies of original land deeds, sales and purchases and these hold lots of interesting information. Electoral Rolls can tell us about a person's occupation and place of residence, and these are available online or in libraries. Business or street directories can also give you information on where someone lived.

## Books, Newspapers and Documents

A great resource is a website called "Papers Past" which is held within the National Library and can be accessed online. It is a project which has digitised many of New Zealand's earliest newspapers and these can be searched by a name by all newspapers or just for one. When we searched the Akaroa Mail for the name Libeau, we came up with over 900 references.

Birth, Marriage and Death Records can be obtained from the Department of Internal Affairs, but their website is also useful to find what is available. Each record costs money so this is not a cheap source of information, but it does give primary information.

## Organisations

The New Zealand Genealogical Society has lots of information and is a membership organisation with an annual subscription for enthusiasts. Some of their databases and material may be available in your local library. For an annual subscription you get access to their own library, their website and databases and research assistance. They hold an annual conference which discussed genealogical issues and a bi-monthly magazine with lots of tips and stories.

Local History Societies/Museums can also be useful in gaining historical information to put your story into context. They are run by people passionate about local history and always willing to help. They may even have information on relatives you are looking for.

Others who have researched their family history - Talking to other people who have researched and written up their family history can be worthwhile, as they have gone through the process you are embarking on and probably learnt a lot along the way. Hearing about their experience, listening to their tips, and learning what worked and didn't work well for them may save you time down the track.

## **7 Sharing Information**

It may be worth thinking about this at the beginning of your project. Are you wanting to write a book, complete a family tree, put together a dossier of information, a collection of stories, a blog? Writing a book means it can take quite a long time before the information you have gathered is shared with others. Finding others interested and writing a periodic email, blog or newsletter on what you have found is a way of getting information out there and giving others the opportunity to get involved and add to what you know. It can be a good idea to share early on in the process. It can be tempting to wait until you have a near final draft before sharing it with others. However, you will find that the more you research, the more avenues this opens up for exploring, and you may end up writing a never-ending story. Also, being immersed in the details means you may miss things or focus too much on a particular area or theme. Getting others with a more objective perspective to review your work as you go, can help keep you on track and ensure you're achieving what you set out to do.

Setting up a photograph folder (maybe in the cloud) can be a way to collect and share family photos.

## US Libeau Membership



It was a delight to meet up with Donald and Onie Libeau during our whirlwind tour of Canada and US. We met up in Washington DC at the museum strip and spent a wonderful afternoon getting to know each other as we walked through the various Smithsonian buildings. We enjoyed lunch in the Sculpture Gardens and ended up in the newly opened Bible Museum at the end of the day.

Donald is a descendant of Donation Libeau- the “second family”; and he identifies me as from the “first family”. Although distant relatives we are very close through those Libeau connections. They attended the 1990 reunion with their young family and maintain a keen interest in family news. I had packed a copy of the new book to give them and they were pleased to receive this update.

When I realised he wasn't a member he promptly handed over the membership fee in US dollars and is paid up now for the next two years.

(Photograph proves this was not done under duress!)

Heather Libeau-Dow

## *Comte de Paris Activities*

### French Fest

The Society has withdrawn from the Akaroa committee, planning this 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.

## Akaroa Cemeteries Up-Date

Recently we have been given a new Council liaison person so that our cemetery project is coordinated by one person within the Council. This will combine the various departments dealing with different aspects of the project – headstones, parks, visitor experience, heritage, traffic management etc. Jo Grigg is the person. It is Jo that I have been liaising with regarding the broken headstones and our thanks go to Jo for volunteering to take on this role.

Last Thursday – 21<sup>st</sup> March, we met with Jo and did a walk around the cemeteries discussing our proposed improvements:

- Memorial Entrance – site agreed. Plans are with a structural engineer. One quote has been obtained and another quote is to be sought. Then Building Consent applied for and fund-raising commences.
- Headstones. Six headstones are to start repairs next month – Bouriaud, Waeckerle, Breimeyer and Lelievre headstones – settlers and 1<sup>st</sup> generation. Jo has stated we will have more than six approved for the next financial year. I am collating the next priority list and sending it to Jo as this arrives in your mail box.
- Interpretation Panels – sites were identified. Information has been given to the Council to begin drafting the Panels.
- Landscaping discussed including seating, fencing, a new path in the Dissenters Cemetery, rubbish bins, signage and control of unwanted foliage.
- An extension to the Catholic cemetery for all denominations looks as if it is going ahead. The group has been given consent to clear the land by both the Catholic Church and the Council. After the land is cleared the Council will do an archeological assessment. We are awaiting permission to remove a fence so the guys can more readily do their great voluntary work there. This is a big win for the local community as they had been told they would have to go to Duvauchelle away from their families and homes. Access to this area for vehicles was also discussed.

So, all in all we are progressing with our project with major cooperation and support from our volunteers, structural engineer and supportive staff within the Council and Community Board.

Thanks everyone.

Linda Sutherland

*AGM 2019*

The next Libeau Society AGM will be on 19 May 2019 at 2.00pm. It will be held at the Alliance Francaise, 275 Cashel Street, Units 4 & 5, Christchurch.

The AGM will be followed afternoon tea. Contributions can be left in the AF kitchen area prior to the meeting.

## *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. **Some Members have yet to pay their 2017/18 and/or 2018/19 year subscriptions. These will show on their Accounts.**

Thankyou to those who are maintain their subscriptions.

### **Subscription for the 2019 year**

Accounts for the 2019/2020 subscription (\$15.00) will be sent out in May 2019.

## *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](mailto: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.**

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**Visit by General Pau to Akaroa  
9 January 1919**



General Pau M Lelievre

Mr George Armstrong  
Mayor of Akaroa

M Joseph Lucien Libeau  
(his back to the camera)

Joseph Libeau was introduced as ' The sole remaining French colonist who arrived in 1840 from France on the Comte de Paris and has lived in the area ever since'.

## Duvauchelle 1910



## Forestry Camp Piper Valley 1880

Joseph and Clemence moved here in the mid 1860's . They lived in a whare near the Piper Stream originally built and occupied by M Duvauchelle. It took about a year for Joseph to partly clear part of his 20-acre block on Beach Road and build a small house for his family to move into. The house was subsequently added too as the family grew.



Duvauchelle Wharf 1910

