



2019

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

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

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Greetings from the President

July 2019

President's Greeting Jul 2019

Heather is away for a time cruising from Memphis to New Orleans. There for a week and then to Canada for a 12 day bus tour around Nova Scotia - including Anne of Green Gables and Prince Edward Island. She will be back for August Landing Day luncheon (See below for details).

Petanque

Heather has arranged for another day at the Petanque Courts in Hagley Park for the 27 Oct 2019. To be followed with lunch at the Ilex. Diary this date for some play time and socialising.

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 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 or they have branches in other centres.

E-mail: enquiries@afchristchurch.org.nz

Family News

Alison Silvester - Connecting with my French History

Planning to return to France in November 2018, Barry and I started delving more into my French history. I am descended from the David and Gendrot families who both emigrated from France to NZ on the 'Comte de Paris' in 1840, arriving in Akaroa in August that year. I began searching the French side of my heritage several years ago, following up on one piece of information I had been given by my mother over 50 years ago; that her mother, Edith, was French. (Edith married Arnold Haylock whose family had emigrated from Essex, U.K. in 1850 on The Monarch, landing at Akaroa, establishing a flour mill and farming large areas of the peninsula).

Joining up with the Comte de Paris Descendants group provided the first vital snippets of information regarding my grandmother's story.

My great-grandmother, Josephine Gendrot, married Pierre David. Both were born in NZ but had parents and older siblings on the boat. (Josephine's older sister Clemence helped raise her as their mother died in childbirth, and she later married Joseph Lucien Libeau). Pierre David had 2 older siblings: Marguerite, who died aged 4 years on the voyage out, and Jean who drowned with his mother in Akaroa Harbour in 1850. Thus, Pierre was mainly raised by a solo father.



Visiting the historic sites of Le Mans with 4 family members. I am centre front with Georges Bigot to the left.

The history of the Libeau family has been well researched. Anne West put me in touch with Georges Bigot, a common relative still living in the area just north of Le Mans where the **Gendrot/Trottin** family has its roots. We met up for 3 days. Georges organised a very full programme, not only introducing us to 19 other family members but visiting specific houses where Gendrot/Trottin family had lived. With very limited language skills between us, Georges organised interpreters to accompany us at all times. We could tell that his knowledge of the family and local history was vast, as he provided much content for the interpreters to pass on.

Having coffee in the home where my ancestors lived 1660 - 1679. Minimal upgrades evident.



One interpreter was connected to the local newspaper which the next week published an item about our visit along with a photograph! We met the mayor of Torcé-en-Vallée who then took us across the road to show us through the village church. He pointed out the only pew which carried a brass plaque, this one acknowledging the philanthropic generosity of the Gendrot family. They were an enterprising family, but Pierre, whose mother was a Trottin, with his wife and daughter Clemence, joined the Comte de Paris as he was about to be declared bankrupt after a business enterprise had failed.



Trottin family members lived in this house in Torce-en-Vallee from 1690 - 1840. It is where King Louie 13th once stayed the night when passing through the village! Barry and I with Georges and the interpreter on the left.

The **David** family hail from a different part of France, Moeze, close to Rochefort, the port from which the boat sailed. The Charente-Maritime province consisted mainly of vast salt marshes, so salt-harvesting was the primary industry in 1840. To escape that, may have been the motivation for Guillaume David to join the relocation scheme and bring his young family to NZ.

My recently retired husband, Barry, searched the internet to find any David descendants living in France. We discovered that my great, great grandfather Guillaume David who emigrated, left behind one sister. In recent years a French resident, Michel Graveleau, undertook to document the history of the family that his daughter had married into. She had become Mrs Chardavoine. Michel found that his daughter's husband was descended from Guillaume David's sister who had married a Chardavoine. We were very excited to receive an email from Michel after I wrote him a letter telling him of my connection to his son-in-law's family. He put us in touch with his daughter's parents-in-law, Danny and Jocelyne Chardavoine, who, when we visited, warmly welcomed us into their home and hearts and showed us all around the area including the town of Moeze where our common ancestors had lived and the port of Rochefort. Meeting us was a revelation to them as prior to us making contact they had no knowledge that they had family connections in NZ. Danny is a fourth generation oyster farmer, with one of his sons now running the family business. While the salt harvesting in the area has ceased, oyster farming has become the dominant enterprise, especially in La Tremblade. Three vast bridges connect the different areas, so travel in past times would have only been possible by boat or lengthy road trips.

US Libeau Membership

Enquiry from Wilkie Smith Leith

Wilkie has been in contact through our web site re a property that was in his family since 1952, in Manassas, VA. This property had once been owned by Donation and Alex Libeau, and a brick factory was constructed on the land. A number of buildings in Manassas used the brick for buildings and homes. In fact, the home where I grew up was constructed of the bricks from the factory. The house still exists and is in good shape. I'm also a friend of Donald Libeau, who is related to Donation. I would like to share what info I have.

Thanks, Wilkie Leith

The Committee is following this contact up.

Comte de Paris Activities

Annual picnic in a stunning location



Each year in January the Comte de Paris members have the opportunity to sit down together with blankets on the ground and picnic baskets to reconnect, meet new-comers and view improvements to the venue.

Heritage Park is located at 280 Long Bay Road and offers splendid views of the long harbour and Akaroa township. These days the view often includes a cruise ship or two. This year we had a good turnout though it would have been great to have more members of the Libeau Descendants there too. You just need to join the Comte de Paris Group (see contact details below).

The group is comprised of descendants of the original French and German settlers who arrived at Akaroa 17 August 1840. Members are active in replanting native trees in the park. Some trees have been planted specifically in memory of certain members. How glorious the hills of Akaroa must have been, covered in Totara, back in 1840.



Perhaps our descendants will once again marvel at such majestic trees in the future.



Secretary
Comte de Paris Descendants Group Incorporated
13 Kiteroa Place,
CHRISTCHURCH 8022

French Fest

French Fest is being held this year in Akaroa.
Dates 11,12,13 October.2019

The Comte de Paris will still be doing our lovely Parade and will have an information stall in the Heritage tent at the Recreation ground.

We would love as many of you as possible to come over to Akaroa to dress up and join in the fun. We have the costumes here for our members. I will send out another notice to you regarding these nearer the time.
Contact Bev Wilson at 03 7411933, txt 027 2288060 or email wilsons01@xnet.co.nz

Landing Day Luncheon

Date: Sunday 18 August 2019

Venue : The Cashmere Club
50 Colombo St
Cashmere

Time : 11.30 Meet, Mingle and buy your Beverages
Lunch 12pm.

Cost: \$24.50 set menu 3 Courses

Raffle Baskets : There will be 3 baskets of French and German goods to go in the draw for. Bring plenty of change.

The proceeds will be going towards the Cemeteries and Memorial Entrance to be erected at the entrance to the Catholic Cemetery, Akaroa.

Reply to Bev Wilson before 11th August at 7411933, txt 027 2288060 or email wilsons01@xnet.co.nz

Akaroa Cemeteries Up-Date

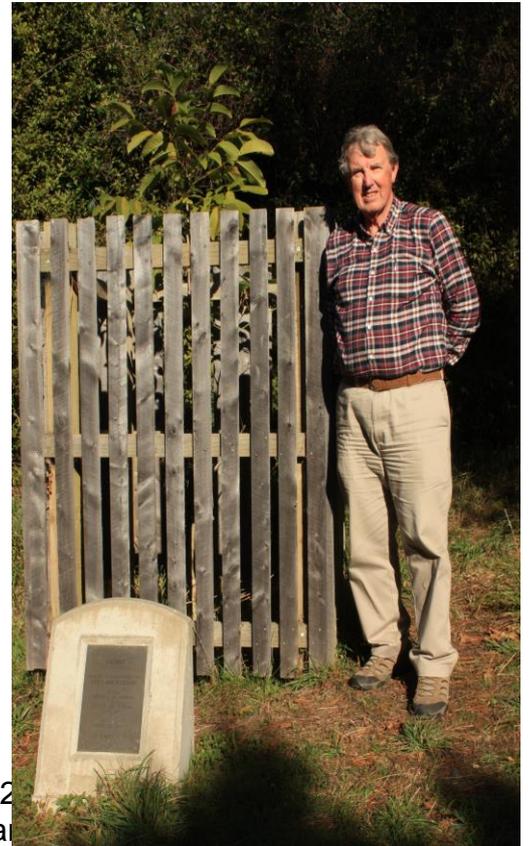
As you all know, the Comte de Paris Descendants have teamed up with the Akaroa Community to work on improving the historic Akaroa Cemeteries - improve maintenance, build a Memorial Entrance, and erect Information Boards and create more burial space etc.

We generally meet every 2nd Thursday in the cemeteries to do our 'tidying'. While we are 'heads down' though, we often start chatting and get pleasantly distracted!

Hot off the press .Linda and Kerry met with Council last Monday with great results regarding Interpretation Panels, Headstones, Memorial Entrance. Top priority is being given for repair of the pathway between the two cemeteries

"WATCH THIS SPACE" for more news

The Walnut Tree



The Walnut Tree (*Juglans Regia*) planted on 16 August 2015 to commemorate the 175th Anniversary of the arrival in Akaroa of French and German Settlers in Akaroa on the Comte de Paris.

(Editor pictured in 2015 and again in 2018!) It appears to have grown about 1.2 m in the last 3.8 years.

AGM 2019

I have copied the Minutes of the 2019 AGM in the email with the La Gazette as it details some of the issues with the Management of the French Fest from our perspective.

Une Bonne Affaire by Jenny and Geoff Maxwell

Restored to Akaroa, Found in France.

When Geoff and Jennifer Maxwell moved from Auckland to Akaroa in 2001, they were completely oblivious both to their family connection to the town and to the changes the move would make to their lives.

All they knew was that Akaroa was the most beautiful and convenient place to live in New Zealand, and one with fond, if vague childhood memories (Jennifer, 1956, sack race at the Recreation Ground, first prize, a Woolworths china ornament: extant).

Their first task was to renovate and restore a hundred-year-old villa on Rue Jolie to house Jennifer's pottery workshop and outlet and Geoff's picture framing business. They called it La Folie Jolie.

A week into the renovation, Jennifer answered the door to La Folie Jolie to be greeted by a large bouquet of silver beet and a man who announced, "Hello. I'm your Uncle Alan." On further investigation, including assistance from a sister who is the keeper of the family history, it transpired that Jennifer's great grandfather, Thomas Bunting married Nancy, third daughter of Jeremiah Hunt and she was thus probably related to half the village.

Within a short period of time several things became apparent. First, the locals refused point blank to call the shop La Folie Jolie. Secondly, the new premises had much more space than they needed. A new direction was called for and French friends provided it. 'You need a shop selling something different,' they said. 'Akaroa needs a French shop. You will go to France.'

For the next fifteen years, they travelled all over France, buying traditional French products and, increasingly, brocante for The French Shop. Five years ago, on the road to Bordeaux, in a camionnette packed to the roof with brocante they had an epiphany. "I'm getting worn out by all this," said Geoff. "Why can't we bring the customers here so they can buy their own damn brocante?"

As a result, they have sold the shop and now run 'brocante' tours in France, hosting small groups and introducing them to brocanteurs, dealers, consignment stores and antique markets and shipping their purchases home. They call their business Found in France.

Together they have recently published *Une Bonne Affaire*. Originally conceived as a means to inform, amuse and possibly alarm their guests, this book is a definitive guide to finding and buying brocante and antiques in France, not only for them but for all those who wish to go it alone.

They now own a short fat *bateau de plaisance* in Burgundy and are currently planning tours that involve brocante and boats...

www.foundinfrance.co.nz

'The Libeau Family of Banks Peninsular' Revised 2012

Additions to:

Page 511

Alongside SMITH Blair William Norman add m12 02 2016 to Mc MILLAN, Renee
b 03 05 1985

Under SMITH Blair William Norman and Mc MILLAN, Renee add

SMITH George Henry b 16 08 2017
SMITH Patch William b 08 06 2019

Page 513

Under SMITH Michael Elliott and SYKES Emma Margorie add

SMITH Eva Grace b 20 03 2013
SMITH Aria Nancy b 25 06 2016
SMITH Jude Elliott Norman b 04 12 2017

Under SMITH Hannah Allyse and MUNN Kenneth Allen add

MUNN Kiriana Ruth b 13 11 2015
MUNN Anais Hinewai b 15 06 2017

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 maintaining their subscriptions.

Subscription for the 2019 year

A big thankyou fore who have paid their subscriptions

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.

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From the Jan Shuttleworth Collection

ANZAC Day Little River 1917

I wonder how many of our family are in this photo



Forsyth Hotel 1909 Little River



Duvauchelle Hotel 1891, 1892 (back of) and 1975

