



La Gazette

March 2023 #65

President's Greeting



After a year of Covid-19 restrictions on gatherings and events it was a joy to celebrate with family members at the end of year Maison de Crepes Christmas Party in December.

This is an annual event now in such a lovely French-inspired venue (including a complementary glass of champagne) and we were delighted to welcome Patricia Stoneman's daughters Maryann and Jenefer as well as other family members.

2022 was hugely impacted by Covid in many ways, but with the challenges largely behind us, we are cautiously optimistic as we plan upcoming events.

Please diary the Libeau Descendant's AGM- May 28 at 2pm. Alliance Française rooms 275 Cashel St. Please bring a plate for shared afternoon tea. Consider whether you can join the committee and learn more about your family connections as you contribute. We urgently need a treasurer and secretary! Meetings are held in my home 4/5 times a year with occasional Zoom connect.

The main focus this year is working towards updating and reprinting the Libeau Family Book. We need lead members to actively collate the relevant details and send to us for digitising. We have also discussed the possibility of a reprint for "Into the Wilderness" by Kevin Clark and Angela Pyke. There is a demand for more copies of this excellent resource and we have their permission to investigate feasibility.

Inside this edition:

- President's Message
- Cemetery Archway
- Descendants of Joseph Lucien & Clémence Rosalie
- Libeau book project
- Marie Clark
- AGM etc
- Luncheon Photos
- French Fest
- Committee details
- Births, Deaths, etc—Rosaleen
- Pompey the penguin
- Libeau-related photos

The French Fest will be finally held in October 6-8 at Akaroa. Please check the information on this in the newsletter. It would be great to have an unofficial mini-reunion with Libeau descendants that weekend so talk to family and book accommodation soon as it is limited in Akaroa. Even if you don't join the re-enactment we encourage you to dress in period costume and walk through town to the Heritage tent where we will be based. We have located the pattern for the traditional bonnet worn by women in the Charente region and there will be an example to order from shown at the AGM.

Autumn is here and in Christchurch we are enjoying some more settled weather with brilliant sunny days. Our thoughts go out to those in the North Island significantly impacted by earlier flooding. Our French family are loving Spring after the long cold winter.

Kind regards

Heather

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French Catholic Cemetery in Akaroa



We now have a magnificent gateway leading to the final resting place of many of our forebears. This entranceway was achieved by some very determined and hard working volunteers and members of Comte de Paris group and friends of the cemetery, with the help from donors over the years. Great effort and well done. History in its making!

It is very hard to comprehend how something as simple but beautifully designed and put together could have had years of road blocks from numerous departments within the council. It looks like it was meant to be here all along!

Info and photos thanks to **Donna Thomsen** of Comte de Paris Descendants Group, who keeps everyone up-to-date on progress.

Special thanks to Linda Sunderland of Comte de Paris for her persistence in seeing this project realised.



Descendants of Joseph Lucien Libeau & Clemence Rosalie Gendrot

In the process of fulfilling a 'FindaGrave' photo request at Ruru Lawn cemetery, I stumbled across the following descendant of Joseph Lucien & Clemence Libeau.

Joy Phyllis Libeau – daughter of Joseph Hector & Evelyn Libeau

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/174395585/joy-phyllis-mcgregor>

Unfortunately, the 'Libeau Family of Banks Peninsula 2012' book doesn't contain very much info on Joy, and I wonder if there are family members out there who could add some details and help fill in the blanks. Due to the date limitations on NZBDM I can't find any marriage dates, so if someone has those, that would be very helpful for a start.

What I can put together, is that Joy married Frank Pyne and they had two sons. One son Douglas died in 1981 and he along with Joy & Frank, are buried together at Ruru Lawn cemetery. After Frank died in 1962, Joy married Ivan McGregor and they had two more children, Ivan & Kathryn. There is an Ivan McGregor b.1924 – d.1998 at the Canterbury Memorial Gardens & Crematorium and the headstone has 'friend of Joy', so I'm guessing this must be her second husband, but again, it would be great if that could be confirmed.

Joy's father, Joseph Hector married again to Elsie Morrison and I found him with his first name's reversed from the family book (but as per the headstone & NZBDM). His spouses and siblings are all recorded but not his child (Joy), so would be good to complete that relationship as well.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/135534368/hector-joseph-libeau>

Contact me: Alastair McGowan a.mcgowan@xtra.co.nz

Apologies from the Editor

Apologies to Desiree Mc Kenzie for leaving off her name as the author of the article "Return to Paris" which featured in the previous La Gazette.

Our Great Work—a true Opus.

Libeau Family of Banks Peninsula Book

It's going to be a Magnum Opus project and it's going to take time but your committee is determined to make updated copies of the family genealogy book available to members in the future.

It is currently out of print and can no longer be reprinted as the publisher has retired and has declined to make the material available to us. We therefore decided to purchase an unbound copy of the book. Each page has been scanned so that we now have a digital version to which we have the rights. However, we know there are inaccuracies in the 2012 edition which need to be put right. There are also new entries to be made in future. It is our intention to be able to offer members pdfs of their family sections of this mighty tome.

Pricing has yet to be determined but we are thinking along the lines of \$20 per sub-section. We may be able to have the whole book professionally printed in either hand-bound or soft cover versions so we are currently looking into processes and costs. Printing the entire book will not be cheap but that was also the case in the past. Printing on demand is the way to go so that future copies that are printed will be as up-to-date as we can make them. Updates will only be able to be done by particular committee members, in order to minimise errors.

In order to obtain your appropriate section you will need to identify your grandparents and great-grandparents so that we can find and send you the correct one.

If you would like a copy of the old 2012 edition it will likely cost around \$145 soft cover or \$195 hard bound but this is yet to be confirmed.

A Paypal account will be set up so that payments for these and future items will be simple to action for members.

TSS Maori in
Akaroa Harbour



OOCH AYE -SCOTLAND CALLS!



Marie , second eldest daughter of Joseph Lucien and Clemence Libeau, married her sweetheart , James Dick Clark on 27 December 1876 in Akaroa . He was an immigrant from Falkirk, Scotland. We know his father was William Clark who married Janet Dick on 20 July 1834 –as in the Old Parish Records of Falkirk As yet, further delving into their ancestry has not been completed.

Was William connected to the Clark clan in the Highlands? More research on the way ! The clan’s name derives from the Latin clerk or cleric and its link with the Church meant that the name was common in many parts of Scotland. It evolved as a proper surname from the 15th century and in the Highlands the name Clark or Clerk is recognised as a sept of the clan Cameron or MacPherson. The Clark tartan was worn both by clan members and men of the cloth .The



crest has the simple motto “Sure and Steadfast”.

James from Scotland and Marie, born in NZ of French parents , produced a family of 2 daughters and 6 sons. Maybe this union of Scottish and French ancestry enabled their eldest daughter , Clemence Marie, to be the longest living family member – she died in her 106th year.

The surname Clark carries on proudly down the years till to-

day , borne by the descendants of the 6 sons-Albert, Joseph, Andrew, William, Frederick and James (Dick).

Written by great granddaughter D. McKenzie

Photo one - Clémence Marie White nee Clark taken on her 100th birthday

Photo two - the Clark clan tartan

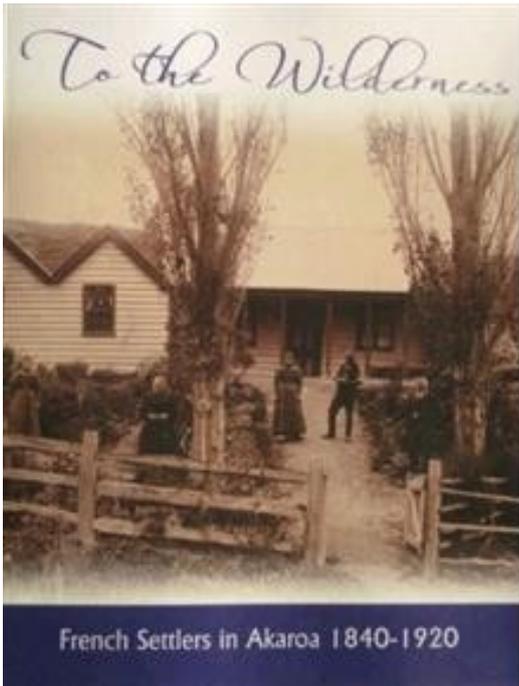
Photo three - the Clark clan crest

Libeau Descendants Society AGM 2023

This year the date is 28 May, commencing at 2pm. It is held at the Alliance Française on Cashel St, Christchurch.

Our lovely Treasurer/other stuff committee member Bruce is retiring from his role. Would you be interested in stepping up to be part of our organising committee? It's not onerous, you just need to be organised.

Update on *To The Wilderness* book

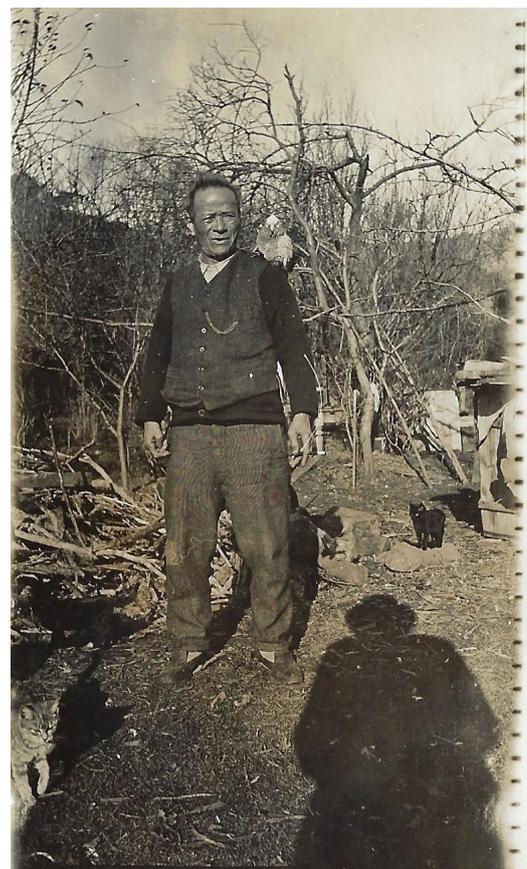


This beautiful and exceedingly useful family book is currently out of print and we are looking at options for getting it republished. In the meantime corrections to some text are being made.

Singh Chow

Among many interesting characters who lived lives there or passed through Akaroa was Singh Chow, a Chinese gardener well known there in the early 20th century.

Here he is in Rue Balguerie.



Christmas Luncheon Photos



Norm & Elaine Clark



Patricia's daughters Jen and Maryann



Saffron and Jasper Parsonson



Suzanne McNabb, Heather, Desiree



Margaret Holliday and daughter Pamela Davies



John Leafberg / Desiree McKenzie

Reminder French Fest in Akaroa 6-8 October 2023

Our fingers are crossed that it'll actually go ahead this time. I can hardly believe I've been waiting since the last time I participated in 2019. We expect it will have the same as the previous format. Run over 2-3 days it is an event not to be missed with plenty of activities for family and friends. The re-enactment rehearsal happens on the Friday with the enactment itself and parade on Saturday morning. Stalls and entertainment can be found in the domain. Saturday night offers terrific entertainment. Some events have entry fees. Many are free. We'll keep you informed as details come to hand. Please organise your accommodation NOW as Akaroa is filling fast and it's not the cheapest place these days.

We will have a modest stand at the event with a few things available for sale. If possible, bring a suitable costume to wear during the weekend. The locals get a kick out of seeing our support for this big event on their calendar.— *Frances*



Contact for info and participation:

Brigid Rennell—Akaroa Heritage Festival Society President

If you want to take part in the landing re-enactment make contact with Lesley.

lesleyburkesharding@gmail.com 021 527 184 , Blythcliffe, 37 rue Balguerie, Akaroa.

Libeau Subscriptions

Have you paid your [subscription](#) yet? It's only \$15 per year to keep in touch with other members via newsletters, have activities organised by your committee and learn about your personal history. Membership requests payment for 2022 and 23 \$15.00 p/a so \$30.00 due. [Last year's are being invoiced out soon for catch-up as well as this year's and will come with the option to pay by bank transfer or international PayPal]

Committee Contacts

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Births, Deaths and Marriages

Rosaleen Emma McNabb

Rosaleen Emma McNabb was born 28 October 1947 at Akaroa, the second child and only daughter of Bob & Maureen McNabb.

Her middle name was named for her paternal grandmother Emma Josephine née Brocher (1878-1951), eldest daughter of Josephine Libeau (1854-1926), who was the first child of Joseph Libeau Sr. with his second wife, Mary Anne Hedgman.

Rose's father Bob was a postmaster, and the family was deployed to Orepuki, a small town on the south coast of Southland, where Rose began primary school. After a few years at the picturesque but freezing Orepuki, and another year and a bit at Edendale in Southland, Bob was reassigned to Rakaia around 1958. Rose and her brothers attended the St. Ita's Catholic convent school.

By 1966 Rose had moved into Christchurch, working as a toll operator in the post office phone exchange; a job her mother had also done at Rakaia prior to marriage. There she met Jim Watt, an Air NZ flight attendant. They married in 1967 at St. Ita's, and moved to a flat in Porirua

where they had two children, Tracey and Bridgette.



However, the couple separated and Rose met John Rees, a sailor in the Royal NZ Navy. They married in 1975 and moved to Auckland, having two children Rochelle and Jason.

Rose and John ended up separating and Rose spent some time living with her daughters in America, Australia, and Auckland. In 2016 she came back to Christchurch to live with her brother Julian.

In about November 2022 Rose was diagnosed with final stage lung cancer, and she passed away on the 2nd of January 2023 at George Manning Lifecare in Christchurch. There are 6 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. A memorial afternoon event will be held in Christchurch in May.

Jason, Bridgette, Rochelle, Rose, Tracey

Article and photo courtesy Matt McNabb

Pompey the Penguin

At the early part of the twentieth century a local celebrity came into being at Akaroa. Our ancestors knew him. Teasets and books featured him. Here are two articles which tell us about this dear wee chap. I found his photo among my mother's photo collection. [Frances]



Pompey, a yellow crested penguin, was found in 1904 by Louis Vangioni of Akaroa, starving and washed up at the remote Fishermans Bay beach. After attempts to return him to the sea failed, he lived in a barrel in Vangioni's yard, and waddled along the street each day to go out to sea on his fishing trips. By this time, Akaroa was a tourist destination, and this tame and charming little penguin was a major attraction. Louis sent to England for specially made fine tea-sets stamped with Pompey's image and they sold like hot cakes. Pompey survived until 1917. - **Canterbury Museum**



Pompey, the Akaroa penguin, who is admired by so many visitors, and who has been immortalised by every photographer who comes to Akaroa, is not free from molestation, and we cannot help thinking (says the Akaroa Mail) that unless he is protected against continual annoyance even his excellent temper will end in his taking his departure to pastures new.

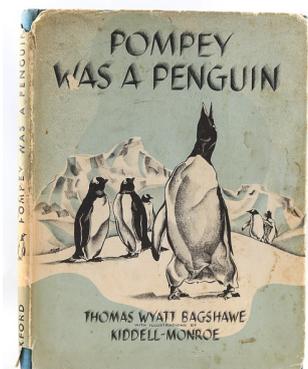


Pompey was first trained by Mr Louis Vangioni, being brought from Fisherman's Bay, on the other side of the Peninsula, and kind treatment, feeding, and sleeping accommodation being provided by Mr Vangioni, made the timber yard in Lavaud Street his headquarters.

Every morning he wends his way to the harbour side, and goes on fishing excursions, return-

ing in the evening. He always walks along the footpath, and acknowledges the petting and admiration he gets from ladies, gentlemen and children with due deference and a sober appreciation. As long as visitors confine themselves to stroking this fine yellow-crested bird it is all right, but a good many pick him up and handle him roughly. Pompey is quite capable of looking after himself as far as dogs are concerned, and by his strong beak he has taught them to treat him with profound respect.

Ohinemuri Gazette, Volume XXII, Issue 2854, 11 October 1911, Page 3
Photo Shuttleworth Collection CHCH Libraries





Paton's Coach at Hilltop



Rue Grehan and Akaroa