

Spring 2018

Special Edition number 5



Bulletin of the descendants of Alexandre de K/voach

Witness to Kirouac activities since 1983



Chevalier François Kirouac



Kirouac  
Kirouack



Kérouac  
Kérouack



Keroac  
Keroack



Kéroack  
Kyrouac



Breton  
Burton



Curwack  
Curwick



## INTRODUCTION

Besides Jack Kerouac, The Franco-American author, and Brother Marie-Victorin, born Conrad Kirouac, there is also Chevalier François Kirouac, Conrad's grand-father, who is not only one of the key figures in our family, but also was a prominent citizen in Quebec City during the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

One of the most important businessmen, also known for his deep religious convictions, Chevalier François' reputation was such that he was held in the highest respect and considered the model citizen as well as model husband and father. For decades he was involved in benevolent societies and volunteered time, energy and resources to improve the life of the working class families of Quebec's lower-town. He was also very active and most effective in municipal politics.

First, we reprint an article about Chevalier Kirouac, written by Marie Kirouac, and published in 1986, on the occasion of a Kirouac family gathering held in Quebec City. We added many footnotes to this text as well as stories and homages.

We also present some letters exchanged between members of the family, especially the account that Cyrille, Brother Marie-Victorin's father, wrote about the last moments of his father, in a letter written to his sister, Malvina, a nun of the Congregation of Notre-Dame living in Montreal.

François Kirouac,  
for the Kirouac Family Association

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**Authors and collaborators for special issue number 5**  
**(in alphabetical order)**

Jacques Canac-Marquis, Marie Kirouac, Céline Kirouac,  
François Kirouac, Lucille Kirouac, Marie Lussier Timperley

**Graphic Design**

Front cover: Jean-François Landry  
KFA Logo on back cover: Raymond Bergeron  
The Bulletin: François Kirouac

**Lay-out**

François Kirouac

**Translation**

Marie Lussier Timperley

**Proofreading and Editing**

Mark Pattison

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L'Association des familles Kirouac inc.  
Kirouac Family Association Inc.  
3782, Chemin Saint-Louis, Quebec (Qc) Canada G1W 1T5

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# CHEVALIER FRANÇOIS KIROUAC

by Marie Kirouac

Article published in French in 1986 (translated in May 2018)

**D**id you know that in 1886, a Kirouac family member, François, was made a Knight of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre and, in 1894, His Holiness Pope Leo XIII<sup>1</sup>, honoured him with the title of Papal Chamberlain of the Sword and Cape?

## Knight of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre

Knight of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre is an ecclesiastical and secular order created when Gregory XIII was pope<sup>2</sup>. It was founded at the time of the Crusades by Godfrey of Bouillon<sup>3</sup>.

Three conditions were required to be granted such an honour and become a member of this sacred order. This explanation is found in an address given by Father Ferdinand Grenier<sup>4</sup>, o.m.i., on 25 June 1886 when François Kirouac<sup>5</sup> was invested with the title of Knight.

“First condition: Professing and practising the Catholic faith and have an honourable and irreproachable conduct;

“Second condition: To be of a noble lineage or occupy a social position enabling one to live as (in Latin) *race nobilium*;

“Third condition: to have rendered outstanding services to religion, particularly to the Holy Land; a candidate must fulfill, to the highest degree, all these conditions during his lifetime.”

On 2 June 1886, in *Le Nouvelliste*<sup>6</sup> one reads that François Kirouac declares to be unworthy of such an honour, but adding: “I will not be wearing this title for very long, so this honour will remain for my family a precious souvenir and an encouragement to faithfully practice the motto of my Breton ancestors: “All for the glory of God.”<sup>7</sup>

The whole family was gathered to honour its patriarch. Abbe Jules-Adrien Kirouac<sup>8</sup>, one of François' sons, who had recently returned from Rome and the Holy Land, also held a place of honour at this ceremony. Besides Father Grenier and Knight Martineau<sup>9</sup>, others guests included: Mr. Louis-Grégoire

attached to Saint-Pierre Residence at Montreal. In 1853, he was in Saint-Sauveur, a Quebec City suburb, and in 1863, he was the Superior of his community in Plattsburgh, New York, USA. In September 1863, he became chaplain at the Ottawa General Hospital and, in 1868, Superior of the Novitiate in Lachine (Montreal). In 1886, when François Kirouac became a Knight, Father Grenier was the parish priest of Saint-Sauveur, Quebec City, and Superior of the Oblate Fathers (1885-1891). He was also in Quebec City between 1876 and 1879. (Source: Quebec Genealogy, Fichier Origine, general repertory of Canadian Clergy by Cyprien Tanguay). On 28 May 1937, a street in the Saint-Sauveur district of Quebec City was named in his honour.

<sup>5</sup> See page 18, one of the addresses given that day.

<sup>6</sup> Daily conservative newspaper published in Quebec between 1876 and 1886 founded by Eugène Rouillard (1851-1926), notary, journalist, government employee, author and geographer.

<sup>7</sup> Motto of the Family of the Marquis of Keroüartz in Brittany. At the time François Kirouac, and many descendants of Alexandre de Kervoach, who settled in New-France during the eighteenth century, and the first one to use the name, his descendants believed that they belonged to that noble Breton family. Genealogical researches initiated by the Kirouac Family Association between 1978 and 2013 enabled us to correct this historical error.

<sup>8</sup> Jules-Adrien Kirouac (1869-1945), ordained to the priesthood in Rome on 26 May 1893, was a parish vicar at Charlesbourg (Quebec) from 1894 to 1897, parish priest at Stoneham, near Quebec City 1897-1898, at Stadacona (Quebec) 1902-1903, at Saint-Malachie, Bellechasse County, from 1903 to 1910 and finally at Sainte-Justine-de-Langevin from 1910 to 1936.

<sup>9</sup> Joseph-Élie Martineau (1844-1927) was an important lumber and hardware merchant in Saint-Roch. In 1883, he was invested in the Order of the Holy Sepulchre in a ceremony held in his home. He was president of the Catholic Association of Mutual Help (volunteer position).

<sup>1</sup> Leo XIII, born Vincenzo Gioacchino Raffaele Luigi Pecci, was the 256th pope in the Catholic Church. He succeeded Pope Pius IX on 20 February 1878, and reigned until his death in 1903. He is interred in the Lateran Basilica. Leo XIII is known essentially for his Encyclical *Rerum Novarum*, published in 1891, the first social encyclical. (Wikipedia).

<sup>2</sup> Ugo Boncompagni, born in Bologna on 7 January 1502, died in Rome on 10 April 1585. He succeeded Pope Pius V on 14 May 1572 taking the name of Gregory XIII (Wikipedia).

<sup>3</sup> Godfrey of Bouillon, born circa 1058, died on 18 July 1100, was a descendant of Charlemagne and became the first ruler of the Kingdom of Jerusalem at the end of the First Crusade. (Wikipedia).

<sup>4</sup> Father Ferdinand Grenier was born on 1 January 1827 in Roscoff, Finistère, Brittany, France. He was ordained a priest of the Oblates of Mary-Immaculate on 22 September 1849 at Nancy, France. He was a missionary in Algeria, immigrating to Canada on 16 November 1850. At first, Father Grenier was a missionary in the Saguenay region; then in 1851, he was

# François Kirouac's Ancestors

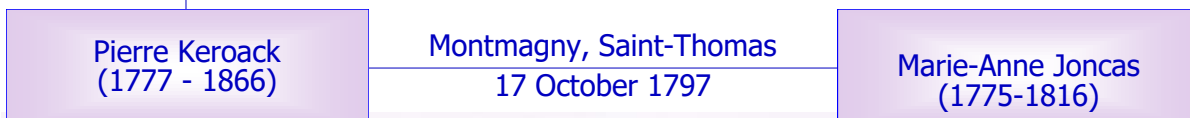
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## Generation 2



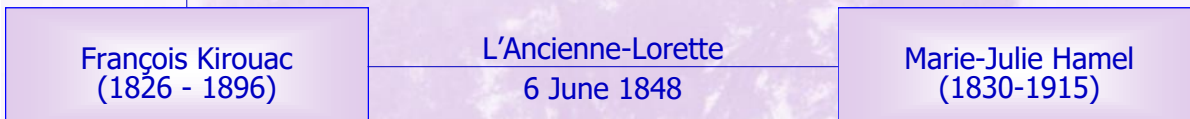
## Generation 3



## Generation 4



## Generation 5



François Kirouac, March 2017

Kirouac<sup>10</sup>, father of the new Knight, aged 85; Father I.-J.-Zéphirin Resther<sup>11</sup>, s.j.; Father J.-Édouard Désy<sup>12</sup>, s.j.; Abbe J.-Octave Faucher<sup>13</sup>, parish priest of L'Ancienne-Lorette; Abbe P.-François-Joseph O'Reilly<sup>14</sup>, from the Quebec Seminary; Brother Elphinian, head of the Brothers of the Christian Schools\* of Saint-Sauveur<sup>15</sup>; Knight Clément Vincelette<sup>16</sup> and Knight J.-Alfred Langlais<sup>17</sup>; Mr. François-Xavier Lepage and Mr. Joseph Lepage; Mr. Napoléon Matte, inspector for the Banque Nationale; and Mr. Hilarion Patry, editor of *Le Nouvelliste*. This ceremony of investiture took place at the residence of François Kirouac, located on Saint-Vallier Street, at the corner of Langelier Boulevard. (\*known as De La Salle Brothers in USA)

### EQUESTRIAN ORDER OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE OF JERUSALEM (Holy Land)

This is the second oldest religious order created soon after the order of Saint-Jean de Jerusalem. The Equestrian order of the Holy Sepulchre was created by Godfrey of Bouillon on 1 January 1099, as a religious and military order to look after the Saviour's Holy Sepulchre, and also to defend Christians against attacks from Muslims, and to buy back Christian slaves. At first, enrolment conditions were extremely strict: A man had to be of noble birth and the knights had to attend holy Mass daily, they had to defend religion, avoid duel fighting, intemperance, impurity, blasphemy, usury and even commerce, they had to protect widows and orphans, etc.



Catherine Des Trois Maisons dit Picard  
and Louis-Grégoire Kirouac,  
mother and father of François Kirouac.  
(Photo : KFA collection)

<sup>10</sup> Louis-Grégoire Kirouac, 1801-1890, resident of Warwick, Arthabaska County, province of Quebec.

<sup>11</sup> Father Ignace-Jean-Zéphirin Resther, born in Montreal on 26 August 1823; ordained to the priesthood at Joliette in 1846, entered the Jesuit order in 1866, died at Quebec City General Hospital on 10 June 1893. (Source: Biographical Dictionary of French-Canadian Clergy, article by J. B. A. Allaire)

<sup>12</sup> Father Joseph Edouard Désy, Jesuit, born on 8 July 1841 at Île-du-Pas (near Sorel, Quebec) was ordained to the priesthood in 1873. He died on 15 May 1918. Wanting to establish a retreat centre near Quebec City, he founded Villa Manrèse\* on Sainte-Foy Road in Quebec City in 1891. (\*see website)

<sup>13</sup> Abbe Joseph-Octave Faucher, born in Deschambault, Portneuf County, (Quebec) on 23 November 1843, he studied at Nicolet and Quebec City. In 1886, when François Kirouac received his title of Knight of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, Abbe Faucher was the parish priest of L'Ancienne-Lorette, and had been since 1881. In 1893, he rebuilt the presbytery, then the church in 1907. (Source: Biographical Dictionary of French-Canadian Clergy, J.B.A. Allaire)

<sup>14</sup> Abbe Patrice-François-Joseph O'Reilly, born in Saint-Sauveur (Quebec) on 7 August 1858, was ordained to the priesthood by Cardinal Taschereau on 4 January 1887. (Source: Biographical Dictionary of French-Canadian Clergy, J.B.A. Allaire)

<sup>15</sup> Brother Elphinian (Jean Labrecque) born in Saint-Laurent Parish on Orléans Island on 25 February 1833, died at the Mont-de-Lasalle infirmary at Montreal on 1 November 1915, was the director of the Academy in St-Sauveur between 1883 and 1899.

<sup>16</sup> Clément Vincelette (1830-1894) was a notary in Iberville (Quebec) from 1853 to 1864; then he became the superintendent of the lunatic asylum in Beauport (today Robert-Giffard Hospital)

from 1864 until 1 May 1893. He was also president of Quebec City's Catholic Circle. He lived at the asylum and was known as "le bon Dieu des Loges" (the good lord of the recluses). A great many religious and political leaders were attracted to Mr. Vincelette's home. He and his wife jointly ran the institution and it became one of the main social centres of Quebec City. After the departure of Mr. And Mrs. Vincelette (née Adeline Resther), the Sisters of Charity of Quebec took charge of the 956 residents. (Source: Mr. Robert Boily, secretary of the Montreal-Lieutenancy of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem)

<sup>17</sup> Joseph-Alfred Langlais (1838-1928) was a close friend of Clément Vincelette and the owner of Librairie Langlais Limitée (Langlais bookshop) founded in 1865 and incorporated in 1904 under the name J.-A. Langlais & Son Limited, located on Saint-Joseph Street in Saint-Roch district in Quebec City. He rapidly enlarged his commerce; not only did he supply books and sundry to the provincial government and became the printer for the Public Education Department, but he also sold religious objects, was the general agent for Canada of the famous French bells Havard\*, and owned the new Canadian Calligraphy Course, in nine volumes. (Source: Mr. Robert Boily, secretary of the Canada-Montreal-administration of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem) (\*well worth reading about those famous bells on the internet)



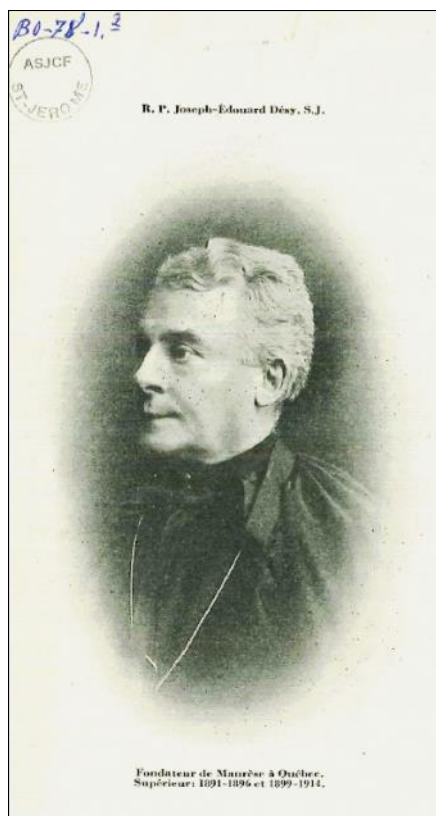
## Some of those attending the 25 June 1886 ceremony at the home of François Kirouac, the new Knight of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre



Knight Joseph-Élie Martineau (1844-1927),  
lumber, iron, flatware and hardware  
merchant, invested in the Order of the Holy  
Sepulchre in 1883. (Photo: Equestrian Order of  
the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem)



Joseph-Alfred Langlais (1838-1928),  
owner of *Librairie Langlais Limitée*  
(bookshop). (Photo: Equestrian Order of the  
Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem)



Father Joseph Edouard Désy, s.j., (1841-  
1918). Founder of Villa Manrèse on Sainte-  
Foy Road in Quebec. (photo: Archives of the  
Jesuit Fathers in Saint-Jérôme (Quebec))



Residence of Chevalier François Kirouac, on Saint-Vallier Street in Quebec City. For more information about this house, see pages 22 & 23.

However, in return for these obligations, the original Knights benefited from important privileges at the time, that we consider rather old fashioned nowadays. The list of said privileges is preserved in a brief written by the Most Reverend Guardian of the Holy Land deposited in the Vatican Archives in 1553. Among other things, it is mentioned that this Order is placed in importance immediately after the *Order of the Golden Fleece* (TN: order of chivalry founded in 1430); the Knights also had the right to legitimize bastards, change their names, and grant them a Coat of Arms; right to cut the rope of a hanged-man and bury his body, to create notaries and own ecclesiastical properties notwithstanding the fact that they were married; add to this, they were exempted from lodging soldiers and freed from the *gabelle*<sup>18</sup> as well as taxes on beer and wine. Of course these Middle-Age laws have long been disregarded as they would be quite useless nowadays. The condition known as “noble birth” is replaced today by that of a social position enabling the Knight to live comfortably; other conditions for induction are services rendered to the church and the obligation to lead an honourable life (in latin: *more nobilium*), and to observe the rules and regulations of the Order.

### Knights' Decorations and Uniform

The *Jerusalem Cross*, also called the Crusaders' Cross, consists of a large red cross potent between four smaller red crosses, one in each quadrant, red enamelled on gold. The Knights Grand Cross wear the large Cross of Jerusalem suspended to a black sash draping from right shoulder to

left hip; the Breast Star is worn on the chest; the Grand Officers and Commandants wear the decoration attached to a black ribbon around the neck; the Grand Officers are also allowed to wear the breast star; knights and dames wear the simple decoration resting on the chest attached to a black ribbon. The uniform consists in a white frock coat with white stomacher, collar and cuffs in black velvet embroidered with gold olive leaves; a black cocked bicorn hat with white plumes and a red and white cockade; a golden sword with the Order's red enamelled cross on the hilt; golden spurs and colonel's epaulettes emblazoned with the Jerusalem Cross. And a white mantle attached at the neck, bearing the Red Jerusalem Cross on the left (Source: Morin, Victor\*, *Les Ordres de chevalerie religieuse au Canada*, Hull 1940 (Canadian Religious Knighthood Orders, published in Hull, Quebec, in 1940) (\*see website)

Thanks to Abbe Armand Gagné, director of the archives for the Quebec Diocese, who, in 1986, supplied us with an important documentation about the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem and illustrations of the uniforms of a Papal Chamberlain of the Sword and Cape. We are most grateful to Abbe Gagné for letting us consult and photograph these precious documents.

### Chamberlain of the Sword and Cape

In 1894, the occasion marking the induction of François as a Chamberlain of the Sword and Cape by Pope Leo XIII was held at Villa Ploërmel<sup>19</sup>. Among the guests were: Bishop Alfred-Cyrille Marois<sup>20</sup>, Vicar General of his Eminence Cardinal Elzéar-

(18) *Gabelle* was a very unpopular tax on salt in France established in the mid-14th century, lasting almost five centuries.

(19) Summer residence of François Kirouac at L'Ancienne-Lorette, near Quebec City. He had given the name Ploërmel to his home in memory of his Breton ancestors, including the first one who settled in New-France, Alexandre, sieur de Kervoach. See following pages for more information.

(20) Alfred Cyrille Marois (1849-1927), also a papal chamberlain inducted by pope Leo XIII.



Photo : Pierrette Laurin collection

Villa Ploërmel was François Kirouac's summer residence at L'Ancienne-Lorette (Quebec). In 1894 when he was honoured with the title of Chamberlain of the Sword and Cape by Pope Leo XIII, the ceremony took place in this house.

Alexandre Taschereau<sup>21</sup>, Abbe Garneau, the bishop's secretary, Father Ferdinand Grenier, Superior of the Oblates of the Immaculate-Conception, Father Lagier, o.m.i., Abbe Joseph-Octave Faucher, Parish Priest of L'Ancienne-Lorette and Abbe Morin, vicar, Abbe Turgeon, professor at the College in Lévis, the honorable Thomas Chapais<sup>22</sup>, Mr. Ernest Gagnon<sup>23</sup>, etc.

Here are a few notes on the origin of the Order of the Chamberlain of the Sword and Cape from an Italian book entitled ORDINI EQUESTRI ROMANI.

“The General of the Papal armies is always one of the papal Chamberlains of Sword and Cape.

<sup>21</sup> Elzéar Alexandre Taschereau, born on 7 February 1820 at Sainte-Marie-de-Beauce, died on 12 April 1898 at Quebec City, was the archbishop of Quebec City from 1870 to 1898 and the first cardinal born in Canada.

<sup>22</sup> Joseph-Amable-Thomas Chapais (1858-1946), born at Saint-Denis-de-la-Bouteillerie, Kamouraska County (Quebec), on 23 March 1858, was the son of the Honorable Jean-Charles Chapais, a Father of Canadian Confederation, and Henriette-Georgina Dionne. He received a bachelor's degree in 1876 from Université Laval and was called to the Bar of Quebec in 1879. From 1879 to 1884, he was the Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor of Quebec, Théodore Robitaille. Turning to journalism, he became the Editor-in-Chief of the daily newspaper, *Le Courrier du Canada*, in 1884 and from 1890 to 1901 was the owner. From 1907 to 1934, he was a Professor of History at Université Laval. In 1891, he ran unsuccessfully as a Conservative for the Canadian House of Commons in the riding of Kamouraska. He was appointed to the Legislative Council of Quebec in 1892 representing the Laurentides. From 1893 to 1894, he was the Leader of the Government. In 1893, he was appointed Minister without Portfolio in the cabinet of Louis-Olivier Taillon. From 1895 to 1897, he was the Speaker of the Legislative Council. From 1896 to 1897, he was the President of the Executive Council in the cabinet of Edmund James Flynn and a Cabinet Minister. He was also a columnist at *La Presse* (Montreal daily) from 1897 to 1911. In 1902, the French government conferred on him the title of Knight of the Légion d'Honneur and Commandant of the Order of Saint-Grégoire-le-Grand in 1914. In 1917, he refused a seat in the Senate but was summoned to the Senate in 1919. A Conservative, he represented the senatorial division of Grandville, Quebec, and served until his death in 1946. From 1936 to 1939 and again from 1944 to 1946, he was the leader of the government in the Legislative Council. From 1936 to 1938, he was a Minister without Portfolio in the cabinet of Maurice Duplessis (Premier of Quebec). He was appointed again in 1944. In 1912, he was made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and was its president from 1923 to 1924. From 1925 to 1926, he was the president of the Canadian Historical Association. In 1930, he was a member of the Canadian delegation to the League of Nations. In 1935, he was made a Knight Bachelor by George V. (Wikipedia & Encyclopedia of Quebec History)

(23) Ernest Gagnon, born at Louiseville (near Trois-Rivières) on 7 November 1834, died at Quebec City on 15 September 1915, was an organist, composer, writer and historian. (Source: Wikipedia)





Where the chevalier François Kirouac's Villa Ploërmel was located at L'Ancienne-Lorette near Quebec City. The house was eventually expropriated in order to build the elementary pavilion Notre-Dame part of the Hauts-Clochers school at 1591 Notre-Dame Street. François Kirouac's house was located behind the house now at 1579 Notre-Dame Street next door to 1591.



The Villa Ploërmel at L'Ancienne-Lorette stood where today is the elementary pavilion Notre-Dame part of the Hauts-Clochers school. But it is interesting to note that the pavilion's orientation is north-south where as the Chevalier's Villa was oriented east-west, and the church was behind the house. (Photo: François Kirouac, September 2017)





The children of Édouard Laurin and Eudora Kirouac, the last owners of Villa Ploërmel at L'Ancienne-Lorette. Left to right, at the back: Marcel Laurin, Pierrette Laurin, Rachel Lebel, Jean-Paul Laurin, Jacqueline Laurin; in front: Jean-Yves Laurin, Claude Laurin and Jeannine Laurin. (Photo: Maurice Drolet collection)



Scale model of the Villa Ploërmel, L'Ancienne-Lorette Historical Society. (Photo: François Kirouac, November 2007)

"Their honourable function is to stand in the Pope's antechamber during the audiences, as well as during the consistories, in the papal chapel or in the basilicas.

"They always walk in front of the Pope when he returns to his papal apartments.

"They always take part in Papal processions behind the *Sedia Gestatoria*, the papal throne on which the Pope sits -- high above people's heads -- when being carried into the Vatican Basilica.

"The Papal Chamberlains of Sword and Cape still take part in the distribution of the Palms.

"They wear formal court dress or civil suit. Small silk tunic and silk belt, an antique-style sword with a black quality leather hilt, a hat decorated with '*plumage*' feathers and a steel link.

"A gold-plated silver chain, composed of three small chains, attached with three silver medallions engraved with the letters C.S. '*Cabilaris Secretus*'. That chain also holds the *Tiaro* and the papal keys".

### Who Was François Kirouac?

Who was François Kirouac? He was a highly respected man who cared deeply for his community. Here is how Mr. A.B. Routhier<sup>24</sup>, wrote about him in his book entitled *Québec et Lévis, à l'aurore du XX<sup>e</sup> siècle*, (Quebec City and Lévis at the dawn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century) published in 1900:

"He is one of the most interesting persons in the chronicles of Quebec City; one of the men who

contributed most to the progress and development of our old city; the true model of the honest citizen; a person of integrity, devoted, unselfish and forward looking. "Saint-Sauveur was the main beneficiary of all his devotion and works. Chevalier Kirouac was one of the pioneers of this working-class district. He had a hand in every public enterprise that would promote material and moral progress of the locality. He contributed with zeal and solicitude to every single endeavour of public interest in Saint-Sauveur.

"He was born in 1826, in a poor farming family in Saint-Pierre-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud. At the age of fourteen he felt the need to leave his family and home in spite of his minimal education and only enough money to reach Quebec City. However, eight years later, when only twenty-two years old, and after serving his apprenticeship with one of the best businesses of the time in the lower-town, that is Mr. Hardy's, he opened his own novelty shop. Starting with novelties, he went on to groceries in 1850, and from there to wholesale of grains and flours. Finally in 1890, he retired but he left his important business enterprises in the capable hands of two of his sons, Napoleon and Cyrille, who took over managing a growing business that never stopped prospering since. "As a businessman his responsibilities were great and he honestly built up a fortune to take care of the large family that the Lord gave him, and that never stopped him from devoting much of his time and money to help his fellow citizens and to be of precious service to one and all during over forty years.

"He was elected mayor of Saint-Sauveur, and prefect of Quebec County in 1869. For fourteen years, he was the first magistrate of what was then a suburb of Quebec City; and he became the first Alderman representing the important district of Saint-Sauveur at the Quebec City Council.

"From 1850 until 1896, for half a century, he was the president of the Conference Saint-François-Xavier of the Saint-Vincent-de-Paul Society<sup>25</sup>. For over eighteen consecutive years, he was the president of the Union Saint-Joseph<sup>26</sup>, in Saint-Sauveur, being also one of its founding members. For over thirty years he was the treasurer of the Men's (lay) Congregation in Saint-Roch<sup>27</sup>, and on two occasions the members of

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<sup>24</sup> Adolphe Basile Routhier, born on 8 May 1839 at Saint-Placide in the Charlevoix County (Quebec), died on 27 June 1920 at Saint-Irénée-les-Bains (Charlevoix County), was a writer, essayist, novel writer, literary critic, lawyer, judge and professor. He wrote a poem entitled *Ô Canada* which became the national anthem of Canada. (Source: Wikipedia).

<sup>25</sup> The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is a lay Catholic organization, founded in France in 1833, whose mission is: To live the Gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice and joy. The Conference St-François-Xavier was a service outlet of the SSVP in Saint-Sauveur (Quebec).

<sup>26</sup> Union Saint-Joseph was a religious welfare society to protect families in case of illness or death of one of a member. There were up to 510 such societies in the province of Quebec. In Saint-Sauveur it was created on 10 February 1865. It was instituted on the model of a fraternal society, either as an insurance cooperative or a religious or national association to benefit the working class.

<sup>27</sup> The men's lay congregation was a religious welfare society founded on 24 December 1839 by Abbe Zéphirin Charest, parish priest of Saint-Roch, Quebec. François was its volunteer treasurer from 1861 until his death at the age of seventy in 1896.

this lay congregation felt they should publicly reward him for his services. The first time, they presented him with his portrait painted in oil<sup>28</sup> by a renown artist, and the second time, by offering him a precious mosaic<sup>29</sup>, made in Rome under the watchful eye of the General of the Jesuits. It represented Our Lady of Perpetual Help<sup>30</sup>.

“Finally, he was one of the directors of the North-Shore Railroad<sup>31</sup>, the vice-president of the Banque Nationale for nine years, from 1888 to 1895; he



Marie-Julie Hamel-Kirouac,  
wife of Chevalier François

Photo : KFA collection



Abbe Jules-Adrien, parish priest of Sainte-Justine-de-Langevin, in his office; on the wall above right is the oil portrait of his father, Chevalier François (Photo : KFA collection)

was also president of the Loan and Investment Society of Quebec City over twelve years from 1884 until his death in May 1896.

“His ardour and dedication for everything pertaining to religion eventually earned him significant rewards and distinguished honours from the authorities. [...] “Chevalier Kirouac was the patriarch of a large family of fifteen children. In 1847, he had married Marie-Julie Hamel<sup>32</sup>, daughter of Joseph Hamel, farmer at L'Ancienne Lorette, and Angélique Moreau, from Sainte-Foy. Ten of his children will survive him.”

“Two sons carried on in their father's successful footsteps: Napoléon-Georges Kirouac<sup>33</sup> and W. Cyrille Kirouac<sup>34</sup>. François appointed them his successors, the heirs of his powerful house.”

(28) This painting of François no longer exists. One can see it in part on the photo at the top of the next page, at right. It hung in his son's office, Abbe Jules-Adrien Kirouac, in the presbytery in Sainte-Justine-de-Langevin (Quebec).

<sup>29</sup> This mosaic no longer exists. Marie-Julie Hamel, wife of François Kirouac, had given it to her son, Jules-Adrien, when he became parish priest at Stadacona (1902-1903); for some time it adorned the chapel. But, one day, an unfortunate move by the sexton, it fell and broke. (Source: Notes written by Napoleon-Georges Kirouac, François' son, in the compendium of letters and travel logs that he left to his father's descendants.)

<sup>30</sup> François was a man of few words. Here is what he said when he was presented with the Virgin Mary's mosaic: “I am proud to be the Holy Virgin's businessman. This artistic image, blessed by our Holy Father Pope Leo XIII, will remain a great favour and a great lesson for my family. When I am gone, this Madonna will remind my children how their father always intended to be at the service of the Holy Virgin and will inspire them to imitate him and even surpass him.” Taken from the history of the Parish of Notre-Dame-de-Jacques-Cartier, written by Albert Jobin, Quebec, in 1940.

<sup>31</sup> The first train between Quebec City and Montreal running on the north shore of the Saint-Lawrence River was inaugurated on 8 February 1879.

(source: Quebec's Popular History, tome III, 1841-1896, by Jacques Lacoursière, published at Les Éditions du Septentrion)

<sup>32</sup> Marie-Julie Hamel-Kirouac was the sister of Marie-Louise Hamel-Paquet (1821-1910); married to Zéphirin Paquet (1818-1905), who founded Compagnie Paquet Limitée in 1850, who was one of the largest Quebec City businesses for over 130 years.

<sup>33</sup> Napoléon-Georges Kirouac was born in Quebec City in 1864 and died there in 1938.

<sup>34</sup> Cyrille Wilbrod Kirouac (1863-1921), father of Conrad Kirouac, a.k.a. Brother Marie-Victorin.



I found a small brochure<sup>35</sup> that helped me to better understand François Kirouac's era; it was published by the Oblates of Mary-Immaculate clearly describing life in the Saint-Sauveur district at the time when François was mayor. Here is part of a lecture given by Father Gabriel Bernier, o.m.i., in the church of Saint-Sauveur on 27 February 1978, organized by the Historical Society of Quebec:

"On 17 January 1870, François Kirouac, wholesale flour merchant in Quebec's lower town, was elected mayor, and would remain mayor for thirteen years. But, as is often the case, one gets tired of good people like good things, in 1883, François Kirouac, who had been working hard at improving people's quality of life in the district, was beaten by the anti-progress party interested only in preserving Saint-Sauveur's *status quo*. Mayor Kirouac was defeated by those shouting slogans like "Down with taxes! War on income taxes".

"Marcel Rochette, a shoe manufacturer, became head of the municipal administration; he was followed by other mayors: Pierre Boutin (1884), Michel Fiset (1885), but again by François Kirouac (1887). In 1889, under mayor François Langelier Saint-Sauveur was annexed to Quebec City.

"The situation in Boisseauville<sup>36</sup> was particularly difficult. Here is what Father Ludger Lauzon wrote in 1872: "Try to imagine the low and swampy land due to the water falling from Sainte-Geneviève's cliffs and the total lack of drainage or aqueduct, and ungravelled streets. The impassable thoroughfares are strewn with parts of carriages, broken wheels

and axles. As for sidewalks, two or three planks along the side of the road are often broken or improperly nailed, so people frequently end up stepping into the mire, and the mud splashes up into one's face; at night, irksome accidents happen when the only available light is a flickering candle in a lantern.

"Every day, water is delivered from house to house by large carts and buckets. When there are no horses to deliver water and woods to homes, small carts pulled by dogs are used. Added to this, that many houses do not have proper bricked chimneys but only tin pipes sticking out from the roofs of the houses, hence Boisseauville is nicknamed the Pipe suburb!"

#### **Advantages of Annexation With Quebec City**

"Annexation caused a hot debate at the town council as well as among the population. The protagonists exposed their arguments. An investigation across the province demonstrated that every twenty-five years there was a major fire and the latest had been in Saint-Sauveur in 1866. Thence, another catastrophic fire was likely to happen soon; therefore it was urgent to get properly prepared.

"The fears were well justified given that on 16 May 1889, at 10:30 p.m. on Saint-Vallier Street, a fire started in the home of the widow McHennon and burned down a third of the parish, that is about 500 houses; however, the church, the presbytery, the schools as well as the Halle Saint-Pierre (market) were spared.

"This third major fire destroying the same part of the lower town finally forced the area to be transformed. No more discussion were necessary. On 26 September 1889, the annexation to Quebec City was done, and François Kirouac, who had always had at heart the interests of Saint-Sauveur, was chosen at the first Alderman to represent the district on the Quebec City Council. It was a well-deserved honour and, once more, the population trusted the man who had served them so well during thirteen consecutive years.

"From 1890 to 1895, drainage work was done, aqueducts were installed; roads covered with gravel, fire station and police station built, telegraphic alarm system, telephone and lights were also installed, everything was done to completely -- and magically -- transform Saint-Sauveur, as reported in the parish archives." Reading various documents relating to the life and time of François Kirouac, one is struck by how much he cared about his family and his roots.

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<sup>35</sup> *Le quartier Saint-Sauveur de Québec, jalons historiques*, by Gabriel Bernier, o.m.i., 1978. A forty-page history booklet about the Saint-Sauveur district published for the 125th anniversary (1853-1978) of the arrival of the Oblates in the parish of Saint-Sauveur.

<sup>36</sup> From the name of Pierre de Boisseauville, seigneur of the area who had bought the land in 1845. It became the most important urban section of the actual Saint-Sauveur district. Boisseauville was detached from Saint-Roch to become part of the municipality of the parish of Saint-Sauveur in 1872 and, in 1889, a district of Quebec City. (Source: Quebec City history, 19th Century city limits)



Part of the ruined Saint-Sauveur district in Quebec City, after the great fire of 16 May 1889. This photo taken not far from the Saint-Pierre Market, is in the Quebec National Archives in Quebec City. Number in the original collection: cote: P600, S6, D1, P749. The 1889 fire destroyed 467 houses and 1500 people were left homeless. A previous fire, on 10 June 1862, had destroyed 96 houses and left 150 families homeless. (Source: Quebec City Fire Protection Service: [http://www.spiq.ca/v2/toutfeu/mai/2005\\_05\\_20/](http://www.spiq.ca/v2/toutfeu/mai/2005_05_20/))

When François Kirouac chose the name Ploërmel<sup>37</sup> for his beautiful summer villa in L'Ancienne-Lorette, it was in memory of his Breton ancestors. Every Sunday, all his children and his numerous grandchildren gathered around a bountiful table, also enjoying an immense garden overflowing with flowers and wild berries. Among these grandchildren was Cyrille's son, Conrad who, a few years later would become Brother Marie-Victorin, and later founded of the Botanical Institute of Montreal University and the Montreal Botanical Garden. In an article in the newspaper *L'Action catholique* dated 27 October 1921, Brother Marie-Victorin talks about his grandfather: "... And this brings back the souvenir of a great citizen whom everybody in the past in Quebec knew and admired and to

whom we owe so many great works and that others still exist. As I read over what I just wrote, many older men will see in their mind's eye the impressive white-haired gentleman born from a robust line of energetic and praying Bretons, the venerated chief of a large family, benefactor of his beloved town and father to the all poor and unhappy people in his community."

In the *Très-Saint-Enfant-Jésus* Bulletin (March-April 1945) published by the Brothers of the Christian Schools (De La Salle Brothers), there is an article about the life of Brother Marie-Victorin, where we can read a beautiful text in which Conrad talks about his dear grandfather: "Our family was exceptionally Christian. Grandfather Kirouac, Knight of the Holy Sepulchre and Papal

Chamberlain of Sword and Cape to his holiness Pope Leo XIII, was a true patriarch and a saint. I can still see him on New Year's morning when, exactly at seven o'clock, as we were all gathered in the large dining room, his bedroom door would open and, there he stood with his striking white beard; he would bless with a solemn gesture the fifty or sixty people kneeling in front of him. Then, one by one, we would receive our New Year gift."

They say there is a great woman behind every great man, and Marie-Julie Hamel was no exception to that rule. Marie-Victorin introduces her to us: "Grandmother was the most

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<sup>37</sup> In 1882, François Kirouac bought the house built in 1838 by Joseph Hamel, his brother-in-law. The house was situated behind the parish church in L'Ancienne-Lorette, it was later demolished to make room for a school.

Christian person in the valley of the Saint-Charles River.” In his **Récits laurentiens**<sup>38</sup>, Marie-Victorin tell the story of the **Rosier de la Vierge** (38A) his grandmother Kirouac had told him. Also in his book entitled **Croquis laurentiens**<sup>39</sup>, published in 1920, Marie-Victorin offers us **La Chanson des Ormes**<sup>40</sup> most probably inspired by the three gigantic elms on the Hamel property in L'Ancienne-Lorette. Is this not a wonderful homage to his grandmother's family?

François and Marie-Julie and their fifteen children, are the ancestors of most Kirouacs living in the Quebec City area.

If you wish to find out more about the sons and daughters of Marie-Julie and François, you can consult **L'Album**<sup>41</sup> published in 1980 for our very first large family gathering; prepared by Mrs. Raymonde Kerouac-Harvey, it is a true guide for anyone searching for information on the lives of various Kirouac families.

Today, if we can read the Kirouac family correspondence it is thanks to Napoléon-Georges Kirouac, François' son, who took on to have it bound in book-form and distributed a copy to each family of his father's descendants. It is a most precious document, a very practical source of information to be consulted by those interested in their ancestors' past.

I personally thank Mrs. Éméric Kirouac Lavoie, daughter of Napoléon-Georges, for lending me her precious copy. When I visited her (in 1986), she told me that the Chevalier was her godfather. At 96, she still vividly remembered the great man, and precisely in which room in his large house on Saint-

Vallier Street her grandfather died, then only six years old.

In the Quebec City archives we found a copy of By-Law number 289 enacted on 18 April 1890, where it is mentioned in article 90, that the two streets called Jacques-Cartier and St-Flavien, in said-district of Saint-Sauveur, from now on would be merged into one street renamed Kirouac.

<sup>38</sup> Marie-Victorin, (Conrad Kirouac) **Récits laurentiens**, Montréal, Québec, Frères des écoles chrétiennes, 1919, 217 pages. (Laurentian Tales)

<sup>39</sup> Marie-Victorin (Conrad Kirouac), **Croquis laurentiens**, Montréal, Frères des Écoles chrétiennes, 1920, 304 pages. (Laurentian Sketches)

<sup>40</sup> See page 70 on the following hyperlink (in French only):  
<http://familleskirouac.com/genealogie/Marie-Victorin.pdf>

(41) See hyperlink (in French only):  
<http://familleskirouac.com/publications/index.html>



Mrs. Éméric Kirouac-Lavoie in 1980  
(1890-1987)

Photo : Marie Kirouac, AFK collection



The majestic elm on the Hamel family farm in L'Ancienne-Lorette (photo: KFA collection)



This was a wonderful homage from Quebec City to François Kirouac, while he was still alive, and a city councillor. The first reading of the municipal bylaw was on 28 March 1890 and published in the *Chronicle*<sup>42</sup> and in *L'Événement*<sup>43</sup> on 14 April 1890, with notice of the second reading to be on 18 April 1890. It was posted in the City Hall's entrance in both languages on 28 April 1890.

Mrs. Alexandre Kirouac lent us an important document in which we found many original letters written by Chevalier François and his son, Abbe Jules-Adrien Kirouac<sup>44</sup>. Among other things, we can read about their travels in Europe in 1892. Here is a short extract from one letter Jules-Adrien sent to one of his sisters on 20 October 1892:

"We travelled through Spain, France, Switzerland, Italy, then we saw the Pope on the 11<sup>th</sup> of this month: this was the crowning moment of our journey. His Holiness still has a strong voice, but his back is bent: he is over 83 years old and it shows on his forehead as white as wax. The papal audience was rather short and, according to what Mr. Leclerc said, this was papa's fault. In Rome, to get anywhere or anything, you need to use all means available.

"But papa, being too humble, refused to mention his various titles like President of the Saint-Vincent de Paul Society. So he was treated like any ordinary person."

This says a lot about François' character, about his great heart and soul. ... During his journey, François took the opportunity to make a pilgrimage to Mont-Saint-

Michel and Notre-Dame de Pontmain in Normandy, to Sainte-Anne d'Auray in Brittany and also to Lourdes, in southwestern France.

I enjoyed very much reading all the letters but I was even more impressed by the address his children presented him on 29 January 1892:

"... If children should never be ashamed of their parents, whatever their behaviour or reputation, all the more can we be proud to bear the name Kirouac (and we can say this without vanity), because you made it shine, dear father, by your dedicated and honourable life as well as your charity and abnegation.

"Yes, in many circumstances, your name, and your name only, has been a shield and always we found doors wide open for us when people discovered that we were your children, so, dear father, every one of your children here tonight can attest to the fact that none of us would ever back from the greatest sacrifices to procure you pleasures and to make sure that we never cause you any unpleasantness. You always win through paternal love and never by being authoritarian. We way sometimes forget about all your passed work and fatigue, but rest assured that our affection will always be there for you to make you happy, and make sure that your old age will be one of felicity and peace. "Do tell our dear mother (we do not want to tell her ourselves because it might make her cry, and we do not want to see her cry, not even one tear of joy) so please tell our dear mother, that we hold her responsible for at least

half the happiness that you bestowed on us through life until now, and that, night and day, her endearing name and yours will always be in the prayers we address to God to make sure we are always happy to repay you both for the immense debt of gratitude that we owe your two loving hearts, that God gave us to protect

<sup>42</sup> Founded in 1847 by Robert Middleton and Charles Saint-Michel, this newspaper was first known as the *Morning Chronicle*; the name changed a few times but the paper is still published today as *The Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph*.

<sup>43</sup> Daily newspaper founded in Quebec City by Hector Fabre. The first issue of *L'Événement* was published in 1867. Bought by *Le Soleil* in 1936, it became *L'Événement-Journal* on 29 October 1938. The last issue was published on 3 March 1967. (translation of the French source: *La mémoire du Québec*)

<sup>44</sup> The letters are in a precious document printed in book form by Napoléon-Georges Kirouac, one of François' sons, who distributed a copy to each household of François' descendants. It also includes the travel log that François wrote in 1892 during his journey through Europe with his son Jules-Adrien (see *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, special issue number 6 – presently available in French only; to be translated) as well as Jules-Adrien own story about his trip to Egypt, the Holy Land, Asia Minor and Greece two years later. (This document is available in French only at: <http://familleskirouac.com/publications/Carnets%20de%20voyage%20JAK.pdf>)

#### CHAMBERLAIN OF SWORD AND CAPE

Mr. François Kirouac, former mayor of Saint-Sauveur, member and president of the Saint-Vincent de Paul Society for forty years, has just been honored by his Holiness Pope Leo XIII with the title of Chamberlain of Sword and Cape. Tomorrow we will publish a report about the private ceremony when the parchment conferring the title was granted to our honourable fellow citizen.

Published in French in *Le Courrier du Canada*, on Monday 16 July 1894. (Source: BAnQ)



and guide us on this earth of pain and difficulties (...)"

In his lifetime, François Kirouac received numerous testimonials of admiration, love and gratitude and still today. My grandfather, Pierre-Amédée Kirouac (1837-1932), often spoke about "his late brother, François, Papal Chamberlain of the Sword and Cape of his Holiness Pope Leo XIII". There was emotion and pride in his voice when he spoke, so Julie, my stepsister, used to tell me. Here is an article published in *La Patrie*<sup>45</sup> on Sunday, 26 November 1950, talking about the death of Chevalier François Kirouac:

"It is Brother Marie-Victorin's father, Cyrille Kirouac, who described the death of his venerable father, the Chevalier François, in a letter dated 25 May 1896, sent to one of his sisters. Their father, had died on 12 May 1870 at the age of seventy years and three months. He wrote about the last moments of the elderly gentleman, particularly the most poignant one when he blessed his children gathered around his bed.

"He asked us all to kneel around him, writes Cyrille, and with a clear and deep voice he blessed us one by one, sometimes stopping for a moment to catch his breath: ... Mother was standing beside him, and he blessed her last asking her to dry her tears and to take good care of his children; then turning towards the others, at length, he recommended us to take good care of our venerable mother and to really give her all the attention, care and respect that she deserved ... he died at 7:20 in the morning. Cyrille added: 'This is a saint man who just died and as you

read in the newspapers you can see how much our dear father was held in high esteem by one and all: this is a proper tribute to a good father, an excellent husband, a fervent Christian and a dedicated citizen.'"

I hope I have been able to pass on to you all my admiration towards a man who arrived in Quebec City in 1840 at the age of fourteen, knowing barely how to read and write and with only a few pennies in his pocket. It is with great determination, work and courage that he succeeded in business; his wholesale company of flour and grains procured him the financial prosperity enabling him to raise his family comfortably. During forty years, François was earnestly involved in numerous charity works in the greater Quebec area.

In closing, I will quote one sentence taken from the book of the family correspondence: "As for you, children of Chevalier Kirouac, rejoice and thank heaven because, within your family, you found accomplished models of all the Christian virtues, keep on walking into your mother and father's footsteps and, like them, you will make your families and your country proud: Vive le chevalier Kirouac!"

Marie Kirouac  
(article published in 1986)

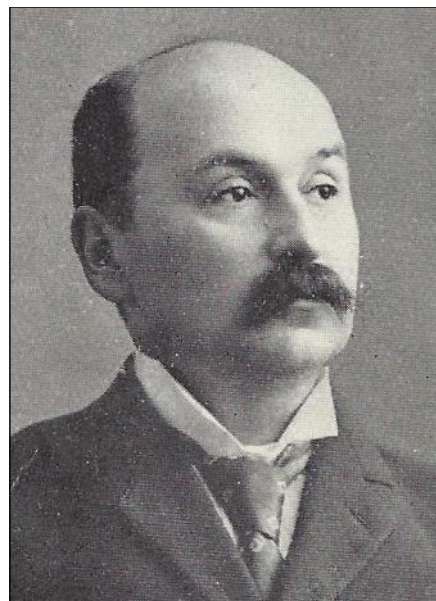


Photo : collection AFK

Joseph-Arthur Kirouac (1853-1935), one of the sons of Chevalier Kirouac and the founder of the Kirouac "toy business" in Quebec City.

<sup>45</sup> The newspaper *La Patrie* was founded in February 1879 by Honoré Beaugrand (1848-1906), writer, journalist, and politician, in collaboration with influential members of the Liberal Party. It was unofficially taking over from the *National*, a newspaper launched in 1878 to wage war against the Conservative Party. The new daily was created to serve the cause of the Liberal Party in the Montreal area. At first, 5000 copies were printed, it varied over the years according to mandates and aims. It reached almost 27,000 copies in 1901; 30,000 in 1933, and close to 200,000 in 1962. *La Patrie* stopped being a daily in 1957 and became a weekly. Financial difficulties forced the last owner to close it down in 1978. (Source: BAnQ)



# LE NOUVELLISTE

26 June 1886

Eugène Rouillard, Editor

*Extract of an address presented on 25 June 1886,  
by Father Grenier, o.m.i., at the investiture of Chevalier François Kirouac*

Honorable Knight,

As this honourable diploma is presented to you, I am happy to offer you our sincere and fitting congratulations. I say sincere and fitting indeed because as I read about the origin of the sacred and military Order of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre and its establishment in Canada, I notice that according to its statutes, in order to become a member, three conditions must be fulfilled. First: professing and practising the Catholic faith and have an honourable and irreproachable conduct; second: to be of noble lineage or occupy a social position enabling one to live as *race nobilium* (in Latin); third: to have rendered outstanding services to religion, particularly to the Holy Land. A candidate must fulfill these three conditions and have done so to the highest degree in his lifetime.

First of all, you are a Catholic, not only by name but also a practicing one, and I take pleasure in saying in front of this assembly, that having known you for the past thirty years, you have always been one; your conduct has always been "honorable and irreproachable". In Saint-Roch and Saint-Sauveur, and I do not hesitate in adding, everywhere in Quebec City, everybody will agree. These districts chose you on numerous occasions, as mayor of Saint-Sauveur, prefect of Quebec County, president of the Union Saint-Joseph, president of the local Saint-Vincent-de-Paul Society, prefect of the (men's) Congregation in Saint-Roch, permanent secretary-treasurer of this wonderful society, counsellor of the Central Committee for the Propagation of the Faith in the Archdiocese of Quebec and, finally, to cut short this long list of honorable mentions, I will add that you have been wisely chosen as president for one of our most flourishing financial institutions, the Loan and Investment Society (Société de Prêts & Placements); these are all testimonies rendered to your civic and religious virtues, and proof of the high esteem in which you are held by all your compatriots.

I could add some more intimate details, but I would be afraid to upset your modesty; so I only mention the titles known to everyone.

The second condition is to be of noble lineage or to belong to a prosperous social class enabling one to live comfortably *race nobilium* (in Latin).

The speaker also added: notwithstanding, your prudence, knowledge, demeanour and especially your integrity, all this added to heaven's blessings, it allowed you, while providing for all your children with the best education available, to reach a position in society, enabling you to live like a nobleman in the kind of comfort not always attained by others of noble birth.

Finally, the third condition requires to be known for services rendered to the Catholic Church and particularly to the Holy Land. You may not have been able to physically serve the Holy Land; however, I have no doubt that you have done so through your generous financial contribution at every annual collection for the Holy Land, particularly for the upkeep of our Lord's Holy Sepulchre.

As for services rendered to church and religion, you have done so each time you carried out responsibilities entrusted to you by your compatriots, as I listed a few of them before. In order to do so, you never took into consideration difficulties or tiredness, and, sometimes, I will even say that you had to show heroic courage and unselfishness. I will mention only one example: towards the end of your mandate, the forty-eight liquor outlets in Saint-Sauveur were reduced to twelve or thirteen, and the inns, unfortunately, often a cesspool of vice and debauchery, were all gone. To obtain such positive results, you were fearless in front of menaces that could have seriously damaged your own business enterprises. Again, Honorable Knight, accept our sincere and fitting congratulations; you really deserve them all.

These are the many reasons why as well as the expressed wish of many of your compatriots, that, a few years ago and without your knowledge, I requested another knighthood for you.

Recently, others were more successful than me and I sincerely congratulate them. It is a great happiness for me to present you the Certificate of this illustrious Order founded by the brave Godfrey of Bouillon, the first ruler of the Kingdom of Jerusalem, and honored by Beaudoin, his successor, and by so many other heroes, just as noteworthy by their Christian and military virtues.

In my mind, your past is a warrant of the future, and is a guarantee that you will honour the important pre-eminence that is bestowed on you on this auspicious day.

As for you, my lady, who, in good and bad times, have always been the truthful and highly virtuous companion of your husband, you who have shown all the virtues assigned to a strong woman by the Holy Spirit, as stated in the Holy Scriptures; it is only right and fitting that you should share in your husband's happiness and honour. Consequently, allow us to offer you our homage and congratulations. As for you, children of Chevalier Kirouac,

rejoice and thank the Lord because you found within you family accomplished models of all the Christian virtues, keep on walking into your mother and father's footsteps and, like them, you will make your families proud and you will be the pride of your country.

**VIVE LE CHEVALIER KIROUAC!**

## Francis Kéroack's Address

on the occasion of his father's investiture as  
Papal Chamberlain of the Holy Sepulchre  
Saint-Sauveur, 25 June 1886.

Dear father,<sup>1</sup>

As we remember your many titles, and the numerous reasons we have to love you and to be devoted to you, we cannot forget the person who shares everything with you. Indeed, this is the perfect day to do so; to speak to our dearest mother with words of love and gratitude because today is her birthday.

Dearest mother, how can we express our deep heartfelt love? Your kindness, your dedication, your

motherly love make you the perfect model of Christian mothers and you have every right to expect our eternal gratitude and our unwavering affection.

On the anniversary of the day the Lord brought you into this world for the happiness of a large family, this same family is sending to heaven fervent prayers asking God to keep you here with us for a very long time so you may keep uplifting us and guide us, as well as our children through the good example of your virtues and your wise counsel.

Before ending this address, I must say how happy we are today, on this auspicious circumstance, that your venerable and respectable father<sup>2</sup> is with us. Dear grandfather, we are so

happy to see that in spite of your great age, your health and strength never seem to diminish. May you live for many more years, and see the children of your grandchildren, and like the patriarchs of old, up to the fourth and fifth generation. This is our wish for you on this memorable day.

Your children could not let this very special day go by without expressing the feelings of joy, gratitude and filial attachment filling our hearts.

Dear father, first we rejoice of this incredible honour bestowed upon you today as you are inducted into the Papal Order of the Chamberlain of the Holy Sepulchre. Indeed, this honour, and we say so with legitimate pride, could not have been bestowed on someone more worthy than you. You have always been a perfect Christian in everything you ever did and at all time. You are the man of duty and example. The man who

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(1) Francis addresses himself to his mother, the Chevalier's wife, born Marie-Julie Hamel (1830-1915).

(2) Louis-Grégoire Kirouac (1801-1890).



Captain Joseph-Elzéar Bernier became a Chamberlain of the Holy Sepulchre in 1933. Here he stands wearing the Knight's regalia. These did not yet exist when François Kirouac became a Knight in 1886. At the time, Knights only wore a chest medal. Nowadays, the medal is worn on a ribbon around the neck. The uniforms appeared around 1910 when the rules of the Order were updated. On this photo, Captain Bernier is wearing the ceremonial dress, including a cape, a bicorn and a sword. Nowadays, the Knights' uniform includes the same cape and a beret. Bicorne and sword are no longer part of the regalia. (Source: Mr. Robert Boily, Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, Montreal-Lieutenancy.)



walks firmly towards his goal along the straight path. The man of all the good causes and the enemy of all the bad ones.

Well, dear father, this is what you have given us to admire in your exemplary behaviour since our youngest days. So it is quite normal that we rejoice today when seeing that your virtues (merits) are appreciated and rewarded, even on this earth, in such a notable way. To this first sentiment of joy we add the deepest gratitude for all you did and continue to do every day for us. You have always been the vigilant sentinel warning us about the dangers that our inexperience prevented us from seeing.

You have been a true guide to us, through the strength of your examples and the wisdom of your lessons you taught us the difficult art of how to lead a Christian social life. Most of all you have been to all of us a father whose unfailing goodness constantly provided us with steadfast and intelligent care. Our only regret, dear father, is that, perhaps, our response to your diligent care, has not always been up to par. Therefore, from now on we will do our utmost to make sure you forget the disagreement and pains we may unfortunately have caused you in the past, by surrounding your white hair with our warmest filial care. We will try to be the consolation of your old age and also keep intact the glory of the noble name that your virtues so enhanced.

Francis Kéroack<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Francis Kéroack, as he signed his name on this document.



The eight sons of Chevalier François Kirouac and his wife, Marie-Julie Hamel: from left to right, first row: Napoléon, Arthur, Francis, Cyrille; second row: Alphonse, Eugène, Jules-Adrien and Joseph. (Photo: KFA collection)



Upon retiring, Chevalier François ceded his enterprises to his two sons, Cyrille and Napoléon-Georges.



Cyrille Kirouac (1863-1921)  
(Photo: KFA collection)



Napoléon-Georges Kirouac (1864-1938)  
(Photo: KFA collection)

# RESIDENCE OF CHEVALIER FRANÇOIS KIROUAC



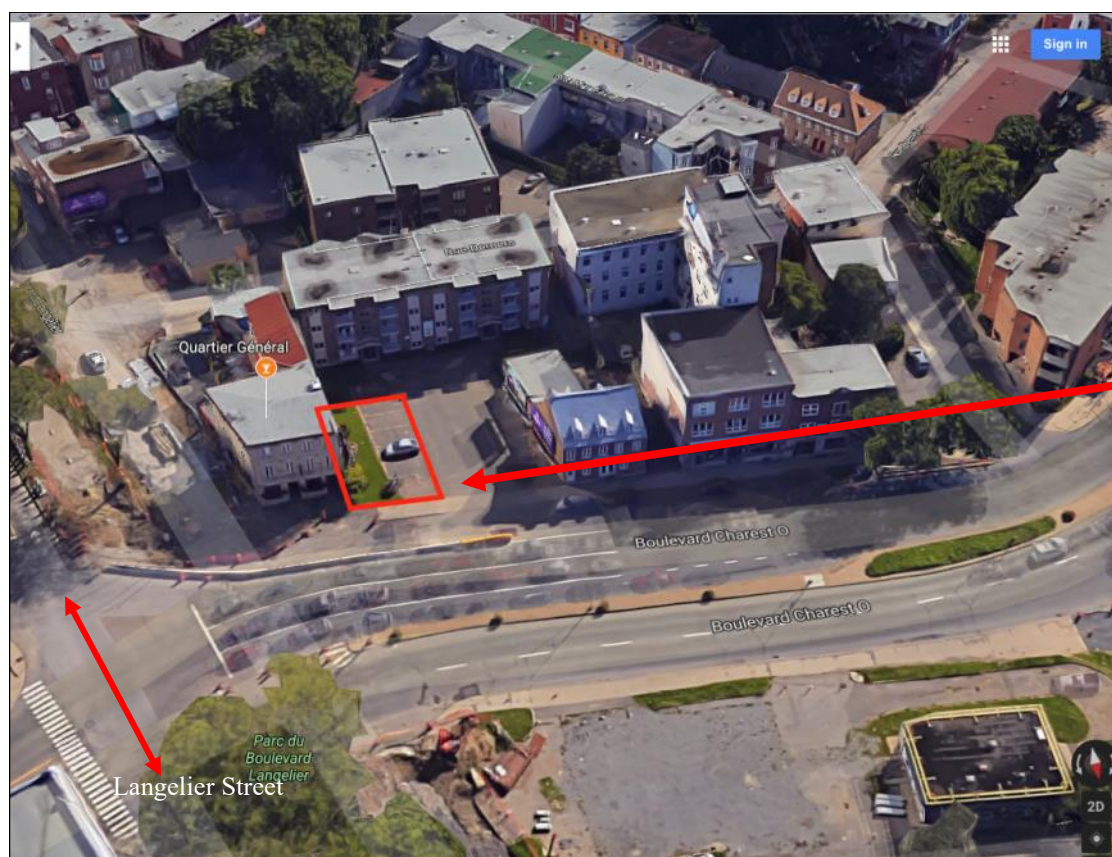
This photo taken at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century shows the main residence of Chevalier François, located at 627 Saint-Vallier Street in Quebec City. It was the second house on the southwest corner of Langelier Boulevard. In 1900-1901, Marie-Julie Hamel-Kirouac moved from this house to 104-106 Massue Street (Reference: Annuaire Marcotte). It was unfortunately demolished between 1901 and 1910. (Photo: KFA collection)

In this house, on 25 June 1886, François Kirouac was invested as a Chamberlain of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. In 1892, in the same house the Men's Congregation of Saint-Roch celebrated his twenty-five years as their volunteer treasurer and presented him with his portrait painted in oil. (see photo at the top of page 12 in the present document).





The site where Chevalier François Kirouac's house was located during the 19<sup>th</sup> century is now part of a parking lot for an apartment block at 11-15 West Charest Boulevard in Quebec City. On the photo below one can see the Langelier Boulevard intersection and a small part of Saint-Vallier Street now part of Charest Boulevard. (top photo: François Kirouac, July 2017)



Location of Chevalier François Kirouac's house during the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

(Localisation photo: Google map plus drawing by Jacques Canac-Marquis)

**ADDRESS PRESENTED  
BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CONGREGATION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN  
to the treasurer of the Men's Congregation**

To Chevalier François Kirouac,  
treasurer of the Men's  
Congregation of  
Saint-Roch-de-Quebec.

Dear Treasurer,

There are limits to silence; if there is a time to keep silent, there is also a time to speak up. Admiration cannot remain hidden indefinitely, and soon or later, gratitude overflows from people's hearts; therefore, we must express our admiration and gratitude; so we, the men's congregation of Saint-Roch, have gathered here today. You are the only one allowed to be surprised by such a wonderful and spontaneous demonstration.

For the last twenty-five years, Dear Treasurer, you have fulfilled this

difficult position, demonstrating skill surpassed only by your commitment. Added to this all the evenings, errands, correspondences, a thousand difficulties inherent to this huge amount of work, that you bore so patiently without ever getting any financial compensation, is it any wonder if we want to express our admiration and gratitude. Very seldom do we read in the annals of congregations such zeal and unselfishness. So we decided that it should no longer remain hidden.

We asked the Holy Virgin herself, as depicted in this mosaic as our Lady of Perpetual Help, (see footnote on next page) to remind you and also your family for ever and ever, our appreciation for all you have done.

This work of art will mean a great deal more to you when we tell you that it was blessed by His Holiness Pope Leo XIII. In addition, we chose to present it to you on the anniversary of Saint Francis-of-Sales, your glorious patron saint, as another reason for you to rejoice in your heart. Of course, we do not pretend, with this humble gift, to repay all your services, only God can do that by writing it in gold letters in the Book of Life; but in our hearts we will remember for ever, and this we are proclaiming high and low.

The Board members of the Men's Congregation of Saint-Roch.

Quebec, 29 January 1892

## **François Kirouac's Answer to the Members of the Men's Congregation**

Reverend Father Director,  
Gentlemen, Members of the Board,

I am deeply touched by your understanding and your magnificent gift.

As for gratitude, gentlemen, I am the one who must be grateful first to the Holy Virgin and next to the Congregation.

Among all her children, Marie was kind enough to choose me to be her business man during twenty-seven years: shouldn't I be grateful to her for this honour?

The zeal the reverend fathers-directors showed, and specially

yourself, Reverend Father Désy, for the past twelve years, was a great personal incentive, your sacrifices for the congregation were an example to follow.

Enthusiasm attracts enthusiasm and support. Since I became a member of the Congregation, all I had to do was look and imitate. And the Holy Virgin rewards me magnificently already, for my few small sacrifices. This work of art, blessed by our Holy Father Leo XIII will be for myself and my family, a great favour and a great lesson.

When I am no longer here, this Madonna will tell my children about the good will their father put at the service of the Holy Virgin (1)

and will encourage them to do the same and even better if they can.

May my holy patron, saint Francis-of-Sales, who knew how to say gracefully even unpleasant things, may he thank you on my behalf.

To our common mother, the Virgin Mary, Honour and Glory, in heaven and on earth.

F. Kirouac.  
Treasurer C.N.D. St-R.  
29 January 1892



# Chevalier François Kirouac relates this event in a letter to his daughter

Quebec, 30 January 1892

My dear daughter,<sup>1</sup>

Yesterday was the anniversary of my patron saint and I cannot wait any longer to write to you and tell you how the event went; (first, I must tell you that we are all very well here at home). And thank you very much for your good letter and good wishes; a letter from Jules arrived at the same time with his good wishes.

The whole family assembled at seven o'clock in the evening. And we were honored with the presence of reverend Father Lefebvre, the Provincial and reverend Father Boissinault whom you know.

At seven-fifteen, Francis read an address, in the name of all the children; this address was accompanied by a large armchair in papal colours. I improvised an answer to this address and when I mentioned that two of my children were absent and were very far away ... suddenly, Alphonse got up and asked for permission to read two letters that he had just received, and, in a way, filled the gap I had just mentioned; and first he read your letter and then Jules'.

I think this pleased the reverend fathers and the whole family. Then I carried on with my answer but then we heard someone knocking at the door, a loud knock ... and it is no other than reverend Father Désy, the superior of the Jesuits, and the reverend Father Hamon, s.j., accompanied by the Member of the Board of the Men's Congregations of Saint-Roch, who came to present me with an address, far too flattering, and a rich gift: A mosaic\* representing "Our Lady of Perpetual Help", with a volume about the numerous miracles obtained through the intercession of this great Madonna; and great rejoicing followed. I think you will like reading my answer to the Congregation members, and the children's address and my answer. I am including copies of those.

The children played music part of the evening; then your mother served a very nice light meal; it was a very joyous evening.

The address presented by the Men's Congregation was decorated and framed (glass, 24 X 30 inches, gold frame). What makes this mosaic so valuable is the fact that it was blessed

by the Holy Father on 19 November; it is a rich artwork, one would have to be a great connoisseur to fully appreciate its value; it is a lot more than I deserve, however, I accepted it with great pleasure. It will be a precious souvenir for the children when I will no longer be around: because I am no longer so young any more, I am inching towards 67 years now. So may God give me the grace to use wisely the time left to me and to serve him well!

Reverend Father Lefebvre brought me a lovely book, the report of the celebration of their fiftieth anniversary; he is supposed to send you a copy as a New Year gift, he always remembers you kindly.

Greetings and love from the whole family. Adieu, pray for me. Jules is very well and has no time to be bored.

Au revoir,  
Your father Frs. K.

<sup>1</sup> François sent this letter to his daughter, Malvina, Sister Marie Bernard, of the Congregation of Notre-Dame in Montreal. The other one of François' children missing at that evening, was Jules-Adrien who was in Rome studying for the priesthood. François joined him in Europe the following August. (See *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, special edition, number 6, in French only at the moment).

\*This mosaic no longer exists. After François' death, his widow, Marie-Julie Hamel-Kirouac, gave it to Jules-Adrien, who was then parish priest in Stadacona, in 1902-1903; for a long time it decorated the wall of a chapel. Unfortunately, due to a wrong move by the sextant, it fell on the floor and was irreparably broken. (Source: Note of Napoléon-Georges Kirouac, son of François, hand written in the compendium of letters and travel logs that he left to all his father's descendants.)



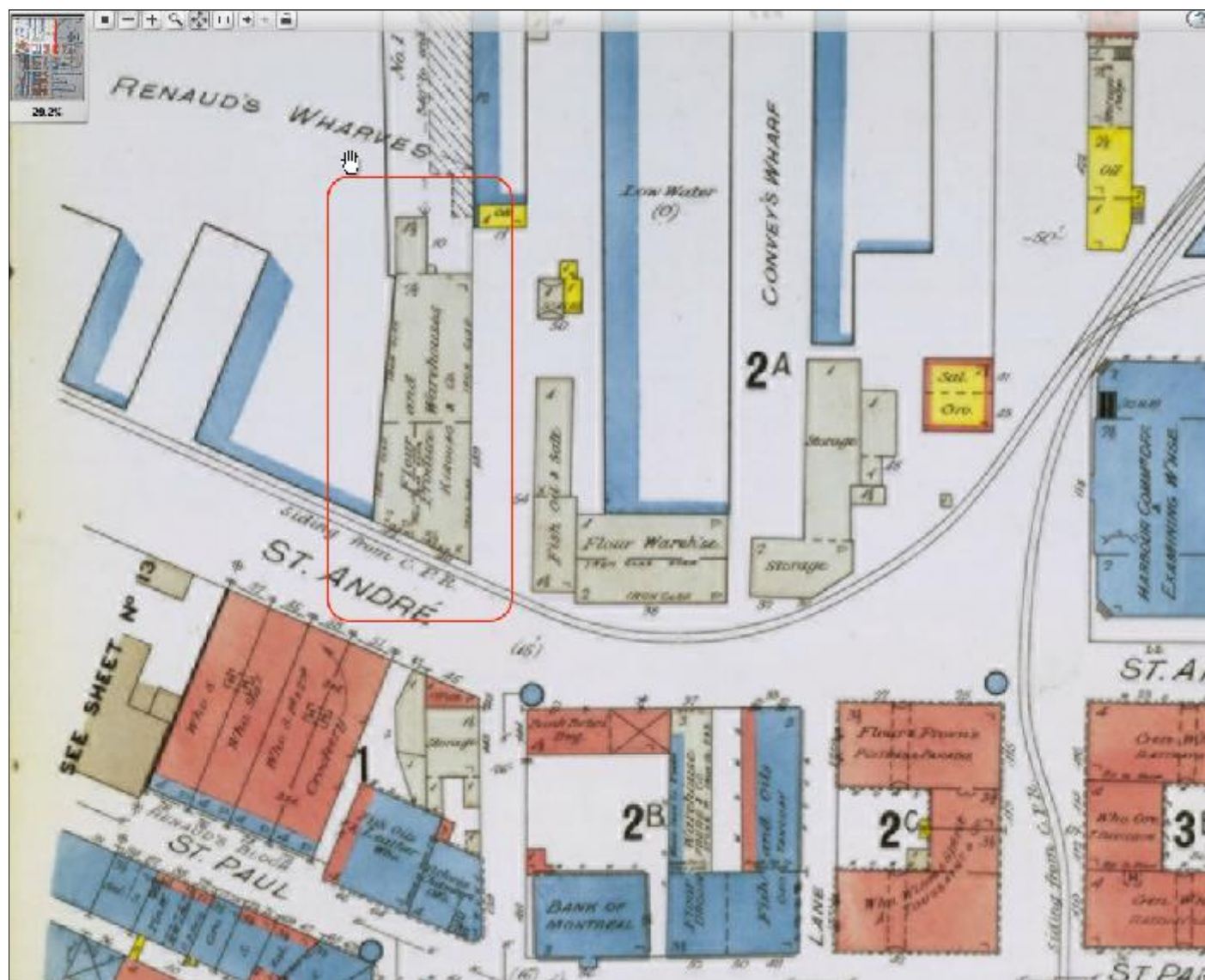


Letterhead of *Maison F. Kirouac & Fils* at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.



Warehouses of *Maison F. Kirouac & Fils*, in Bassin Louise in Quebec City, seen from Remparts Street, at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.  
(Photo taken from "Art Work of Quebec", 1899, courtesy of the Quebec City Archives Department)

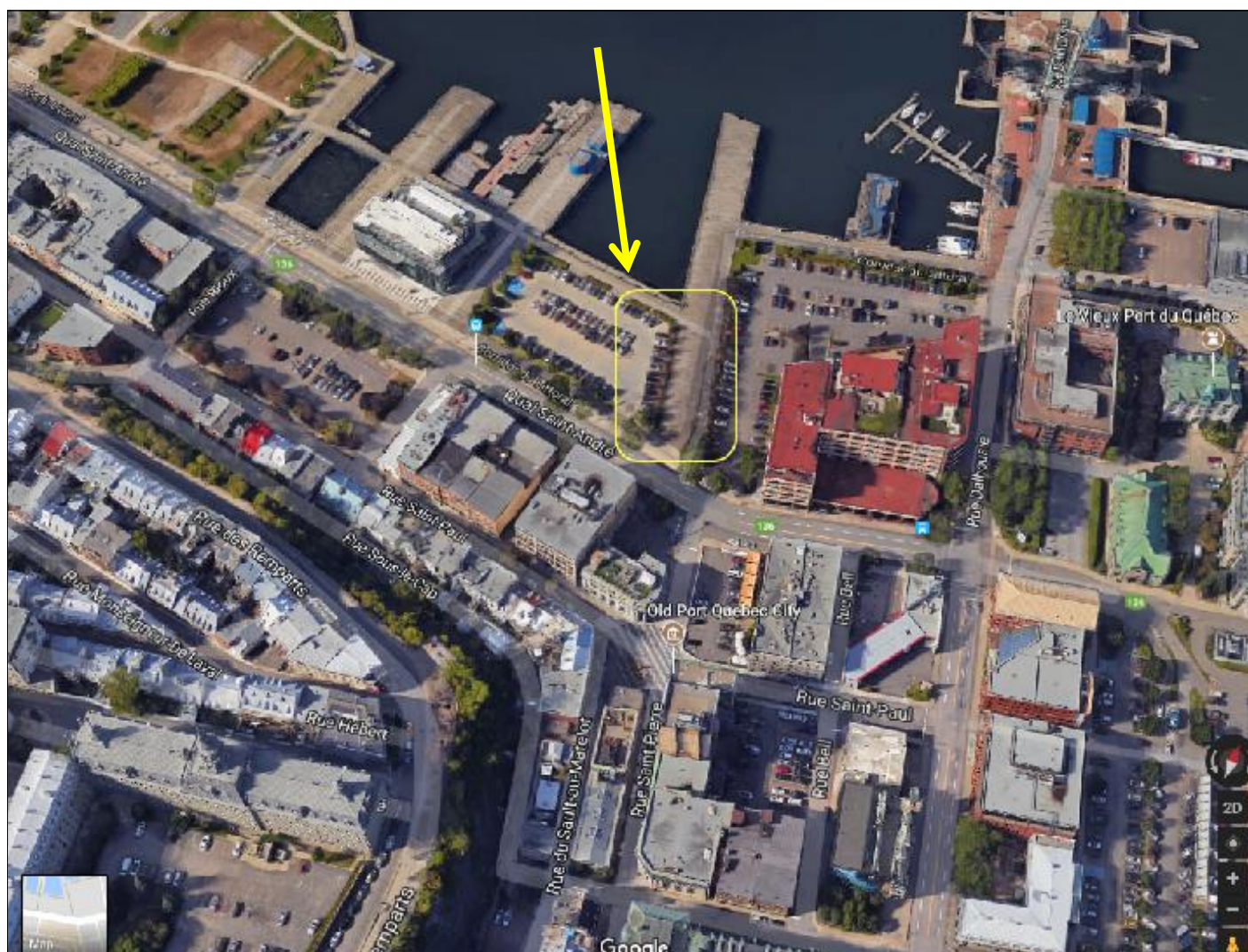
# LOCATION OF THE WAREHOUSES OF *MAISON F. KIROUAC & FILS* IN THE PORT OF QUEBEC IN 1898



Source: BAnQ and drawing by Jacques Canac-Marquis



**AERIAL PHOTO SHOWING WHERE THE WAREHOUSES  
OF *MAISON F. KIROUAC & FILS*  
WERE LOCATED IN THE PORT OF QUEBEC IN 1898**



**Location:** Photo from Google map and drawing by Jacques Canac-Marquis

# The late Mr. Kirouac

*Le Courrier du Canada, Friday, 15 May 1896, page 4*

This morning, the mortal remains of Mr. Kirouac were laid to rest in their final resting place.

The funeral ceremony was most impressive and was a testimony to the high respect and consideration the late Mr. Kirouac was held by all in Quebec City.

And it was well deserved. Mr. Kirouac's career was indeed, however quiet, an education for today's growing youth. It goes to prove that loyalty, open-mindedness and virtues are still the best guarantees of success. During his long career, Mr. Kirouac was the perfect model of a Christian, citizen, husband and father and family man.

He was born at Saint-Pierre-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud, on 29 January 1826. He was very active and at the age of 21 he launched his first enterprise opening a dry-goods store on Saint-Jean Street. Just three years later he was in a (financial) position to get married and he wedded Miss Julie Hamel, from L'Ancienne-Lorette. Heaven blessed their union by giving them fifteen children who were the joy of his old age.

In 1850, Mr. Kirouac quit the dry-goods business to open a grocery store in Saint-Roch.

At Saint-Roch like at St-Jean-Baptiste, he rapidly held important positions among his compatriots and soon was elected president of the Saint-François-Xavier section of the St-Vincent-de-Paul Society. He was one of the founders of Union St-Joseph in Saint-Sauveur, and its president for eighteen years. In 1866, he was elected church warden of Saint-Roch parish.

In 1868, with Mr. J.F. Gauvreau, he created a society and moved his business office to Quebec's Lower-Town. From then on, the Kirouac enterprise was launched and grew rapidly to become one of Quebec City's strongest.

In 1869, he was elected Prefect (warden) of Quebec County. In 1872, he was elected director of the North-Shore Railway Company, a post he held until the ownership of the railway was transferred to the Province. On 13 February 1874, six hundred voters from Quebec East asked him to present himself as a

conservative candidate at the local legislature; however, he refused this honour and refused it many more times afterwards. In 1876, he was appointed director of the mutual construction society, since renamed Investment and Loan Society.

In 1880, Mr. Gauvreau died, so having lost his associate, Mr. Kirouac carried on the business alone until 1882 when his son, Mr. Joseph-Arthur, joined him and the enterprise became known as *Kirouac & Fils* (K/ & son).

Mr. Kirouac has been a longstanding member of Saint-Roch's Men's Congregation. As the treasurer, he greatly contributed to the success of the Congregation and he enjoyed the respect of all his fellow members. In 1884, they decided to pay him homage and expressed their gratitude so, in December, they presented him with his portrait painted in oil by Mr. Payne\*. On that occasion there was a special function at the home of Mr. Kirouac, an occasion happily remembered by all those present.

This festive event was the first of many more rewards presented to acknowledge his dedication and charity. On 25 February 1886, Mr. Kirouac received the honorific decoration of Knight of the Holy Sepulchre and was inducted officially soon after by Knight Martineau, and the following year\*\*, Bishop Marois presented him with the papal order of Chamberlain of Sword and Cape. The ceremony was held at L'Ancienne-Lorette. Mr. Kirouac was mayor of Saint-Sauveur for many years and after the municipality was annexed to Quebec City, he represented it at the Quebec City Council. He was director as well as vice-president of the Banque Nationale.

Again we offer our deepest condolences to the afflicted family.

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\* See photo, top right of page 12 in present document.

\*\* It was not the following year as written in this article, but in 1894.

## Children of Chevalier François Kirouac and his wife, Marie-Julie Hamel

### 1. Francis Kirouac

Born, Monday, 25 June 1849 at Quebec (Quebec) (Notre-Dame Parish). Died, Wednesday, 9 December 1925 at Quebec (Quebec) (Saint-Sauveur Parish) at the age of 76.

### 2. Malvina Kirouac

Born, Friday, 18 April 1851 at Quebec (Quebec) (Saint-Roch Parish). Died, Saturday, 3 December 1932 at Montreal, (Quebec) at the age of 81.

### 3. Joseph-Arthur Kirouac

Born Thursday, 13 October 1853 at Quebec (Quebec) (Saint-Roch Parish). Died Wednesday, 14 August 1935 at Quebec (Quebec) (Saint-Roch Parish) at the age of 81.

### 4. Aurélie Kirouack

Born Saturday, 4 August 1855 at Quebec (Quebec) (Saint-Roch Parish). Died Monday, 11 July 1938 at Quebec (Quebec) (Saint-Sauveur Parish) at the age of 82.

### 5. Marie-Anne Kirouac

Born Thursday, 9 July 1857 at Quebec (Quebec) (Saint-Roch Parish). Died Sunday, 25 March 1928 at Quebec (Quebec) (Hôtel-Dieu Hospital) at the age of 70.

### 6. Charles Kirouac

Born Friday, 13 May 1859 at Quebec (Quebec) (Saint-Roch Parish). Died Tuesday, 29 December 1868 at Quebec (Quebec) (Saint-Roch Parish) at the age of nine.

### 7. Joseph Édouard Samuel Kirouac

Born Wednesday, 20 March 1861 at Quebec (Quebec) (Saint-Roch Parish). Died Sunday, 28 June 1863 at Quebec (Quebec) (Saint-Roch Parish) at the age of two years and three months.

### 8. Cyrille Kirouac

Born Thursday, 12 March 1863 at Quebec (Quebec) (Saint-Roch Parish). Died Monday, 24 October 1921 at Quebec (Quebec) (Saint-Sauveur Parish) at the age of 58.

### 9. Napoléon-Georges Kirouac

Born Thursday, 1 December 1864 at Quebec (Quebec) (Saint-Roch Parish). Died Thursday, 5 May 1938 at Montreal (Quebec) (Hôtel-Dieu Hospital) at the age of 73.

### 10. Philippe-Eugène Kirouac

Born Tuesday, 1 May 1866 at Quebec (Quebec) (Saint-Roch Parish). Died Tuesday, 13 July 1948 at Quebec (Quebec) at the age of 82.

### 11. Léon-Alphonse Kirouac

Born Monday, 5 August 1867 at Quebec (Quebec) (Saint-Roch Parish). Died Thursday, 31 January 1895 at Quebec, (Quebec) (Saint-Roch Parish) at the age of 27.

### 12. Jules-Adrien Kirouac

Born Thursday, 21 January 1869 at Quebec (Quebec) (Saint-Sauveur Parish). Died Sunday, 9 September 1945 at Saint-Damien-de-Buckland (Quebec) at the age of 76.

### 13. Aurélie Joséphine Alphonsine Kirouac

Born Wednesday, 30 March 1870 at Quebec (Quebec) (Saint-Sauveur Parish). Died Friday, 1st July 1870 at Quebec (Quebec) (Saint-Roch Parish) at the age of three months.

### 14. Joseph Kirouac

Born Tuesday, 29 August 1871 at Quebec (Quebec) (Saint-Sauveur Parish). Died Tuesday, 18 November 1919 at Quebec (Quebec) (Saint-Roch Parish) at the age of 48.

### 15. Bernadette Kirouac

Born Sunday, 5 July 1874 at Quebec (Quebec) (Saint-Sauveur Parish). Died Sunday, 23 September 1894 at Quebec (Quebec) (Saint-Sauveur Parish) at the age of 20.



# Account of the last moments of Chevalier François Kirouac

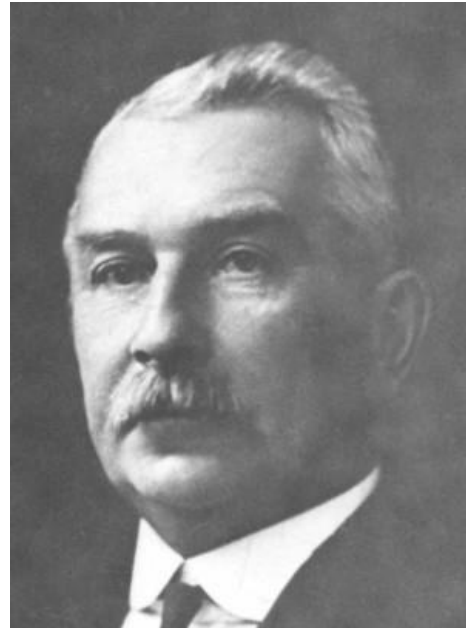
My dear sister,<sup>1</sup>

Sitting in my office this morning, the first thing I do is write to you about our dear father's last moments with us, knowing that this is what you most want to hear.

First as I mentioned to you in all my previous letters, we had little hope that he would go back to Lorette, in spite of the doctor saying that he would. It is only on the fourth of this month that he started despairing about it; the day before, that is Sunday, the doctor told us to sit him in a large armchair and to carry him near the door so he could feel the fresh air; the weather was marvellous, but as soon as we brought him there, there was a strong gust of wind, so father asked us to let him lie on the sofa; by then he had no more energy, he no longer shaved in his chair; on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, he spent his days lying on the sofa, always out of breath and with less and less appetite; however, he had steak for dinner until Wednesday.

On Friday, he was incapable to get up at all; he had holy Communion in the morning, we were so moved by his piety; during the day he complained that he had a hard time swallowing, and he told me that he was afraid to choke; we took turn reassuring him and the doctor too told him that he would not choke.

The following day, Saturday, the 9th, we tried to give him a little to drink but it was impossible. He made incredible efforts to throw up; then we gave him some injections but we gave up in the evening. Around ten o'clock on Saturday morning, the doctor came and when father asked him how he was doing, the doctor said: "Mr. Kirouac, there is no more hope, you have a high fever and there is nothing I can do about it, things are going down rapidly." Father told him that he knew it and he thanked the doctor in moving terms.



Cyrille Kirouac wrote this letter. He was a son of François Kirouac and Marie-Julie Hamel, and the father of Conrad Kirouac, Brother Marie-Victorin. (photo: KFA collection)

Since the day before, his voice was noticeably altered. It sounded as if he had a piece of bread in his mouth and it was hollow. His memory was also fading. Often, he asked me to do a number of impossible things. At one point, he asked me to take off my vest because, he said, he was hard of hearing, so I bent over him and asked him if he could hear better, yes, he said.

At seven o'clock that evening, he called Francis, Arthur, Napoléon, Eugène, Joseph and me, and made us promise not to put the catafalque (bier) in the front; he was unable to pronounce the word but I understood what he meant and said so to him, then he nodded "yes". We all promised him to respect his last wishes, and I said so to him.

Two hours later, was the most poignant moment when he gave us his last blessing. He asked us all to kneel around his bed and with a clear and deep voice, he blessed each one in turn, catching his breath once in a while; when my turn came, before blessing me, he thanked me for what I had done for him and he

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(1) Letter dated 25 May 1896 sent to Mother Marie Bernard, Malvina Kirouac (1851-1932), of the Congregation of Notre-Dame in Montreal.

promised that he would not forget me once in Heaven. I did not hear his last words, because I did not know anymore where I was. I thought I was going to die. I felt as though he was going to take me with him.

Until I draw my last breath, his words will forever stay in my heart. It was a heart wrenching scene, impossible to describe. For a while all we heard was sobbing and crying; it was exactly like when Bernadette died.

Mother was standing on the side and he blessed her last, asking her to dry her eyes and to take good care of his children. Then he turned to the others, and at length he recommended us to take good care of our venerable Mother and to take care of her, to respect her, and give all the attention she deserved.

Father also blessed you, dear sister, with his eyes turned to Heaven and ardently praying for you.

He was sitting in his bed but when we took away his pillows he fell down exhausted.

One hour later, reverend Father Perron gave him holy Communion, the extreme unction and general absolution. From then on, he was completely resigned and kept repeating to me that he was looking forward to dying.

Before blessing us, he started to tell us that, in two days, there would be great changes; this is what happened.

All day on Sunday, until the moment he passed on, all we could do was to wet his lips. His breathing was more and more difficult; however, he talked until ten minutes before expiring, and he was always fully conscious. On Monday evening, around nine o'clock, mother Sainte-Catherine arrived at the house and he asked her which way she had come and who had brought her to the house. He thought that she was very courageous, and he asked us to phone the convent in Saint-Roch to let them know that she had arrived safely. Then he sent her down to the kitchen to eat supper; this proves that he was still fully conscious.

Around three o'clock in the morning, I was resting on my chair in the front parlour, Arthur was there too, when we suddenly heard voices talking loudly, as if



Malvina Kirouac, Mother Marie Bernard of the  
Congregation of Notre-Dame in Montreal,  
eldest daughter of Chevalier François Kirouac (1851-1932)

there was a lively discussion. When I ran into the bedroom, I saw Jules, Joseph and Mother who had helped Father to sit up in bed, wanting to get him up, as they thought it was needed; they were exhausted. I immediately understood what was going on when Father told me he wanted to get up to stack wood in the (back) garden. I quickly calmed him down saying that the doctor had forbidden him to go out because of the strong wind and that to disobey him would be to go against God's will.

I put the pillows back in place and he let me tuck him back into bed like a child. I was the only one he would listen to. Each time I spoke to him, his memory came back. He died twenty minutes after seven o'clock<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> 12 May 1896.

When I noticed that his eyesight was failing, I asked him to make the sign of the cross one last time but he said he felt he would not be able to do so. Nevertheless, he did it remarkably well, and five minutes later he passed on. Jules was next to me as well as sister Sainte-Marcelline<sup>3</sup> and mother Sainte-Catherine<sup>4</sup> reciting the prayers for the dying. He died as calmly as is possible.

Then, it was all cries, tears and sobbing. Father was gone! It seems as if everything was over for us. He is a saint. You can believe me, he must be in heaven now.

As for everything else, you saw as you read the newspapers how much our beloved father was appreciated and esteemed by all his compatriots. It was a fair tribute paid to a man who was a devoted father, an excellent husband, a fervent Christian and a dedicated citizen.

Now you will be pleased to hear that we have decided to have a good family vault<sup>5</sup> built to house the remains of our beloved departed and we will also build a chapel where Jules could say Mass from time to time. We owe our father a lot more than that but we are eager to sanctify his memory.

I started this letter Saturday evening, but only now on Monday evening I managed to finish it and it is much shorter too. I end here in order to catch the post.

With my greetings and deep respect,

Your brother, Cyrille.

<sup>3</sup> One of François Kirouac's sisters, Marguerite (1829-1920), Sister of the Congregation of the Holy Cross.

<sup>4</sup> One of François Kirouac's sisters, Henriette (1835-1895), of the Congregation of Notre-Dame, Montreal.

<sup>5</sup> Eventually the family opted for a monument. (See photo at left)



## CHEVALIER FRANÇOIS KIROUAC FINAL RESTING PLACE

Located in Saint-Charles Cemetery, in the section previously known as Saint-Sauveur Parish Cemetery, on Saint-Vallier Street in Quebec City, Chevalier François Kirouac's last resting place is now part of one of three self-guided tours to explore the cemetery.

Visitors may download on their smartphone or tablet, an application allowing them to explore the cemetery according to three different themes: *Culture & Religion*, *Shopkeepers & Industrialists*, or *Historical Persons*. To see the last resting place of Chevalier François Kirouac and some family members, you need to follow the guided tour entitled *Culture & religion*.

Northeast view of the monument where Chevalier François Kirouac and some members of his family are buried.  
(photo: François Kirouac, 9 August 2017)







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who made significant contributions?**

**Please tell us and/or write to us, about them!**

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**Main Office:**  
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Québec (Québec)  
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**Website**  
[www.familleskirouac.com](http://www.familleskirouac.com)  
**Email:** [association@familleskirouac.com](mailto:association@familleskirouac.com)

**Treasurer and Membership:**  
René Kirouac  
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