

Spring 2011

Number 103

# Le Trésor des Kironuac

Bulletin of the descendants of Alexandre de K/voach



Jim Kyrrouac (GFK 00246) and his daughter, Rebecca, originally from Illinois, following in the footsteps of their ancestor in Huelgoat in the autumn of 2000.

Kérouac



Kéroack



Kirouac



Kyrrouac



Kérouack



Kirouack

## ***Le Trésor des Kirouac***

Le Trésor des Kirouac, bulletin of the descendants of Alexandre de K/voach, is published in two editions: French and English; it is distributed to all AFK / KFA members. Permission to reproduce an article must be obtained from the KFA beforehand.

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# THE PRESIDENT'S WORD

In the last issue of *Le Trésor*, I mentioned to you one particular goal our Association has been working on for quite a few years: TO BEAT OBLIVION. Hence in our bulletin number 102, we supplied you with a list of questions to help you carry out interviews with members of your family.

In this issue, Michel Bornais writes about safeguarding our photographic heritage particularly how to preserve and copy slides and negatives of 35mm photos. This article is one more step on the theme BEAT OBLIVION as it pertains to preserving precious family souvenirs. We strongly encourage you to collect reminiscences and anecdotes from your relatives and to take the needed steps to preserve your photos; they may be valuable to you now but think how far more precious they will be in fifty years time.

And, as part of preserving our heritage, I reiterate my past proposals, if ever you wish to share your memories with the members of our Association, it will be a pleasure to publish them in *Le Trésor*. And I also reiterate my previous invitation: why not join the editorial team of *Le Trésor*? Believe me, when I say that we would be most grateful for some help, your help!

In the present issue, you will also read an article written by Michael Langlois, partner of Rebecca Kyroutac, who is originally a Kyroutac from Illinois. He tells the story of their journey to France and Brittany in the autumn of 2010. You may remember reading Jean-Yves Laurin's account of his journey in Brittany in 2006 (*Le Trésor* 84, pp.

34-35). These two accounts show that having discovered our Ancestor's Breton origin, his descendants must no longer go to Guingamp and Lannilis, but head for Huelgoat and Lanmeur while visiting Brittany. As you read Michael's article you will note that some hypotheses freely drawn from the research on our Ancestor are well peppered by Michael's wry sense of humour. If one day you intend to follow in our Ancestor's footsteps in Brittany, please let us know as there may be some helpful information we could share with you before you go.

And... to wet your appetite for Brittany, read Alain Olmi's article about the annual Interceltique Festival held in Lorient. Mr. Olmi and his wife attended last summer's 40th edition of what has become a most important international event. Mr. Olmi, alias Jean Kersco, put together a DVD and sent a copy for the KFA's archives. What you will read in *Le Trésor* 103, is the text he prepared to accompany his DVD. In the mean time, you can enjoy - on the Web - a virtual tour of the Interceltique Festival in Lorient.

Gregory Kyroutac, one of our two American representatives, sent us a wonderful account of the Kyroutac's 2010 gathering. Texts and photos demonstrate how some descendants of the K/s who settled in Illinois as long ago as the 1840s enjoy themselves today. Obviously the friendly competition between the younger generation and, so far, the ever-winning old-timers will carry on for a few more years.

You will also read another article sent by the indefatigable André St-Arnaud, Vice-President of the *Cercle des jeunes naturalistes*, who keeps



François Kirouac

Collection François Kirouac

finding interesting stories related to the K/s; the present one is about Brother Marie-Victorin and *École de l'Éveil* (school). The first part of this article appeared in the 2010 Spring issue of *Le Trésor*.

Last December in *Le Trésor* #102, Lucille and Céline gave us a second article inspired by the discoveries they made while examining **Philippe's Papers** concerning our Ancestor's eldest son. In the present issue, # 103, here is a second article about our Ancestor's youngest son. I want to share with you some thoughts and considerations about Louise (née Bernier) and Alexandre de K/voach's youngest son, following my many years of research about our Ancestor. Thus this is a long introduction to a future article about Alexandre becoming a farmer in Cap Saint-Ignace. Should you wish to comment on my reflections, please feel free to do so; your comments will be welcomed.

Finally, a word of gratitude to all of you, on behalf of my family and myself, I want you to know that your sympathy and condolences have been much appreciated following the passing of my younger brother Michel, who died 7 January, at the age of 44. Thank you very much.

# BRIEFLY SPEAKING

## NUREMBERG TOY FAIR

By Marie L. Timperley

On p. 22, in Céline K's article about the *Rebirth of the Kirouac Toy Store in Quebec City*, you will read that the owner, André Kirouac, attends the annual **International Toy Fair** in Nuremberg, a mammoth trade show reserved for professionals only. Why? Because it comprises 2,600 exhibitors from 64 countries; 76,000 visitors attend from 115 countries; 700 exhibitors attend no other fair and 20,000 visitors only go to Nuremberg; exhibited are one million products, including 70,000 new ones, exhibited in twelve buildings.

In *La Presse*, Montréal's largest daily (Saturday, 5 February 2011, pp. 10-11, Travel Section), I read with great interest an article by Violaine Ballivy, one of the 2,500 journalists accredited to the Nuremberg Toy Fair. She explains that it all started five hundred years ago in a medieval town surrounded by forests. Talented craftsmen created wooden toys and energetic merchants sold them across Europe. Success encouraged inventions and through centuries, the list of toys

created grew endlessly: wood, metal, mechanical tin toys, lead soldiers, stuffed animals, dolls, etc. By the beginning of the twentieth century, Nuremberg had become the world toy capital comprising 5000 producers earning their living making toys in dozens of factories which operated until the beginning of WWII. If you are fascinated by toys as much as I am, you may want to follow the *TOY ROAD* in Germany. To help you plan a trip, look up info on the web: [www.spielzeugstrasse.de](http://www.spielzeugstrasse.de). For a virtual visit of the Toy Museum: [www.museen.nuernberg.de](http://www.museen.nuernberg.de), as well as the Industrial Cultural Museum and the German National Museum go to: [www.gnm.de](http://www.gnm.de).

But of course, if you wish to buy some of the latest creations without crossing the Atlantic, why not pay a visit to **Jouets Kirouac** in Quebec City. You will love it and you are sure to find a treasure for your 'little tykes'.

Photo : François Kirouac



This year again, Michel Bornais, responsible for the KFA communications, was invited to be Master of Ceremony at the opening of the Founding Families' Fair held on 25-27 February 2011 at Laurier Québec Shopping Mall in Ste-Foy/Québec. Michel was also our official representative at this important annual event.

From left to right: Yves Boisvert, Office Director, FFSQ; Michel Bornais; Marie-France Goudreault Special Events Coordinator at *Laurier Québec*; Kathleen Bilo-deau, General Director of *Caisse Desjardins Sillery-St-Louis-de-France*, main sponsor of the Fair; Renée Hudon, Co-Director of *Renée Hudon Parole Publique* and Honorary President of the 14<sup>th</sup> Family Fair; Pascal-Pierre Paillé, Federal Member of Parliament for Louis-Hébert County; Céline Dion, FFSQ President, Michel Couture, FFSQ Events Organizer and Family Fair Coordinator; Pierre Léveillé, Director of *Laurier Québec* (new name of *Place Laurier Shopping Mall*).

Photo: Gerald Nicosia



### 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Death of Janet Michelle Kerouac (1952-1996)

Sunday, 5 June 2011, at 11:00 a.m. an anniversary Mass will be celebrated at Saint-Louis-de-Gonzague Church, Hollis Street, in Nashua, to mark the fifteenth Anniversary of the passing of Jan Kerouac. She was the only daughter of Jean-Louis (Jack) Kerouac and Joan Virginia Haverty.



# BRIEFLY SPEAKING



Photo: Michele Barker

## BROTHERS IN ARMS

This souvenir photo was taken by Michèle Barker Kirouac at the Meadowview Senior Complex in Lewiston, Maine, on Saturday, 23 October 2010, during a memorable celebration honouring Veterans who earned their medals while serving in the U.S. Army. Seated from l. to r.: Michael Michaud, U.S. Representative for Maine, happy to be in the company of the three Kirouac brothers: Lorenzo (Larry), Laurien, and Normand Kirouac, all from Lewiston. Unfortunately we were unable to identify the other three veterans nor the guest seated at right. The Lewiston Sun Journal published an article by Daryn Slover, and a photo in its 24 October edition mentioning: *Family from as far away as Vermont and Canada filled the center's recreation hall to celebrate the brothers' achievements.* "I know this was important to him," said Larry's son, Don Kirouac of Greene.

"It was more important for him to be here with his brothers than to get the medals," said Don, a disabled Air Force veteran. Laurien, 83, fought with the infantry in Italy during World War II. Larry, 90, landed in France during the Battle of Normandy on 5 August 1944 (*see article in Le Trésor 76, p.18*) and served under Gen. George Patton. Normand, 79, fought for the Army's 25th Infantry Division during the Korean War. Our founding president, Jacques Kirouac, very proud of his three Franco-American cousins, attended this memorable occasion.

## AT THE MUSÉE DE LA CIVILISATION IN QUÉBEC CITY A MUST-SEE EXHIBITION

When visiting Quebec City, do make time to visit the Musée des civilisations and see the permanent exhibition entitled: **Le temps des Québécois**. This fascinating exhibition presents life in the Province of Quebec as it was and is. As you travel through local history, you will encounter Brother Marie-Victorin on three different occasions. Believe me it is well worth the time...

Enjoy your visit.

Marie Kirouac



# Tots, Teens and Treasures

Photo: collection Caroline Kirouac



Caroline Kirouac, daughter of Jules Kirouac (GFK 00322), and her spouse Méhdi George (originally from France) with their five children; from l. to r. 6-year old Léo, the only boy, and his four sisters: Lilou, 3 years, Émie, 11 months in her mother's lap, Zoé, 9 years, sitting in front of her father and Kaya, the eldest, 13 years.



Happy parents: Paul Leblanc and Caroline Bornais, and their children Julian and Béatrice. Caroline is the youngest of Michel and Yolande (née Genest) Bornais; Julian and Béatrice are the great-grandchildren of Léona Kirouac (GFK 00331) and Lucien Bornais. (Photo: collection Michel Bornais)

**We love publishing photos of the younger generation. Please keep sending us photos of your tots and treasures as we plan on printing a special page in every future Trésor.**



(Photos: collection Michel Kérouac)

On 7 January 2011, at the Saint-François d'Assise Hospital in Quebec City was born Siméon, a first child for Geneviève Kérouac and Olivier Forest. Of course you remember reading about Geneviève (Trésor 87, 90, 92, 93, 94) our World's Swing Champion; she is the daughter of Michel Kérouac (GFK 1405) from North Hatley! Congratulations to the new parents... and the new grandparents!



Selah Mercy Kyrouac born on 18 January 2011 in Urbana, Illinois, USA. She is the daughter of Kayla Marie (née Yeagle) and Joseph Samuel Kyrouac; first time grandparents are Nancy (née Beckman) and Gregory Kyrouac (GFK 00239) and first time great-grandparents are Betty (née Rehberg) Wofford and Donald Kyrouac. (Photo: Collection Greg Kyrouac)



# ON THE ROAD... with Jim and Rebecca Kyrouac

By Michael Langlois

**W**hen I found out last year that my cousin, Rebecca Kyrouac, planned to take her father, Jim (GFK 00246) to France in the fall, I sent her an e-mail and directed her to the KFA web site for more information about our 2000 trip to Brittany. Several months later, I spoke to my uncle Jim at the Kyrouac reunion in August (see story on page 11) about his upcoming trip to France and the following week I sent him more detailed information about that 2000 trip.

I had suggested to both Rebecca and Jim that they take lots of photos and write an article about their return to their ancestral homeland. They both declined to write a story. However, Rebecca told me that her boyfriend, Michael Langlois, loved to write and that she would encourage him to write an article about their trip. In fact, Michael has been working on a book of his own. So, instead of an article from a family member's perspective, we get a story from a different angle with some humorous anecdotes. Enjoy!

Greg Kyrouac, KFA US Central Time Zone Regional Representative



Rebecca Kyrouac and her father, James Claude Kyrouac (Photo: collection Rebecca Kyrouac)

**M**y name is Michael Langlois. My girlfriend and “co-locataire” for the past twelve years, is Rebecca Kyrouac. We are both, as our names suggest, of French ancestry. My father's father lived in upper New York State near the Canadian border. The name Langlois, which means “the Englishman,” described an Englishman living in France (see: The Norman invasion). Our family, like the Kyrouacs, emigrated to Quebec before reaching America.

Rebecca and her immediate family are the focus of this story and sole reason why I am driving a Hertz rental car (4 door, five-speed manual overdrive diesel Hyundai) that gets about 45 miles to a gallon down the Autoroute (A81/E50) in

France during the last week of August, 2010. I am heading west from Paris to Huelgoat, a small town deep in the heart of Brittany. This trip will take about five hours.

The speed limit on the Autoroute ranges from 120 to 130 kilometers an hour. As a former resident of France, I am well acquainted with the insanity of driving in this country, but still, I cannot help but notice that the French are engaging in something heretofore unknown to me: restraint. It has been over twenty years since I left *La République* and the days of 200 kilometer an hour maniacs prowling the left lane with flashing lights are apparently over, just like cigarette smoking in a Parisian restaurant. Mon dieu!

A smile on my face, I drive ten kilometers over the limit and move



In Lanmeur, the original origin of our family name.



Entrance to the Art Gallery of Sylvie Bozoc and Patrice Langlois in Huelgoat, located in a building dating back to our ancestor's time

slightly ahead of traffic until, that is, a sign appears alerting me to an upcoming speed camera. What sort of country tries to catch speeders by warning them of permanently placed speed cameras? France! That's who. It is the little things in life that matter and it is this seemingly trivial concern for the citizenry that makes me miss living in a socialist country, a place where the people not only receive free health care and regular strikes by the civil service industry but warnings on the highways to help them avoid speeding tickets. It is all part of the package I guess.

La vie est faite d'une foule de petits détails, et ce sont ces petites attentions en apparence banales envers le citoyen, qui me font regretter l'occasion de vivre dans un pays socialiste, un endroit où la population jouit à la fois de soins médicaux gratuits tout en subissant régulièrement les arrêts de travail des employés de l'État ; mais ayant aussi des avertissements sur les autoroutes qui permettent d'éviter

les contraventions. Peut-être que pour eux, c'est une sorte de forfait de société.

Rebecca, who is 43 years old (I just turned 50) sits in the backseat with Janice, her stepmother. Rebecca is the daughter of Jim Kyrourac of Bourbonnais, Illinois. Jim sits up front, quietly enjoying the scenery. He has never been to France, and apart from an army stint in Frankfurt back in the late fifties, has not been outside the U.S. Moreover, he has passed the 70-year milestone and after drinking a few too many beers one night in Bourbonnais, the town in which he has lived for most of his adult life, he called Rebecca in Miami and mentioned his desire to visit the ancestral homeland. The word Paris was mentioned and little else. Nothing was said about visiting important Kyrourac-family sites, the Louvre, the Eiffel Tower, Mr. Sarkozy, or Utah Beach.

Because I can speak French and am familiar with the country and its people I was elected tour guide, a job I was dreading. A week prior to our departure Greg Kyrourac entered the picture and soon thereafter I realized that this "once in a lifetime" journey for Jim Kyrourac must include this important piece of his family history.

After a day and half in Paris, a city Jim seems to despise almost as much as our current President, we arrive in Huelgoat deep in the heart of Brittany a few hours before sunset and check into our little Bed and Breakfast, *La Mare Aux Fées*, which means the fairies' pond. There are a couple of hours before sunset so we head out on foot to explore the town. We discover a beautiful little lake in Huelgoat that no one swims in. At the end of the lake close to town is a

small bridge, beneath which water passes in a swift running torrent down into a boulder-filled grotto, called *La Grotte du Diable* (the devil's cave). Atop the bridge is a small plaque, about two and half feet long and two feet tall and is made of black granite with gold lettering. The text is written in French. The English translation is: *In Honor of: Urbain Francois le Bihan, Sir of Kervoac. Son of Royal Notary Public Francois Joachim le Bihan, Sir of Kervoac, and Catherine Bizien. Native of Huelgoat, he left New France around 1721 and married Marie Louise Bernier in 1732 in Cap Saint-Ignace, Quebec. He is the ancestor of all the Kerouac, Kirouac and Keroack's of America. July 9, 2000. Kirouac Family Association inc.*

After reading the plaque, taking photos, and walking through the magnificent grotto we head into the center of Huelgoat and find the church Greg Kyrourac had mentioned in his e-mail about his own visit here. We walk around the church to see the inscription on the stone at the back about François



This house was built where the Le Bihan house stood in Huelgoat. (Photo: collection Rebecca Kyrourac)



Joachim Le Bihan and of course I step into a gigantic pile of dog shit. Why the French, who are so obsessed with fashion, do not believe in picking up their dog shit is something I have never understood. While I curse the entire country and try desperately to remove the offending material from my shoe, Rebecca and family head into the church. They admire the stained glass window that was supposedly paid for by said F. J. Le Bihan de Kervoach. On our way out we see a flier announcing a concert that evening at 8 p.m., period instruments. Let's party.

Adjacent to the church, where the Le Bihan family once lived, we discover an art gallery in the rear. It is open. A young couple with a little girl is sitting around a table full of paint cans and brushes and books, eating a snack. I introduce myself and my companions and mention we are there to look for any signs of criminal activity from past or present day Kyrouracs<sup>(1)</sup>. They smile.

Oh, says the woman in French, isn't that funny. My husband here, his last name is Langlois. The Langlois/Kyrourac connection is apparently an old and infamous one. Greg informs me upon my return to Miami that Noel Langlois is the great-great-great-grandfather of Marie Gezeron who married Joseph Kyrourac in 1806. Their son, Joseph, came to Bourbonnais and is Rebecca's great-great grandfather. Now I know why Rebecca looks like my sister and most of the Kyrouracs are completely nuts: inbreeding with my family.

We wander around the immense gallery and admire the artwork: odd portraits in a vaguely expressionistic style. Rebecca takes photos of the ceiling, which is magnificent.

Obviously, this is not the kind of place you would want to live in during the winter. It is the last week of August and it is 15° Celsius (59° F) outside. We are all wearing coats.

"When does it get warm around here?" I ask.

"Oh, replies the woman, we had summer weather the last week of June and the first week of July."

"That was it? Two weeks of summer?"

"That was it."

It was then that I understood why Monsieur le Bihan left Brittany and set sail for Quebec. He was not running from the law<sup>(1)</sup>, he was running from the awful weather.

The woman in the gallery then launched into the tale of Le Bihan's departure for Quebec<sup>(1)</sup>. She mentioned police and court cases and the acquisition of a false identity and before I knew what hit me I realized that the man responsible for the entire Kyrourac family may have been a liar and possibly an outlaw.<sup>(1)</sup> "Colorful," is how Rebecca later described the legend. "Yes," I replied, "Dillinger was colorful, too."

After leaving the back of Le Bihan's old residence Jim Kyrourac suggested a buckwheat crepe. (Greg Kyrourac had insisted we sample the famous buckwheat crepes in Brittany.) "Nothing like religion to work up an appetite," Jim says.

Everywhere you turn in Brittany there are buckwheat crepes and just across from the church in the town square we install ourselves in an ancient cr  perie where the crepes are absolutely delicious.

That evening we attend the concert at the church. There are about twenty people there. We sit facing the altar. It is cold. The music begins and I am transported to a simpler time of lutes and flutes and a shocking lack of central heating. After four or five songs have been presented the music all starts to sound the same and I begin thinking about the torture of living in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. This music, after all, was probably the Led Zeppelin of its day and this church was probably something like Carnegie Hall for the citizens of Huelgoat. No wonder people died young. On the positive side I realize the cursed cell phone and video games would not yet have been created so, I guess it was a wash.

What seemed like an eternity later, the concert ends and we run across the street to the only remaining bar/restaurant that is open. The place is run by a friendly Englishman and his French wife. An odd little man at the bar who looks like an elf and who has his little Shih Tzu dog with him, along with his wife, becomes quite interested in our presence in Huelgoat and before we know what is happening we can not shut him up. He tells me about his twenty

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(1) Editor's note: Michael Langlois refers to the reasons why our Ancestor would have had to leave his native Brittany for New France according to the author, Patricia Dagier. To better appreciate Mr. Langlois' wry sense of humour and discover the other side of the coin, the reader is invited to read attentively Fran  ois Kirouac's interview published in *Le Tr  sor des Kirouac*, number 100, spring 2010. The complete text is also available on the KFA Web site at: <http://www.genealogie.org/famille/kirouac/>; click on: *Updating the Research*.

years of living in Crete and soon we were buying rounds of drinks for one another. The more we drink the more he talks and it is clear he is letting his emotions get the better of him. We become rare creatures in his mind, not like modern men, we are suddenly people who understand what is important in life (family, and drinking) not like the riff raff who inhabit the wider world. He talks on and on and it is all missed by Rebecca and her family because he is speaking to me in French.

Finally, we bid everyone at the bar adieu and head back to our hotel for a much needed rest. The following morning we awake to a cold, misty vista outside our windows. It is magical, actually, something that conjures up notions of fairies and castles.

After breakfast we begin driving north toward Lanmeur. The weather is glorious and sunny and after a couple of hours we arrive on the outskirts of the town where we look for anything with the name Kervoac on it.

We speak to the man whose house is just behind the Kervoac sign on the road outside town. He, like most of the people we meet, is pleased to see some Kyrrouac's who are not fugitives from the law<sup>(1)</sup>, but he can tell us little about the family history.

We then visit the town hall in Lanmeur where a woman, who had clearly been drinking, seems thrilled by our presence and tells us of the Kervoac road in the tiny hamlet outside town. We drive for miles around Lanmeur and find most of what remains of the Kyrrouac family that is visible to the naked eye. We take photos of Jim and Rebecca in front of all the signs and search for a



(photo: collection Rebecca Kyrrouac)

Inside the Huelgoat Church where some Le Bihan ancestors are buried

Jean Michel Le Coat, a prosperous farmer who, we are told, knows all about the Kyrrouac family history.

We never find Mr. Le Coat though we do see his fancy new house. We leave him a note and, later, when we are back in Miami, receive an email from his sister, Mary. Greg and the KFA Group had met Mary when they visited Lanmeur in 2000. In any event, I feel like we are just scratching the surface of the Kyrrouac story here. It was all so long ago and no one seems to remember much. We stop outside a store emblazoned with the name Le Bihan and I spend a delightful half hour talking to Mr. Le Bihan who, again, knows next to nothing about his famous ancestor or his Kyrrouac connection.

As we depart Lanmeur for Normandy and the D-Day invasion sites I begin thinking about how many times we have met some local person in Brittany who did not seem to know much about where they lived. You would ask about something, like the Kervoac road or sign and they would shake their heads, no, do not know anything

about it. Meanwhile, you drive five minutes down the road and there it is. And while this strikes me as odd I begin thinking about my own village of Coconut Grove, in Miami. It is the oldest, most historic part of Miami and yet I know only bits and pieces of its history. It is then that I realize how complacent we can become. We can live in a place for ten, twenty years and not know about something that is close by and that might be quite interesting to us if we took the time to find out about it. If there was one thing I took away from that experience in Huelgoat and Lanmeur; that was it.

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# Kyrouac Reunion 2010

By Greg Kyrouac

For many years, the annual reunion of the descendants of Louis (GFK 00212) and Malvina Lord Kyrouac was held in Autumn on the farm property of Alfred (Beau) Kyrouac (GFK 00220), northwest of Bourbonnais, Illinois, which has been the home of the K/ family and many other French Canadians since the late 1840s. There was always plenty to eat and the evening ended with a huge bonfire. Beau died in 2003, and after one final reunion at the old location in 2004, it looked as though the tradition may have ended.

However, my cousin, Pam Kyrouac Saindon (GFK 00251) and her husband Jim Saindon agreed to host the reunion at her home in rural Kankakee a few years ago. A change to a daytime get-together with plenty of



The train is not only for the younger kids! Charlie and Henry Rawlins, Adam Buckley, Carolyn VanderMolen, Ellen O'Gorman, Katie VanderMolen, Claire O'Gorman, Aaron Buckley, and Tim O'Gorman squeeze their body in and enjoy a ride on the train showing that they will never lose their young spirit. (Photo by Annette Kyrouac VanderMolen)

(Photo by Carolyn VanderMolen)



Attempting to resist the freezing water of the dunk tank, Tim O'Gorman grips on the cage for the upcoming bath.



(Photo by Carolyn VanderMolen)

Always in the mood for a Young vs. Old game, cousins Adam Buckley and Michael O'Gorman toss the ball before an exciting game of family softball with old-timer Kevin Lobue in the background.



activities for the younger children has allowed the event to grow and flourish. Those activities include a dunk tank (not heated), swimming (heated), a bounce house, a kiddie train, and various outdoor games including the softball game between the older folks and the youngsters.

Pam & Jim have a huge shed on their property so that most people can eat inside and not have to worry about the weather and insects. Of course, a huge potluck dinner with fried chicken helps to make it a special day as well. There are always plenty of desserts to choose from as well. The evening ends with a bonfire later in the day and all evening, so there is roasting of hot dogs and marshmallows. Attendees have the option of camping for the night. There are donuts, coffee, milk, juice and good times for the campers and those who help clean up the morning following the reunion.

A decision was made a few years ago to meet every other year, so Saturday, August 7, 2010 was the big day. There were 132 attendees, including out-of-state



Playing Bag Toss. (Photo by Nancy Kyrouac Styck)



Taking a breather from the intense competition, Tim Kyrouac, Greg Kyrouac, Kevin Lobue, and Bernie Buckley talk strategy on how to prove that the "old guys" will never lose their winning reputation to the young guys. (Photo by Carolyn VanderMolen)



Seniors against juniors, during the 2010 softball game. (Wide-angle Photo by Carolyn VanderMolen)



family members traveling from Indiana, Missouri, Arkansas, and California. Young and old had a wonderful time spending the day together. Unfortunately, as dusk drew near, we estimated that mosquitoes outnumbered people hundred to one. They were really thick this year!

As one of the members of the old-timers team, the younger generation team is getting to be quite a challenge! Several of us are well into our 50s, and at least two of the members of the opposing team were star players on their respective high school baseball teams this past season. I was beginning to think I am getting too old for this. We did have one injury during the game, with a line drive hitting our pitcher, Steve Kyroutac (GFK 00253) in the leg. We were able to have the pitcher and catcher trade places and continue the game. As it turned out, the old-timers prevailed by winning both games of the doubleheader. I could tell the youngsters are waiting for a rematch in 2012!



Kathy Kyroutac Joubert and her husband Ron setting up their tent for the night. (Photo by Nancy Kyroutac Styck)



Relaxing in the shade (sitting at the table from left to right: Chris Bertrand Vaughn, Kevin Lobue, Theresa Kyroutac Gifford, Regina Bertrand Carroll, Dan Gifford, Pam Saindon; standing from left to right: Fred Gifford, Cindy Gifford and Joann Kyroutac Ruel. (Photo by Nancy Kyroutac Styck)



Greg Kyroutac pitches while his brother-in-law Steve Harms (Susan Kyroutac's husband) stands ready to field the ball. (Photo by Nancy Kyroutac Styck)





Some of the Dick Kyroutac (GFK 00258) clan who were present. (Photo by Carolyn VanderMolen)



Nancy Beckman Kyroutac, Donna Kyroutac Kubick and Peter Kyroutac sitting around after the meal.  
(Photo by Pam Kyroutac Saindon)



# 40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE *INTERNATIONAL INTERCELTIQUE FESTIVAL*

By Alain Olmi (Jean Kersco)

**F**orty years ago the Festival Interceltique was created in Lorient, Brittany, France. The founders' aims were to spread the music and culture of Brittany and to open doors to Celtic culture from the British Isles, i.e. Scotland, Wales, Cornwall, the Isle of Man, and Ireland, as well as Galicia and the Asturias in northern Spain.

Festivals are numerous in Brittany and France, however, given its openness to other Celtic societies and creating a special gathering place celebrating Brittany and other nations it became known as *inter-celtism*.

So, proud of its inter-Celtic positive outreach, the idea went beyond its original British and Spanish frontiers and expanded towards other parts of the world where British and Spanish Celts are now implanted due to recent migrations.

Hence pipe bands from Australia, Japan, Brazil, and Canada, meet in Lorient which also attracts Canadian singers and gaita musicians from South America.

## The Parade

Traditionally, the parade starts in the Chazelle Court, near the train station because it is large enough to gather the numerous *bagad* (1), and has enough parking space for all the busses bringing the non-Breton participants who also fill every hotel in the area. Some 4,000 people walk in the parade from Chazelle Court to the Lorient Stadium.

Traditionally also, the *bagad* from Lann Bihoué Naval Air base, located near Lorient, leads the parade. Once the sailors have passed in front of the Official Stand in the Stadium, they rejoin the *bagad* from their respective town. Hence the sailors pass twice in front of the Official Stand.



Taken from Alain Olmi's film given to the KFA

Although costumes are relatively recent and sometimes rather modern, traditions are respected. The ladies' headdresses are typical, particularly the famous *bigoudens* from Quimper: a tall cloth cylinder elaborately embroidered; its height augmented over many decades until it reached a certain limit: wearing a *bigouden* the ladies must be able to board a bus!

During the German occupation of France in WWII, these headdresses were often very useful to hide things, such as butter bought on the black market. Too bad if the butter started melting in the warm weather. The most elaborately decorated headdresses are from Scaër requiring a few hours to starch and iron; unfortunately, there were none in the 2010 parade. After the war, men in Brittany tend to abandon their regional costumes but ladies did not. Costumes were then worn essentially during religious processions and '*pardons*', religious processions asking forgiveness, hence the name '*pardon*'. The Interceltique Festival in Lorient is the biggest expression of the secular Celtic renewal amongst the younger generation. There are also many

*Fest Noz* (2) held throughout the year.

## Breton Musical Instruments

Comprise the *bombarde* (3) and the *biniou* (4), as well as percussion including many drums of various sizes and shapes. Visit the Interceltique Festival website to hear and enjoy these instruments.

## The Breton Flag

The Breton flag was created in 1923. *Gwenn-ha-du*, is its Breton name, meaning: white & black. It has eleven stylized ermines in the upper left-hand corner, but the number has no special meaning.

## The Origin of the Ermine

*Ermine* is an heraldic fur representing the white winter coat of the stoat, brown in summer. Coats of arms were originally shields protecting warriors. During the Crusades, combatants started painting their shields or covering them with fur, usually *ermine* and the grey-white squirrel called *vair* (5) in French. The ermine, a close parent of the weasel, was then known by its Latin name: *armeria*



Headdresses from Brittany (as seen in Alain Olmi's film given to the KFA)

*i.e.* rat (or mouse) from Armenia.

The *ermine* is to the Dukes of Brittany what the *fleur-de-lis* is to the Kings of France. In the Breton language it is written: *an erminig* (literally small ermine: the ending -*ig* is a diminutive). In the Middle-Ages, the lily and the ermine were both symbols of purity: the lily, associated with the Virgin Mary and the ermine because of its white winter fur.

On the Breton flag, the nine horizontal stripes represent the nine ancient dioceses; four white for the four Breton speaking districts: *Breizh*; five black for the five French speaking districts: Gallo Brittany or Bertaèyn. During parades and processions, the Breton flag is always carried at arm's length over one's head even on windy days.

### Association

**The Lorient Interceltique Festival (LIF)** is an association governed by the 1901 Law. First it must organize the annual Lorient Interceltique Festival and insure the cultural permanency throughout the year; next: promote the Breton and Celtic culture and, by doing so, promote

both nationally and internationally the image of the regions of Lorient, Morbihan, Brittany and Celtic countries and last: develop and take part in exchanges between all Celtic countries and regions interested by these cultures.

To fulfill its triple mission, the LIF is helped by some 900 volunteers taking on various responsibilities during the Festival and numerous trainees during the months of March to August, filling in many practical positions; as well as professionals appointed to carry out specific administrative tasks.

### Continuity

The Lorient Interceltique Festival is a major actor on the cultural scene and its outreach goes way beyond the annual ten-day Festival in August, therefore, throughout the year, activities are organized for the general public and its many partners.

#### Translator's notes on vocabulary:

(1) A **bagad** is a Breton band, comprising bagpipes (*biniou* in Breton, *Cornemuse* in French), *bombard*es and percussion. A *bagad* plays mainly Breton music. Every major town in Brittany has at least one *bagad*. There are many competitions but the annual National Championship takes place at the Inter Celtic Festival in Lorient. (See Wikipedia)

(2) **Fest Noz** is Breton for night festival;

social event combining dancing and live music. (See Wikipedia)

(3) The **bombard**, a small double reed instrument so powerful it easily drowns the bagpipes! (See Wikipedia)

(4) *Bombards* are accompanied by **bagpipes** called a *biniou kozh*, or ancient bagpipe, often a bit smaller than Scottish bagpipe, so the sound is similar but different to a trained ear. (See Wikipedia)

(5) Translator's note: **vair**, (as in hair) and verre (glass). Ever heard of translators = traitors? Cinderella and the glass slipper? The story was written by the famous French writer Charles Perrault: *Cendrillon et la pantoufle de vair*. Not verre; never! The fur of the *vair* a squirrel-like animal was obviously unknown to the English translator who, without checking, turned it into glass. Worse, it was retranslated into French as 'verre'; thus becoming a double treason and, since then, poor Cinderella's feet have been encased in glass for eternity!



Taken from Alain Olmi's film given to the KFA

Editor's note: we recommend visiting Mr. Olmi's web site at: <http://dakerscocode.blogspot.com>



# Brother Marie-Victorin and l'Éveil, school for young children

By André St-Arnaud

Second and last part of the story

First part was published in Le Trésor, #99, spring 2010

It is only in the autumn 1945 that *L'Éveil* finally received needed furniture, thanks to a recital given by Mimi Jutras, a former ten-year-old student, and thanks also to the generosity of *L'École du Meuble*\*. Slowly but surely, as **Brother Marie-Victorin** had predicted, *L'Éveil* became *a specialized teaching centre located in a fully adequate environment*.

Besides furniture made from Canadian wood, there were green plants, aviaries filled with twenty-five birds, eight fish tanks, some rodents, like guinea pigs, hamsters, and chipmunks, three turtles, etc. *L'Éveil* displayed large original teaching charts and specialized material in abundance, brought back from numerous study-journeys.

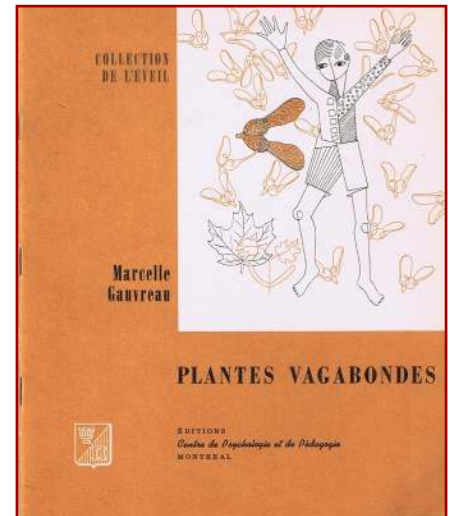
The school's activities were numerous and constantly renewed. The curriculum varied from year to year. The lessons centered on natural sciences linked to geography, history, etc., were dynamic and illustrated with the greatest of care and were also well adapted to the children's age. The children acquired a great deal of knowledge that was a wonderful preparation for elementary school, but, on the other hand, it might make the youngsters long for the time spent at *L'Éveil* where classes were held from spring until autumn.

From 1947 until 1953, *L'Éveil* organized seven public parades in the alleys of the Montreal Botanical

Garden. At the time, this kind of parade was an innovation; imagine over one hundred very young children wearing some imaginative costumes related to the lessons learned during the year. Some of the themes thus illustrated were for example: flowers, fruits, vegetables; races, United Nations; Brother Marie-Victorin and his disciples; the four seasons, happy farm; Royal Society of Astronomy, circus; people who played an important part in Canadian history; fairytale characters like Bambi and Snow White; professionals and trades people; religious teaching orders; etc. To close the parade, there was always a young 'Mayor of Montreal' who enthusiastically saluted the crowd.

In its last annual functioning report, the Cercle des Tout-Petits (The Little-Ones Circle) mentioned that 158 pupils, boys and girls aged four to seven, followed the classes at *L'Éveil* in 1955-1956. It also mentioned that the Director, Miss Marcelle Gauvreau, was assisted by two kindergarten teachers specialized in natural sciences: Miss Pauline Tishcoff and Miss Paule Picker. *L'Éveil* was therefore able to achieve one of its greatest dreams: to the three weekly one-hour courses, for the little ones in second and third year at *L'Éveil*, a complementary two-hour hands-on practical course centered on the object of the lessons was added to the curriculum. Only sixteen pupils were selected for this class. That year the 158 pupils benefited from the following sessions:

- ◆ 57 general natural science
- ◆ 39 botany
- ◆ 38 zoology
- ◆ 4 astronomy



Plantes vagabondes (booklet for children)  
(Collection: André St-Arnaud)

- ◆ 6 courses with practical applications
- ◆ 8 outdoor courses
- ◆ 91 sessions with films
- ◆ 8 film presentations
- ◆ 18 sessions of educational games on plants and animals
- ◆ 56 dances and singing
- ◆ 44 mimes and gymnastic to recap the lessons learned in classes
- ◆ 8 musical initiation and works audition
- ◆ Preparation of ten chosen subjects with the help of the pupils
- ◆ One Preparatory course in drawing and colouring natural history subjects
- ◆ 12 water-colouring lessons
- ◆ 6 clay sculpting sessions
- ◆ 6 sessions on how to make things
- ◆ 8 sessions on folding, cutting, and gluing
- ◆ One Painting session
- ◆ 22 special courses of elocution and singing adapted

(1) *L'École du meuble*, i.e. Montreal's Furniture School, located at 1097 Berri Street, Montréal; at the time the director was Jean-Marie Gauvreau (1903-1963), Marcelle Gauvreau's brother. (SOURCE : [http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89cole\\_du\\_meuble\\_de\\_Montr%C3%A9al](http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89cole_du_meuble_de_Montr%C3%A9al))

to L'Éveil

- ♦ 11 educational visits
- ♦ One tree celebration at the Montreal Botanical Garden
- ♦ One visit to the Granby Zoo

Each pupil completed thirty assignments at home; for the year, that meant the teachers read and corrected a total of 11,205 home-works.

In 1957, *L'Éveil* moved into the Cardinal-Léger Institute, on Beaubien Street in Montréal, opened a second school in Ville d'Anjou (eastern end of Montreal Island); published its second children's book in the school's collection, entitled *Plantes vagabondes (wandering plants)*.

In 1961, Marcelle Gauvreau emceed a television programme entitled *L'Éveil* shown on Télé-Métropole. In 1965, the school moved into the building of the *Fédération nationale de la Saint-Jean-Baptiste*, on Sherbrooke Street. The following year other schools were opened in Saint-Léonard and Rosemont (Montréal), and in Duvernay (Laval).

On 16 December 1968, Marcelle Gauvreau died but the wonderful work she started in 1935, lived on, thanks to Sister Irène Fournier who, in September 1969, opened a *L'Éveil* school in Rimouski. Finally in November 1971, Sister MaClaude Duhaime, o.p. opened the *Studio l'Écrin*<sup>(2)</sup> in Roxboro (in Montreal's West Island). Today, there are no more L'Éveil schools.

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(2) Translator's Note (M.L. Timperley): What a surprise to learn now that the *Studio l'Écrin* in Roxboro was an offshoot of *L'Éveil*. The Timperleys lived in Roxboro from 1966 until 1994; three of the four Timperley children attended the wonderful *Studio l'Écrin* between 1972 and 1990. Brian's two eldest daughters were taught by Sister Marie-Claude Duhaime.



Sister Marie-Claude Duhaime, with her young charges at Studio l'Écrin (Archives CJN)

## FAMILY GATHERINGS IN 2011 TWO KFA FAMILY REUNIONS THIS YEAR:

### Kankakee, Illinois

Since the first Kirouac gathering in 1980, there have been KFA annual reunions including three in New England: 1984, 1991, and 2001. This year, for the first time, **the Kyrouac, Kerouac, Curwick, Curwack and Burton from Illinois, all descendants of Kirouacs from Quebec who settled in Illinois in the 1840s, are inviting all the Canadian and American K/s to meet them.** Greg Kyrouac and his team have confirmed the dates, 18-19 June 2011. Mark your agenda! An official letter of invitation with all info will soon follow. Until then, why not enjoy a virtual visit of Bourbonnais and Kankakee, Illinois, to wet your appetite.

### Canadian Railway Museum

In previous *Trésor* you read about the very important role trains played in many K/ families. Therefore, whether full-size trains or miniatures, a fascinating day-visit to the Canadian Railway Museum in St-Constant, near Montreal, is sure to thrill young and old. In the mean time, to wet your appetite, enjoy a virtual visit at: <http://www.exporail.org/public/index.asp>.

As soon as the date is confirmed, a letter of invitation will be sent to you. Given that the KFA must hold its AGM in the Province of Quebec, the day-visit will follow immediately after the AGM which usually takes one hour.

Looking forward very much to seeing you in Illinois and in St-Constant.

For the KFA Board





# WHAT IS IN A NAME? FIRST NAME, FAMILY NAME, SURNAME, NICKNAME, FAME

By Marie Lussier Timperley

**F**ifteen years ago, Germain A. Lussier (1), self-published: *JACQUES LHUISSIER & ses descendants en Amérique du Nord – 330 ans d'histoire*. All genealogical data had been supplied by my mother, Françoise Gougeon-Lussier, as she transcribed by alphabetical order all births, marriages, and deaths of all the Lussiers since the arrival of the ancestor in 1664, plus same data on all collaterals. Some 15,000 handwritten (8 ½ X 11) sheets in twenty-two years! A labour of love before the computer-age!

*THESE NOTES* lovingly written in memory of those who preceded us are written for the instruction of, and are affectionately dedicated to, those who follow us. This is how the great-grandson of Léon Solyme Le Brice de Keroack (2) introduced the results of his ten-year research. I think it matches perfectly the philosophy of our Kirouac family Association and the aims of *Le Trésor des Kirouac*.

## FAMILY NAME

PATRONYME in French from the Latin PATER, father, in English: by tradition in our society NAME, SURNAME, FAMILY NAME, all refer to the father's name. So the family name usually refers to a male ancestor, and G. Lussier quotes Balzac who wrote that all ordinary people were originally known by a nickname according to their work or country of origin. Twenty-three different spellings of the surname Lussier decorated the book cover. Not quite as many as the 45 variations of the K/rouac surname on page 11, in *Le Trésor* 99. Hence the first chapter in his book is all about the origin of first names and family names and he gives the best reference on the subject: *Dictionnaire étymologique des noms de famille et des prénoms de France*, by Albert Dauzat (3) published by Larousse, in Paris in 1951.

## FIRST NAME & FAMILY NAME

*Here I translate what G. Lussier wrote:... first names first, then family names, they all come from work, attitudes, physical appearance, habits, origin, place of residence, etc. In other words, a person was labelled according to a particular trait or quality or defect that best fitted him/her. It could sometimes be subtle but was quite sensible.*

*So everyone gets a name, but what could illiterate people do when it came to spelling that name? And what can we make of those who knew how to write, and used this knowledge professionally, but nevertheless wrote our name (Lussier) in so many different ways? Of course the spelling varied according to the sound which varied from region to region.*

*The present and most popular spelling is "Lussier", but we also find "Lucier". But does it matter? The sound is what matters and what it suggests. For a long time people wrote "L'Huissier", as it brings us back to the origin of the name which comes from "huis" the old French word referring to a door plus the suffix "sier" indicating a trade or profession or function. So could it be someone looking after a door? A doorman? Possibly?*

*According to the Larousse and the Robert dictionaries, the word 'huissier' has many meanings, not necessarily related to one another. For example around 1320, it referred to a guardian standing by the door of an important personage who announced and introduced visitors . . . a doorman then, an officer whose main task was to open and close doors. There was such a man at the King's door. And the author adds - in bracket - that this is possibly the nearest and closest that our family was ever to nobility and that in our family true nobility was achieved through hard work...*

## MULTIPLE TRANSFORMATIONS

From first names or nicknames eventually produced surnames. In France it varied depending on regions, local idioms and language of neighbouring countries. Local spelling was affected by the perception of sounds and locations. The person

giving his/her name usually had no idea how to write it, so the listener, even if he knew how to write, did his best! It is important to know that in France, only in 1870 when the *livret de famille*, e.g. an official family book was instituted that the spelling of family names or surnames was definitely normalized by law. (4) Imagine then what it was like in New France, certainly not any better. I can still hear my great-aunt telling me that before she married Adjutor Hamelin dit Laganière, in 1894, he had to choose between Hamelin and Laganière because, in Quebec, a new law had recently been enacted to that effect. During the twentieth century, French Canadians delved more than ever into genealogical research to find their roots and so many thought they had 'noble' ancestors because the family name of their ancestor included two names separated with 'dit' which they mistakenly thought was the noble particle 'de' misspelled! Many egos were crushed.

## SURNAME AND FAME

This is a fascinating subject and much has been written about it; a great deal can be found on the Internet. Surf and enjoy. As for the people adopting a name, surname, or nickname to attain fame, well, is there anything new in that? And why not? Human nature being what it is, there is nothing new under the sun or, as my Latin teacher used to say: *Nihil nove sub sole!*

(1) *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, #75, March 2004, p.33

(2) *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, #75, March 2004, p.33 and #84, June 2006, p.22

(3) Albert Dauzat (1877-1955) French linguist, pioneer in France of the study of names, surnames and toponymy and he is still considered the authority on the subject. (Wikipedia)

(4) Source: <http://www.geopatronyme.com/cdip/originenom/originedesnoms.htm>

## Rebirth of the Kirouac Toy Store in Quebec City

A new modern toy store named **Jouets Kirouac** recently opened at the Galeries de la Capitale in Quebec City. The customers of this vast shopping mall, including many Kirouacs, were happily surprised to discover, once more, a toy store named **Jouets Kirouac**, proudly announcing - *toy specialist for four generations!*

I was able to enquire directly from the management and find out the long and short of this rebirth. What a wonderful surprise! And I have many reasons to be proud of the opening of a business that has been known to people in Quebec City for well over a century. In 2004 it was sad to see the name Kirouac disappear from the market place but what a joy to see it reappear in 2010 in order to carry on the tradition of its founder, the man who gave his name to the first store located on Saint-Jean Street in Quebec City.

Let us go back to 1888 when the adventure started. It was 122 years ago, that Joseph-Arthur Kirouac (GFK00494)<sup>(1)</sup>, ancestor of the actual owners<sup>(2)</sup>, opened the door of his new business. It offered books, stationery, office items, toys, etc. As years went by, the toy department grew larger and larger as more and more toys were imported from overseas, particularly mechanical toys, electrical trains, and dolls from Germany and France. Over more than a century, the heirs carried forward the business as it had been first established and that went on until 2004.

The new store called **Jouets Kirouac**<sup>(3)</sup> presents a large variety of parlour games, made in Quebec, Canada and Europe, building sets, particularly for the little ones, and beautiful dolls from Spain and France, including some brand names carried exclusively by the Kirouac store. André Kirouac (GFK00520), the present owner, told me that every year he attends the annual International Toy Fair in Nuremberg in Germany, (this year, 3-8 February 2011) in order to buy the latest and newest toys available at the largest toy fair in the world. André is the heart and soul of the present business and it is wonderful to see that, still today, the Kirouac Toy Store is run according to the philosophy of its founder: *make sure to offer to the Quebec customers the latest and the best products.*

There is a traditional expression used in Quebec City: **Kirouac les jouets**, Well, in English we would say **Toys are Kirouacs**, paraphrasing a well known North-American company name. And it goes to prove that the business has been associated with toys for and by many generations. People very often ask me if I am a member of that Kirouac family and, it is with renewed pride and joy that, I acknowledge so adding that I am the granddaughter of the founder, Joseph-Arthur Kirouac. And the expression will live on for many long years with the rebirth of **Jouets Kirouac** a



Jouets Kirouac business card

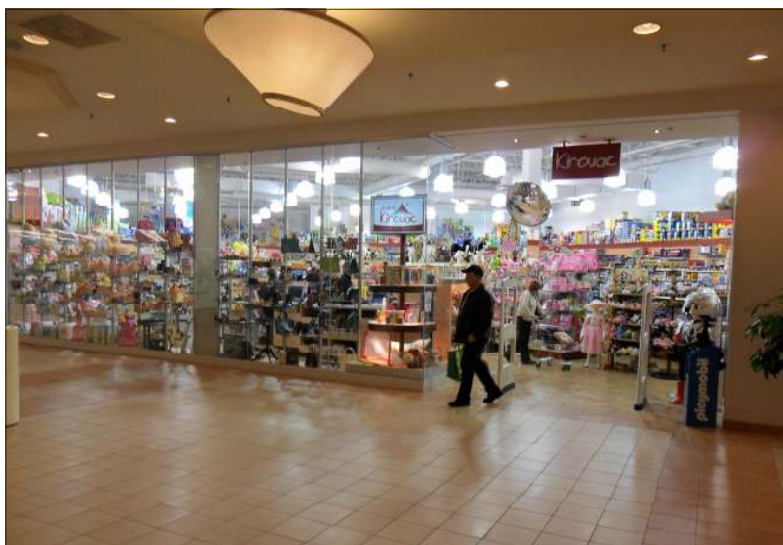
business that, in a few years time, may well advertise . . . **toy specialist for five generations.**

### Céline Kirouac (GFK00563)

- (1) *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, No. 92, pp. 17-19  
 (2) **Jouets Kirouac** is a consortium, property of Jean-Luc Kirouac (GFK00552), Thérèse Hébert-Kirouac and André Kirouac.  
 (3) **JOUETS KIROUAC**, Galeries de la Capitale, 5401 boulevard des Galeries, Québec, G2K 1N4 – Translator's note: This is a very large shopping mall located in the Lebourgneuf district north of Quebec City. It is north of Highway 40, called: Félix Leclerc\* and on the east side of highway 740, called Robert Bourassa\*\*. It is recommended to check Google Map before going. \*A famous French Canadian poet 1914-1988. \*\*Politician, 22nd Premier of Quebec, 1933-1996



Jouets Kirouac store logo



Entrance to the Jouets Kirouac store at the Galeries de la Capitale in Quebec City



# Reflecting on the life of Louise Bernier and Alexandre de K/voach

*Studying the parents' wealth to better understand their sons' affluence*

By François Kirouac, responsible for the KFA genealogical data

For quite a long time I have been under the impression that our ancestor's two sons were financially comfortable. They may not have been 'rich' nevertheless it seems they were reasonably well off. Indeed by reading the data found in the 1762 Census, our ancestor's two sons, each, had in their employ two male servants over fifteen years old. Quite a number of inhabitants had servants but, certainly not all of them. In addition, the two brothers already owned land. Simon-Alexandre bought his first lot at the age of twenty-five and Louis was even younger, only twenty-one when he bought his first lot. And let us not forget that Simon-Alexandre paid cash for his first lot: he gave seven-hundred-and-sixty pounds to the vendor upon signing the sales contract <sup>(01)</sup>. Taking into account that labourers, soldiers, lumberjacks, and land workers' who were at the bottom of the salary scale <sup>(02)</sup> then earned, on average sixty pounds yearly, one can much better appreciate the fact that twenty-five-year old Simon-Alexandre already had enough ready money allowing him to pay cash for land.

Discovering these facts prompted me to find out the source of their rather comfortable lifestyle and also about the financial wealth of Louise Bernier and Alexandre de K/voach, not only while Alexandre was alive but also after his death. The more I read some documents found a few years ago, the more these questions kept coming up as well as the need to find answers.

As I start on the second chapter of Louis' life <sup>(03)</sup>, please allow me to share with you some observations which I offer to you as a "lengthy

introduction" to the two sons settling on the Côte-du-Sud. These observations cover two distinct subjects. First, the ancestor's marriage contract: did Alexandre de K/voach and Louise Bernier have a marriage contract drawn by a notary or not? Second, did our ancestor leave any debts when he died? And if he did, approximately how much?

## Was there a marriage contract or not?

In Quebec, we are very lucky to be able to consult the electronic data source *Parchemin* which comprises an almost complete bank of the notaries' deeds drawn under the French Regime. The only small hitch when using this data bank is the fact that surnames are 'as written in the deeds' using their multiple spellings. Therefore, deeds concerning our ancestor can be found, or hidden, under many so-called distorted spelling of the K/voach surname <sup>(04)</sup>. Nevertheless, after all these years, I have not yet unearthed a marriage contract drawn by a notary for our Ancestor.

However, in a notary's deed concerning Louise Bernier, dated 31 March 1746 <sup>(05)</sup> it is clearly written that there was a *communauté de biens* = jointly-held-assets between the couple: "... Louise Bernier declared here and now that she renounces the jointly-held-assets that existed between her and the late kvoach...". At first, as I did, I took for granted that this joint ownership mentioned had been established through a marriage contract drawn by a notary. For years, I searched for such a deed but to no avail.

Given the absence of a notary's deed, I started asking myself if it were possible for a couple to benefit from the **jointly-held-assets** without obtaining it through a notary's deed. I did extensive research and concluded that, yes, it was possible. If our ancestor did not sign a marriage contract drawn by a Notary, it is important to know that then the *Coutume de Paris* was (automatically) applied. And this *Paris' Tradition* or *Paris' Law* dictated that: "This statute dictates the *stricte communauté de biens* = strict jointly-held-assets between the spouses, except for the real estates acquired before the marriage or inherited from their respective families." <sup>(06)</sup> The law also dictates that the *jointly-held-assets* can also exist without a marriage contract. Indeed, this is the rule that this statute establishes whereas the notary's deed allows the spouses to choose either the *jointly-held-assets* or something else than

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(01) See *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, #102, Winter 2010, p. 10.

(02) New France virtual museum: <http://www.civilization.ca/mcc/explorer/musee-virtuel-de-la-nouvelle-france>.

(03) See the first article in this series in *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 101, Autumn 2010, pp. 19-24.

(04) See 45 different spellings in *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 99, Spring 2010, p. 11.

(05) Archives nationales du Québec (ANQ), Fonds Cour supérieure, Notaries' Archives, Pierre François Rousselot, CN 302, S38 dated 31 March 1746.

(06) *Coutume de Paris, marriage, sharing of goods, real estate and chattels and the status on women in the 18th century*, Hist 1903, Atelier: <http://www.hst.umontreal.ca/U/dessureault/Mariage-partage.pdf>, p. 2.

this strict *jointly-held-assets*", for example, *separate ownership of assets* recognizing only "private property", or excluding certain properties.

Even if in New France a notary drawn marriage contract was often chosen by the spouses but not all couples legalized their union in that way; in fact, it varied according to regions; 70% to 85%<sup>(07)</sup> of couples had a notary drawn marriage deed; but it left 15% to 30% without. Alexandre and Louise could well be part of that last group<sup>(08)</sup>.

### Did our ancestor have debts?

The notary's deed dated 24 January 1739<sup>(09)</sup>, whereby Louise Bernier, as guardian of her children, ceded the land known as des Trois Ruisseaux that automatically went to her children after the death of her husband, shows clearly that our ancestors were living under *jointly-held-assets* regime during their forty-one-month union. Here is what we read in this deed: "... Given that her deceased husband had left her nothing and that she had to live with the family of Jacques Rodrigue, her stepfather..." A little further in this deed, there is also another very clear passage: "...given that the under-age children and herself had no means to pay...". These two passages establish very clearly that, in 1739, three years after her husband's death, Louise Bernier had no resources. She had no ready money and no real estate acquired during their forty-one-month union, of course that is if we exclude the land of the Trois Ruisseaux acquired in 1734 but that was not totally paid for when Alexandre died.

However, even if Louise Bernier did not have any ready money after her husband's passing does

not necessarily means that she inherited only debts from our ancestor. Let us look more closely at what has been unearthed through research since 1978.

In the extensive *Parchemin* data bank we found only two financial commitments undertaken by our ancestor in New France both the same year: the first one was the hiring of one Chamberlant on 21 March 1734<sup>(10)</sup> and the second was when he bought the land known as Trois Ruisseaux on 8 July 1734<sup>(11)</sup>; nothing more has been found since.

### March 1734, one Chamberlant hired by our Ancestor

In the first contract, the hiring of Chamberlant, our ancestor agreed to pay him sixty pounds the day he (Chamberlant) would leave Cap St-Ignace. In addition, he agreed to feed him while he would be in his employ, also to supply him with three pounds of tobacco and locally made leather brogues as needed.

To this day, not a single document has been found showing that our ancestor did not fulfill his part of the contract towards Chamberlant. The opposite is true. Could a positive conclusion be drawn from the absence of documents? If Alexandre had not fulfilled his part of the contract, certainly it would be possible to find something to that effect in the Quebec Judicial Archives (*Archives de la Prévôté*). You certainly remember that the Ancestor himself presented a request to the *Quebec Judiciary* in order to recoup some money lent to one Joseph Martin<sup>(12)</sup>; and that loan was only for nine pounds and seventeen shillings! If Alexandre had not fulfilled his part of the deal, it seems quite evident that one Chamberlant would have filed a claim against him to get his due. But to this day, we never found anything anywhere in the Quebec

Judicial Archives concerning such a claim. **Therefore, perhaps the absence of such a claim can be considered as a proof by default that Alexandre most likely fulfilled his obligations towards Chamberlant.**

### Buying the land known as the Trois Ruisseaux in July 1734

Now, what about buying the land of the *Trois Ruisseaux*? The price of that land was 450 pounds. As a first instalment upon signing the deed of sale at the Notary's office, the ancestor paid twelve pounds cash; then he was to pay eighty-eight pounds in October 1734, followed by fifty pounds in May 1735. This last amount was to be followed by another instalment of one hundred Francs the following October (1735). When he died, there were only two outstanding instalments of one hundred Francs each due in 1736 and 1737.

**Had all the required payments on the land of the Trois Ruisseaux been made by the time our ancestor died?** When asking the question it seems normal to think about the previous case and to answer in the same fashion. **If Alexandre had not paid the amounts as expected when they were due, the vendor would certainly have claimed them.** There is not a single trace of any kind of claims to that effect in the

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(07) *Idem*, p. 3.

(08) See extra info on this page about the *communauté de biens* = jointly held assets.

(09) (ANQ), *Fonds Cour supérieure, Notaries' Archives, Nicolas Boisseau, CN 301, S32.*

(10) (ANQ), *Fonds Cour supérieure, Notaries' Archives, François Rageot de Beaurivage, CN 301, S237.*

(11) (ANQ), *Fonds Cour supérieure, Notaries' Archives, Étienne Janneau, CN 104, S45.*

(12) See *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, # 51, March 1998, p. 12; #53, Sept. 1998, p. 9, and #68, June 2002, p. 20.



Quebec Judicial Archives. In addition, in the contract of retro-ceding of the land signed by Louise Bernier<sup>(13)</sup> there is no mention whatsoever of anything to that effect during the year 1736 when the last but one payment was due. If Alexandre had not made all the payments due according to the contract, the notary definitely would have mentioned that fact in the retro-ceding deed. And the notary would also have mentioned that the retro-cession was due to Alexandre not having fulfilled his payments. However, the notary simply indicated that it was Louise Bernier who was incapable to pay her share of the deal and that she was insolvent; nothing else. Thus, can we assume that Alexandre had indeed paid his dues? **Once more, the absence of documents pertaining to debts, or the mention of statement(s) of non-payment presented to the Quebec Judiciary, being absent from the notary's deed could be proof that the payments were all made on the due dates.**

**There is even more: the vendor had the right to have the Ancestor and his wife's property ceased for non-payment.** Between the date of the signing of the sale's deed and Alexandre's death, three payments were due. The seller would certainly not have waited until the third payment was due to ask for his money. In July 1736, Louise still owned the land of the *Trois Ruisseaux*. Therefore, the land was not ceased and no document, presented to the Quebec Judiciary requiring the land to be ceased, was ever found. **Once more the absence of documents points towards a proof positive.**

#### **Any other debts?**

If our ancestor had left any debts or if he had contracted some important debts, some notaries' deeds to that effect would have been found or at least some official

acknowledgements of debts as drawn by a notary. In addition, let us not forget that after our ancestor's death, no claims for debts were ever made against Louise Bernier. After all these years of search about our ancestor, and research done by many researchers, none were ever found.

Of course, some may say that because no trace of any debt was ever found means that this can be considered a convincing proof that there were no debts. However, in my opinion, the opposite theory faces the same handicap. How could we pretend that Alexandre de K/voach left some debts to his widow without the presence of any documents to prove this? Once more let me say: to be without liquidity and to owe money are two very different situations.

There is hardly anything missing from the well documented archives of the New France era and, to this day, no document pertaining to the existence of debts within the joint ownership of Alexandre de K/voach and Louise Bernier has ever surfaced. **Given the ways and customs of the time the absence of document can, in my opinion, support the assumption that there were no debts.**

#### **The best proof of the absence of debts**

The absence of documents is important, but the most important clue supporting the absence of debts, at least of important debts, is the long period of time between Alexandre de K/voach's death and the time when his widow, Louise Bernier, refused his estate. Indeed, if the estate had included any debts, why would she have waited ten years after her husband's death to renounce his estate? Ten years is a long period of time! If there had been any debts, on the one hand, she could have renounced the estate much earlier, especially knowing

that she was allowed to legally do so. On the other hand, had there been any debts, how come no where do we see that Louise Bernier has reimbursed any? Not even a small part of one, because if she had done so, she would not have been able to renounce her husband's estate as she did in April 1746<sup>(14)</sup>. Concerning this last point, it is important to mention that she could, in fact, have reimbursed some debts but only if our Ancestor, her husband, when alive had signed a proxy to that effect. Once more, let us make it clear that **if any debt had been reimbursed, we would have found a receipt proving the reimbursement. When debts were reimbursed then, there had to be a receipt BUT we never found any such document. None, ever.**

One other question we may ask ourselves is: why would Louise Bernier have lived with those hypothetical debts hanging over her head plus the inevitable claims that would have ensued had she been unable to pay them? **In addition, it is difficult to imagine that if such debts had existed unpaid, why would the creditors have waited ten years to claim their due?** Somebody would have made a claim. Court ordinances would have been issued. Creditors would not have been happy with vague promises of eventual payment if and when an hypothetical inheritance would be forthcoming from France.

(13) (ANQ), *Fonds Cour supérieure, Greffe de notaire, Étienne Jeanneau, CN104, S45. See also LeBris de K/voach, Number 20, June 1990, p 8.*

(14) *The Old French droit coutumier, third and last article, p. 430. ([http://www.persee.fr/web/revues/home/prescript/article/bec\\_0373-6237\\_1852\\_num\\_13\\_1\\_445068](http://www.persee.fr/web/revues/home/prescript/article/bec_0373-6237_1852_num_13_1_445068)).*

## Why, then, would Alexandre de K/voach's estate be more burdensome than profitable?

During my years of research there is only one document that gave me to think that possibly there were debts, however, leaving me clueless as to the importance of such debts; would the amount have been small, medium or large? The size has its importance.

A few years ago, following the discovery of a certain deed, my first reaction was to think that our ancestor had left only debts to his widow<sup>(15)</sup>. The declaration I made then was based only on one passage in this deed and it read as follows: "...*Dame Louise Bernié, widow of the late Alexandre Kvoach, appeared (in court), she declared through the present deed, to refuse the Joint Property that existed between herself and the deceased, her late husband, because it is more burdensome than profitable. She swears and declares that it did not bring any profits...*" (Translator's Note: Misspelling of surnames as in the original French deed).

When reading the phrase taken out of context, the conclusion seems obvious. However, could it be that this sentence is 'official legal jargon' then used by notaries when drawing contracts and that it could be applied to something else than the presence of debts.

### Let me explain

Let us look at the various events in a chronological order according to the documents and deeds found to date. First we find that Louise Bernier renounced her husband's estate<sup>(16)</sup> on 31 March 1746, ten years after his death, **and four days only before her mother's estate is being divided and settled. Her mother, Geneviève Caron, widow of Jacques Rodrigue<sup>(17)</sup> had died**

**two months earlier on 9 January 1746.** Ten years, or 120 months, or 3650 days, after Alexandre's death! Not quite the morrow! Therefore, it seems to me quite obvious that the only reason she relinquished her husband's inheritance is in order to be able to inherit from her mother's estate like the other members of her family, her mother's legal heirs.

Obviously we must ask the following question: what did her husband's estate comprise if there was no marriage contract as I believe that there was none? This is where the *Coutume de Paris*, i.e. the Paris Tradition or Paris Law, that exists to took care of this aspect of the marriage. During their short union, Louise and Alexandre did not acquire any immovable goods, or property, except for the land known as *des Trois Ruisseaux*, and it also looks as if they did non accumulate any cash because, during the summer of 1736, Louise was unable to complete the payments due on the land of *des Trois Ruisseaux*, hence she must abandon her share of the property that legally reverted to her. The *Paris Legal Code* gave Louise Bernier a **douaire coutumier** (26) that would have included part of the usufruct of the real estate acquired by her husband before their marriage, or inherited; added to that a **préciput** (25) constituted of an amount of money that, obviously, was not available upon our ancestor's death and had not been accrued during his forty-one-month union with Louise Bernier. Therefore, in the spring 1746, it looked as though the estate comprised nothing at all, whereas Louise Bernier's mother's estate was well endowed indeed.

Therefore, the expression used by the notary "*more onerous than profitable*" might take on a totally different meaning than which we have usually first given it. In other words now we can see that if she

had not renounced her husband's estate, she would not have been able to collect and enjoy her share of her mother's estate. So, may we conclude that, by using the expression "*more onerous than profitable*", the notary was basically underlining the negative difference between the two estates? **A positive answer to this question sheds a whole new light on the long delay between the ancestor's death and Louise Bernier's renouncing his estate as well as completely annihilating the possibility of our ancestor leaving debts at the time of his death.**

At this point, it is also very important to understand the context in which these events took place in the spring of 1746. Therefore, allow me to bring you back in time. For reasons unknown to us, on 9 March 1733, at the age of twenty-one, Louise was authorized by her husband<sup>(18)</sup> to sell to Jacques Rodrigue, her step-father, her share and rights to her own father's estate, Jean-Baptiste Bernier, as well as to the eventual estate of her mother, Geneviève Caron<sup>(19)</sup> for the sum of 600 pounds. At the time, our ancestors were not the only one to do such a deal in order to obtain some ready cash. Other cases are known. We also need to remember that Louise Bernier was only three years old when her father died in 1715; also that she was still a minor

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(15) See *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, #52, June 1998, pp. 8-9.

(16) (ANQ), *Fonds Cour supérieure, Greffe de notaire, Pierre François Rousselot, CN 302, S38.*

(17) *Idem*

(18) According to the *Coutume de Paris*, without this approval, the wife's acts were considered null and void like those of a minor, and, in 1733, that was the case as she was only 21 years old.

(19) (ANQ), *Fonds Cour supérieure, Greffe de notaire, Abel Michon, CN 302, S29.*



## Some explanations on *jointly-held-assets* as described in the *Coutume de Paris*<sup>(01)</sup>

The *Coutume de Paris* was the sole official legal code in the new colony as per the edict of 1664 establishing the Compagnie des Indes occidentales (West India Company).<sup>(02)</sup>

“According to the *Coutume de Paris*, unmarried women of age (spinsters aged 25 years and over) and widows enjoyed full legal rights; however a wife was submitted to her husband’s authority. For example, without her husband’s authorization, a wife could not sign any legal document or take legal action. Nevertheless, her economic rights were protected. The *Coutume* indeed clearly separated the property of each spouse, e.g. real estate inherited from their respective families, and all acquired real estates and chattels added to the *commonly held assets* while they were married. Everything held under the *commonly held assets* was administered by the husband, whether his or hers, while they married. However, the wife was still the sole owner of ‘her property’ and all of it was to return to her family if the couple died without children or heirs. Article 226 of the *Coutume de Paris* indicated clearly that the husband could not alienate his wife’s property without her specific authorization and he could only do it if it were in the best interest of the family.”

“... The wife found herself in a better position upon her husband’s death. When her spouse died, the commonly held assets were shared equally between the deceased’s heirs and the surviving spouse who also received a *preciput*<sup>(03)</sup> before the estate was divided. The *preciput* was either an amount of money or some goods and chattels. However, if the husband died before his wife, she would also receive a *douaire coutumier*<sup>(04)</sup> corresponding to the *usufruct* (interest) of part of her husband’s properties. The widow was also free to renounce the *jointly held assets* if the debts of the *jointly held assets* were too important, this was some sort of guarantee protecting the wife against a husband who would have been either spendthrift or incompetent. As for the personal properties of the deceased, everything went to his children and, if there were no descendants, everything went back to his family. On that point, the *Coutume de Paris* followed a straight family line because, in principle, the assets that came from a spouse were never to pass into the other spouse’s family. This is the reason why donations between spouses were strictly regulated.”<sup>(05)</sup>

**If our ancestors did not have a marriage contract, the *Coutume de Paris* prevailed and constituted their jointly held assets.** What did it mean? Only assets acquired during the marriage were included in the *jointly held assets*. **None of the real estates belonging to Alexandre de Kvoach acquired or inherited before his marriage could be included.** Therefore, only the assets acquired during their forty-one month union were included in the *jointly held assets*. However, according to the *Coutume de Paris*, Alexandre’s assets all reverted to his three children upon his death.

One item of this legal code is most important here: **all debts contracted by the spouses before or after the wedding were entirely part of the *jointly held assets***<sup>(06)</sup>. Therefore, if our ancestors had contracted any debt whatsoever before their union, said debts would have been part of the *jointly held assets* as well as any new debt contracted during their forty-one-month union.

(01) *Coutume de Paris* or *Paris’ Tradition* = *Paris Legal Code*.

(02) *Esquisse de la Coutume de Paris*, Yves F. Zoltvany. *Revue d’histoire de l’Amérique française*, vol. 25, n° 3, 1971, p. 365-384 <http://id.erudit.org/iderudit/303092ar>.

(03) *Legal Preciput*, in French law, is an advantage, a principal part one is entitled to; it is an object which is ascertained by law or the agreement of the parties, and which is first to be taken out of jointly held assets before any division takes place, to either a sum of money, certain goods and chattel, or a certain quantity of specific goods. Ref.: <http://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/Preciput>.

(04) The ‘*douaire coutumier*’ existed within the French law and referred to the *usufruct* (interest) a spouse inherited from her husband. The ‘*douaire préfix*’ was an amount mentioned in the marriage contract. Upon her husband’s death, the widow could deduct her due (*douaire*) from the heirs’ share, either from the deceased’s children or parents. In case of estate separation following a bankruptcy, the *douaire* could not be seized by the creditors. Reference: <http://www.hst.umontreal.ca/U/dessureault/Mariage-partage.pdf>.

(05) *Encyclopédie du patrimoine culturel de l’Amérique française*, *Coutume de Paris* by François-Joseph Ruggiu: [http://www.ameriquefrancaise.org/fr/article-187/Coutume\\_de\\_Paris.html](http://www.ameriquefrancaise.org/fr/article-187/Coutume_de_Paris.html).

(06) Same as (2).

in 1733 because then majority was attained only at the age of 25, thus she had not yet been able to collect her father’s inheritance.

When renouncing her husband’s estate thirteen years later on 31 March 1746, the notary indicated that Louise Bernier “*declares that all contracts that the said late Kvoach may have entered into concerning the sale of her rights are null and void as to the inheritance of her father and mother, because she was not ‘of age’...*”. According to the *Paris Legal Code*, not only was Louise Bernier a minor but she was also married in 1733, hence she had no legal rights at the time and could not enter into any contract nor sign a notary’s deeds. In order to do either, first she would have needed her husband’s written authorization. However, upon becoming a widow, she automatically obtained full legal rights. Thus in 1746, she used her legal rights and with the null and void legal declaration, she could claim her rightful privileges and inherit from her father and mother.

The value of her mother’s estate and the part that was due to her from her father’s estate had certainly increased in value over the thirteen years gone by since 1733. Jacques Rodrigue, her stepfather, most likely offered to Louise the possibility of renouncing Alexandre’s estate, as it seems at the time that there were no assets and also to proceed with cancelling the sales deed. If it is not her stepfather who offered this to Louise, it could be that she asked for his authorization to do so because at the time, she needed such an authorization. Indeed, the 1733 deed very clearly stipulated that Louise and Alexandre were giving up all future claims on the upcoming inheritance. Her

stepfather must have noticed that it would be quite unfair for his wife's heirs and, given the apparent non-existent inheritance coming from Alexandre, either he suggested or consented to act the way he did.

### Debt or no debt: Conclusion

Sorry for using the same old argument *ad nauseam*, but I feel that in concluding I must, once more, look at one event and ask: Would all the population of Kamouraska have turned up at the funeral of one person if that person had been known to be irresponsible and had not paid his debts? My answer is a resounding: **NO!**

Therefore, I strongly believe that before we avow peremptorily that our ancestor left debts when he died, we must take into account that there is **strong evidence pointing towards the absence of debts given the absence of proof of any debt.**

Nevertheless, these considerations bring up even more questions. Our ancestor lived at least ten years in New France between the time he landed and his death. How did he live? Where did he find the money to live? Funds must have come from somewhere. He could not have lived in a new colony for ten years without having the necessary funds to do so, nor could he have simply borrowed money right, left, and centre, without reimbursing his debts. And, how did he pay his passage to New France? How did he buy whatever he needed to trade with the Indians? So many questions and so many answers yet to be found!

### What did Louise Bernier, widow Kervoach, inherit from her mother?

When the liquidation of the assets was done on 4 April 1746, Louise received "... A lot comprising

furniture and other dry goods valued at one hundred pounds". In addition she received some land, a lot measuring five perches (29.2 meters) and twelve feet (3.9 meters) frontage by forty arpents (2,338.9 meters) deep, located in the Seigneurie de Vincelotte. This lot was boarded on the north-east by the estate of the Seigneur de Vincelotte and to the south-west by the land belonging to Jacques Rodrigue, her stepfather. She also inherited another lot located in the fief de la Pointe-aux-Bois. This last lot measured five arpents (292.4 meters) frontage by two leagues (9,823.2 meters) deep<sup>(20)</sup>. These lots were parts of land that had belonged to Louise Bernier's grandfather at first and then to her father. Louise Bernier's stepfather, Jacques Rodrigue, passed away on 17 August 1752; it was him who had brought her up. She also lost her half-brother, Jacques Rodrigue, junior, on 7 March 1755.

On 5 January 1754<sup>(21)</sup>, two years after the passing of her stepfather, she exchanged the two lots inherited from her mother with the Seigneur de Vincelotte. For these two lots, the Seigneur de Vincelotte, gave Louise Bernier one lot measuring two arpents (116.9 meters) less eleven feet, frontage, divided in many parts, by half-a-league in depth (2,455.8) and located in the second concession in the Seigneurie de Bonsecours, boarded on the north-east by the land of Louis Langelier and on the south-west by the land of Charles Méthot. This property's frontage was "*at the end of the lower half-league property of Charles Bernier*". One interesting detail to remember about that lot is that there was a house on it measuring 20 X 20 French feet (6.5 X 6.5 meters).

On 11 April 1756, by deed drawn by Notary Noël Dupont<sup>(22)</sup>, Louise gave to her son, Louis, part of that lot obtained from Seigneur de

Vincelotte. She gave Louis part of a lot measuring one arpent (58.5 m) frontage by half-a-league deep (2,455.8 m). She kept ownership of the other part but she allowed Louis to enjoy the usufruct from it for while she is alive.

So it is this lot received from his mother in the Seigneurie de Bonsecours that Louis owned when he signed his marriage contract at the age of 22, on 10 January 1757, and where he lived for a few years<sup>(23)</sup>.

In a future article, we will look at various transactions done by Louis including the one to buy the land where he will live in Cap St. Ignace.

(20) Even if the measure looks very precise showing one tenth after the period, it is still approximate. In New France then one league could vary in length from one Seigneurie to the other. (Reference: <http://foncier.mrnf.gouv.qc.ca/conversion/>).

(21) (ANQ), Fonds Cour supérieure, Greffe de notaire, Noël Dupont, CN 302 S10.

(22) *Idem*.

(23) *Idem*, as determined by the deed dated 27 June 1758 where it is indicated that he resides in the Seigneurie de Bonsecours.



**Preserving the Kirouac Family Photographic Heritage;** Joseph-Arthur Kirouac dit le Breton (GFK 01575) and his wife, Agathe Guérette; original owner, Georges Kirouac; KFA acquired in January 2008. Archive number: X4330-0040.



## What did the estate of Alexandre de K/voach comprise?

By François Kirouac, responsible for KFA genealogy

In the March 1746 deed, Louise Bernier renounces the *communauté de biens* that is the *jointly-held-assets* according to the then current law and understanding between her husband and herself; however, she did not renounce his estate/inheritance.

These are two very different and separate matters. I believe the couple Bernier/de Kervoach did not have a marriage contract drawn by a Notary, therefore the *Coutume de Paris* (the then current law in France and in New France) gave Louise Bernier certain rights, particularly a *douaire coutumier*, i.e. *legal dower*. As the term implies, this legal dower generally comprised part of the usufruct (interest) from real estates that her husband received or acquired before their marriage. As for the couple's children they became owners of the assets included in the dower.

"In the end, the dower's purpose was to maintain the assets in the family. It was also meant to be the minimum inheritance a father left to his children. Thus the children owned the assets included in the dower but the widow received these assets' usufruct. Therefore the children found themselves their father's real estate mortgage creditors. This was indeed their right but it would apply only if they refused their father's inheritance..."<sup>(01)</sup>

"The dower was a claim that the widow and children had on the father/husband's assets. . ." The Article 250 of the *Nouvelle Coutume de Paris* (1580) stated this very clearly: "If the children from said marriage refuse their father's inheritance and abstain from taking it, then the said dower belongs to

the said children purely and simply..."

This *douaire coutumier*, legal dower, was an obligation contracted by the husband towards his wife to provide for her needs after his death; "that was one of the civil results of the marriage"<sup>(02)</sup>. The personal assets acquired before the marriage or inherited, by rights belonged and or came back to the direct descendants, in this instance we are talking about Louise and Alexandre's children.

In New France, the *Coutume de Paris* was the law. Therefore according to this law, the place of residence of the husband at the time of the marriage determined that the children were entitled to the *legal dower* and it also determined that his widow's right was to half this dower's usufruct. However, the *droit coutumier*, i.e. the *current law*, to be enforced then was the one applied wherever the real estates belonging to Alexandre were located at the time in order to determine the share of the usufruct that Louise Bernier was entitled to<sup>(03)</sup>. Given that our Ancestor's real estates were located in Brittany, the *droit coutumier*, i.e. *current law* to be applied was the one currently applied in that French province which provided only one third of the usufruct of the real estates for the widow where as the *Coutume de Paris* provided half of the usufruct.

In addition to the right to a dower according to the law, the *Coutume de Paris* also provided the right to a *preciput*. This *preciput* was comprised of an amount of money taken by the widow on the value of the *jointly-held-assets* before it was divided (between the heirs). However, today we know that the couple, during their forty-one-month union, did not have time to accumulate enough *joint-held-*

*assets* to enable Louise Bernier to collect any revenue.

Consequently, Alexandre de K/voach's estate might have comprised:

- ♦ **A *preciput*** to Louise Bernier, that is an amount of money taken in priority by her on the value of the *joint-held-assets* between them;
- ♦ **A *douaire coutumier*** i.e. legal dower, for Louise Bernier comprising one third of the usufruct of her husband's real estates, said real estates automatically going to the couple's three sons as they were Alexandre's direct descendants (or would go back to the family in Brittany if his sons did not renounce their father's estate, i.e. their share of half the *jointly-held-assets* that existed between their father and mother because the dower is their right but only at this condition);
- ♦ **From the *jointly-held-assets*** that existed between Alexandre and Louise; the first half would go to Louise Bernier and the second half would go to the couple's children. (The value of each half being determined after Louise Bernier's *preciput* had been deducted.)

Given that Louise Bernier never renounced her husband's

(01) Mireille D. Castelli, *Le Douaire en droit coutumier ou la déviation d'une institution*, *Les cahiers de droit*, vol.20, no 1-2, 1979, pp. 315 à 330. <http://www.erudit.org/revue/cd/1979/v20/n1-2/042319ar.pdf>

(02) *Œuvre de Pothier, traité du douaire et des donations*, tome neuvième; <http://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/bpt6k242048/f22.image.pagination.swfv>

(03) *Idem*

In addition we never found any sign or proof that Louise Bernier might have ever refused Alexandre's estate as guardian to their sons, nor any renunciation done by the sons themselves. Consequently, the children were entitled to only half their parents' *jointly-held-assets*. **Thus, it might be rightly considered that due to the non-existence of document(s) attesting to the renunciation of the father's**

There is one more interesting point showing the importance given by the *Coutume de Paris* to what constituted the dower; in fact the dower encompassed the way 'personal property' e.g. real estate, was passed on to one's heirs; **the deceased's children, any time they so wished, could annul the**

It is interesting to note that because they never refused their father's inheritance, they had no claim on the dower that they were entitled to by the *Coutume de Paris*. **The real estate belonging to Alexandre de K/voach could therefore, perfectly legally, remain in his family.**

**Carte du gouvernement de Bretagne - 1768 - Gilles Robert de Vaugondy**  
Lieux d'implantation des LE BIHAN et des KERSCAU cités dans le nobiliaire de Pol Potier de Courcy  
Ce sont tous des Léonards

This map is a gift from Mr. Alain Olmi. The arrow indicates the place known as *de Kerouac*, south-west of the village of Lanmeur. This is a clear proof that our ancestor's name was well known as here it is found on a 1768 map of Brittany.



# PRESERVING YOUR FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHIC HERITAGE

By Michel Bornais, responsible for KFA audiovisual and communications

## CONVERTING 35mm SLIDES & NEGATIVES INTO DIGITAL FILES

This article deals with the digital safekeeping of 35mm slides and colour negatives, fragile supports on which colours will fade away faster than most can imagine.

### FILM WARPING

The first and most obvious problem with 35mm slides is the loss of focus when projected from a standard slide projector, as the film support suffers warping from the heat generated by high intensity projector lamps. A warped slide can still be repaired by cautiously removing the film from the standard frame and inserting it into a professional "Fresnel" double-glass frame. Reframing a whole collection could be costly, and once scanned, the slides should be reframed with standard plastic frames to prevent further curling of the film. But it is important to do so particularly for significant photos. But one must remember that the original colour slides are doomed; colours will fade away leaving a faint antique picture.

### COMMERCIAL SERVICES

Most important photo shops offer scanning services at various prices. Considering that time required for sorting and editing raises the cost, it could be preferable to get an unsorted bulk scanning. It will become much easier to identify, sort, edit, rotate and modify the pictures once they have been scanned into digital files. This is more than a must with 35mm negatives as they are converted into positive pictures which are much easier to work with.

## CHEAPER, EASIER AND SAFER VIEWING AND SHARING

Once your 35mm slides and negatives are saved into digital computer files, viewing also becomes a much simpler task on television screens, digital frames or a computer display. All digital pictures files can be copied quickly and without any loss of picture quality, no matter how many copies are made. Sharing computer files is inexpensive and quite easily: CD/DVD, memory cards, USB keys, portable hard disks and directly through Internet. For security reasons, duplicates must be stored in at least two different and safe locations.

### FLAT BED SCANNERS

The most usual is the flat bed scanner featuring a slide and negative scanning function. Some more advanced flat bed scanners, such as the Scanjet G4050 from HP, allow scanning up to 16 slides at a time, or five, ten inch negative strips. At less than 200 dollars, they have a second scanning head hidden in the cover, and come with mobile trays adapted to slides, 35mm negative strips and other various sizes of negatives. They need to be connected to a PC and come with a basic operation software disk.

### STAND ALONE MINIATURE SCANNERS

Over the last four years, new miniature 35mm slide and negative scanners (stand alone) have been offered to consumers. Their performances, features and reliability being variable, best advice is to deal with a dependable computer or photo shop, from which you can obtain assurance that computer compatibility and performances are as promised. These scanners are generally derived

from a basic 5 mega pixel digital photo camera with an internal electronic flash which permits a microsecond scanning. Prices may vary between \$50 and \$300 depending on quality and offered features. Some models can fully operate without computer assistance, as they have an integrated (Flash) memory and/or memory card connections. Very practical when visiting family and friends. Some may feature an on-screen display showing the picture as scanned, while others have only an optical viewer lit by a few LED bulbs showing the original slide, leaving you unaware of the final result. Viewing the final scan is an advantage as it allows seeing a negative as a positive image. Some top grade models could also allow minor corrections to brightness and colours.

Most stand alone scanners should allow direct viewing when a USB connection is available on a standard television set. In such a case, external memory capacity should be preferable to a reduced internal (Flash) memory. Though this TV viewing feature may seem to be attractive, one must not forget that replacing their defunct slide projector will in no way extend the life of a doomed 35mm slide collection or fragile colour negatives. Scanning and saving as digital files should be the ultimate priority.

At the time of writing this article, the author did not have the occasion to test and to note the quality of the end products for these new apparatuses. Several models now available are recognized for the quality of their "after sale" service, which could be the first criterion to be considered before paying a too attractive price.

# GREETINGS MICHEL!

*Written and read by his cousin Alain Bergeron at the funeral on Saturday, 15 January 2011 at Saint Médard parish church in Warwick.*

Thank you to Sears and Home Depot for the generous testimony we just heard, it is not only at Jean Coutu Pharmacies that one can find everything, even a friend, but also at Sears and Home Depot.

It has been said that Michel was hardworking. He always arrived early to start his day's work. Even in elementary school, he was always early. He handed his homework before everybody else. His teacher had to find something to keep him busy while the other pupils in the class were struggling to complete their homework.

It was the same thing at home at meal time. His mother, Gisèle, was still serving the main course to Bruno and her other four children but Michel was ready for his dessert.

And, believe it or not, it all started the day he was born; from then on Michel was known as *the fast one*, or Speedy Gonzalez. He must have been in a hurry to see the world. Michel wanted to get out there really fast. So much so that Doctor Breton nearly dropped him! Thank goodness he caught him in time thanks to his big hands...

Michel was the fifth and last child. He weighed only five pounds at birth... Luckily for Gisèle, he was not the fourteenth of fourteen, like it happened with their next door neighbour, the Provencher family.

Michel was a very talkative child. He always had something to say and questions to ask. He was the youngest of the family but he sure found his place in the family.

## And quickly too...

When none of his older siblings had their driving permit yet, Michel became the youngest driver in the history of the Kirouac-Bergeron family. By now, it is almost a legend but, still wearing short pants, he had his hand on the steering wheel. Or did he.

It happened at his Uncle Joseph Bergeron's house (his mother's brother). The house was called the *Verger des Horizons* (Horizon Apple Orchard) and the car was parked beside the house in a sloping driveway. While Michel was playing inside the car, he managed to switch the gears to neutral... and the car steadily moved downward, slowly but surely picking up speed as it went down the hundred feet slope. Do I need to



Photos: François Kirouac

Michel, Spring 1974, at sugaring off time

remind you that Joseph's house was on the main road, at the entrance of the village? A very busy road indeed and on the other side of the road there was a rather deep ditch! Michel's father managed to run to the car, jump in and put the brakes on, just before the car landed in the ditch! All agreed that it was a small miracle, because no other car drove by while Michel was at the wheel...

Of course, the following week, we all wanted to repeat his exploit.

Yes, it was a small miracle... but this is no reason to talk about Saint Michel then nor now, as Michel would not want to be publicly beatified.

It seems that he had character. When Michel had an idea 'in his head', he held on to it. More than once, I heard Gisèle and Bruno say to me that he certainly did not take after the neighbours...

Nevertheless, Michel always showed respect to others. He was very nice indeed. Is that surprising when you know the other members of his family: Bruno, Gisèle, François, Louise, Christian and Daniel.

By the way, it is a small world as you know, and that goes for Michel's spouse, Lucie whose great-grandmother was a very good friend of Michel's grandmother. It was written in heaven that, one day, these two souls would meet...

We just heard how much Michel was appreciated by all those with whom he worked. He was a leader. He knew how



(Photo : François Kirouac)

Michel Kirouac (GFK 00723) at Christmas 1976



to say things without hurting people. But he also had a good sense of humour, and he loved to tease his dad who always rooted for the Quebec City *Nordiques* (then popular hockey team, later moved to Denver as the *Avalanche*) while he rooted for the Montreal *Canadiens*!

And according to Michel, Bruno's choice was due to the fact that his father understood nothing to hockey, so that would explain why he was a fan of the *Nordiques*...

When he was very young, Michel was known to cry when the *Canadiens* lost a game. Of course it helps to understand that, when older, after the (loss or gain) of the Stanley Cup, he transferred his passion for sport to football... Otherwise, imagine how many tears he would have shed during the ensuing years...

When I visited him last November, he wanted to talk about the *Patriots* (New England football team). So I said to him: "Oh, yes, Louis-Joseph Papineau!" (referring to one of the leaders of the 1837-1838 rebellion). I noticed a cloud in his eyes and question marks. I think that he was digging into his memory to find a player by the name of Papineau and what his number would have been. I helped him by saying: Well, Papineau, 37...

I did not know exactly where he wanted to lead me... but of course, he wanted to talk about football, and the New-England team called the *Patriots*, his favourite team in the National Football League. Michel was a staunch fan of the *Patriots* which explains the presence of the team's pennant in his casket.

The *Patriots* are playing tomorrow; they are possibly on their way to the Super Bowl. Yes, Michel will be there too, watching from the best seat in the stadium.

In June 2008, when Michel was diagnosed with cancer, he accepted his destiny even though, as time went by, he discovered that the end was near. He never complained. He accepted his fate with serenity and courage. To each one of us, he was a terrific example of how to live...

The family wishes to express its deepest and most sincere gratitude to the personnel of the CLSC and to Doctor Alain Huppé. I was about to say Doctor Alain Côté . . . No links between the name and a certain valid goal refused by Kerry Fraser \* ... Of course I know that Michel would disagree with me.

Whenever we talked about death lurking around the corner, Michel wondered if life went on after the death of the body. He also wondered whether there would be anyone at his funeral.

Well, Michel, my dear cousin, dear son, dear spouse, dear younger brother, dear brother-in-law, dear son-in-law, dear uncle, dear friend, dear colleague, we know you are among us today. Look around you and see all these people who have gathered here in this church, everyone wishes to say to you, not 'adieu' but 'au revoir' and thank you for being part of our lives.

**Too soon...** Yes, Michel went too soon on this one-way trip. However, perhaps, we can draw some comfort in thinking that when our turn comes to depart on



Michel received his Marketing Degree from Sherbrooke University in 1988 and worked in retail business all his life.

this no-return voyage, you, Michel, will be there, smiling, on the pier waiting for us.

It is not the number of years lived that makes a man great but rather the number of people who were touched by his life.

Thank you, Michel!

Translation by Marie Lussier Timperley for *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 103, February 2011.

\*Editor's note: Alain Côté was a hockey player with the defunct Quebec City hockey team *Nordiques*. And the story of the goal that was refused is well known to hockey fans. Friends and relatives present all laughed at the quip because they knew that Michel was a fan of the Montreal *Canadiens* and Alain was a fan of the *Nordiques*.





**BURTON, JOAN M.,  
née MOODY (1925-2010)**

of Bradley, Illinois, died at home, age 85, on 28 November 2010. Funeral Mass was celebrated on December 1 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Bradley. The Rev. Anthony Nugent officiated. Burial was in All Saints Cemetery, Bourbonnais. She was born 29 August 1925, in Irwin, the daughter of Charles and Mary Jensen Moody. Surviving are her husband, William Burton\*, of Bradley, whom she married 16 December 1945, at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Kankakee; one son, Scott Burton, of Bradley; one daughter and son-in-law, Susan and Alexander Sandra, of Amana, Iowa; four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents; five brothers, Robert, Bert, Frank, Charles and Gerald; and one sister, Verna Moody.

\*William Burton, was the grandson of **Phillip Joseph Kerouac (GFK 02732)** and the great-grandson of **Louis Godfroi Kerouac (GFK 00180)**.

**GIRARD, LÉONCE (1930-2011)**

At the CHSLD St-Apollinaire Long Term Care Centre, on 5 January 2011, age 80, past away Mr. Léonce Girard, husband of Jacqueline Boudreault-Girard, from St-Romuald. He leaves to mourn besides his wife, his children: Mireille (the late Jacques Landry), Claude (Hélène Labbé), André (Micheline Gagné), Jean, Louise (Marc Leveillé); his grandchildren: Anne-Marie (**Jean-François Kirouac**), Marc-Olivier (Laurie Delisle-Vézina), Sophie (Julien Charlesbois), Gabriel, Véronique (Dave Welsh) and Hubert; his brothers and sisters and their spouses: Jacques (Cécile Bilodeau), Jacqueline (the late Richard Hamel), the late Rolande (the late Gilles Levasseur), Jean-Louis (Thérèse Boily), Jean-Charles (the late Moïsette Lachance), Noël (Marcelle

# IN MEMORIAM

Tremblay), Noëlla (Rosaire Tremblay), Herman (Jeannine Tremblay), Yvon, Louise (Denis Cholette), Jocelyne (Pierre Bourdeau), Pierrette (Claude Julien), Pauline (Normand Bilodeau), Carol, Réal (Fernande Veilleux); his Boudreault brothers and sisters-in-law: Berthe, Réjeanne (Lévis St-Amant), Antoinette Villeneuve (the late Maurice).

**GUENETTE, FAYE,  
née FRITZ (1919-2010)**

Mrs. Faye Guenette died at home, Monday, 29 November 2010, at the age of 91. She was born 5 June 1919 in Irwin, Illinois, the daughter of Theodore "Tip" Fritz and Blanche Burton Fritz.

**Faye was the granddaughter of Louis Alfred Burton (GFK 00204)**. Her husband, Albert J. Guenette, whom she married 25 November 1937, at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Kankakee, died 29 January 2000. Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Michael A. and Lois Larsen Guenette of Lake City, Minn., and Daniel and Valerie Guenette of Bourbonnais; five daughters and sons-in-law, Germaine and Roger Boudreau, Donna and Bob LaMotte, Tina and Rich Grise, Andrea and Dana Siefman, all of Kankakee, Michelle and Jim Kupczak of Bourbonnais; 23 grandchildren and 40 great-grandchildren; two sisters and one brother-in-law, Dolores Lazzara, of Kankakee, Gretchen and Bill Roberts, of Bella Vista, Ark. She was preceded in death by her parents and two brothers, Merle Fritz and Everett Fritz. Father Scaria Thoppil officiated at the funeral Mass at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Kankakee. Inurnment was in Mount Calvary Cemetery.

**KEROACK, Anita C.,  
née MONDOR (1917-2010)**

Mrs. Anita C. Keroack, of Danielson, CT., died Tuesday, 16 November 2010 at the age of 93, at Day Kimball Hospital in Putnam, CT. She was born October 3, 1917 in Ballouville, CT, daughter of the late Louis and Ella (Allard) Mondor. She married James Keroack, **son of**



**Sylvester Keroack (GFK 00043)** on October 26, 1946. He died in 1999. She taught piano and organ and was church organist at St. Ignatius Church in Rogers for many years. She also played the organ for special masses at St. Joseph Church in Dayville and played for weddings of friends and relatives at St. James church in Danielson. She also loved playing Bingo and worked at St. Joseph and St. Anne bingos in Dayville and Ballouville with her family for many years. She loved taking care of her family and housekeeping. She liked to go bowling and golfing. She taught people how to play the piano and enjoyed playing the organ. She leaves her daughter Diane Keroack of Danielson, several nieces, nephews and cousins. A Mass of Christian Burial was 11:00 A.M, Friday, November 19, 2010 at St. James Church, 12 Franklin Street, Danielson, CT. Burial followed in St. Joseph Cemetery, Dayville.

**KIROUAC, MICHEL (1966-2011)**

At the age of 44, died peacefully at home in Victoriaville, Quebec, on 7 January 2011, after a long fight against cancer, Michel Kirouac (**GFK 00723**), was the beloved husband of Lucie Jutras. He also leaves in mourning his parents: Bruno Kirouac (**GFK 00714**) and Gisèle (née Bergeron) Kirouac; his brothers and their spouses and one sister and her spouse: KFA President, Francois (Francine Desrochers), Louise, (Denis Noël), Christian (Doris Côté), and Daniel (Josée Sénéchal); his mother-in-law, Mrs Hélène Kirouac-Jutras (**GFK 00985**), his brother-in-law, Mario Jutras (Chantal Marchand) as well as many nephews, nieces, relatives and friends. Funeral mass was celebrated on Saturday, 15 January, in St -Médard Catholic Church in Warwick, Quebec.

**KIROUAC, MME JEANNE CANTIN  
(1922-2010)**

At the CSSS Bécancour-Nicolet-Yamaska, Christ-Roi Health Care Centre, on 31 December 2010, passed away



aged 88, Mrs. Jeanne Cantin, widow of the late **Roger Kirouac (GFK 00703)**. Funeral Mass was on 8 January 2011 in the Cathedral in Nicolet followed by burial in the Nicolet Cemetery. She leaves to mourn her daughter, Nicole Kirouac; one grandson, Jean-François Lupien (Isabelle Raymond); one great-grandson, Cédric Lupien; her sisters-in-law: Monique Lambert-Cantin (the late Paul Cantin), Thérèse Lambert-Kirouac (the late Richard Kirouac) and Monique Kirouac (the late Marcel Bolduc); her brother-in-law, Bruno Kirouac (Gisèle Bergeron); her two godchildren: André Cantin and France Kirouac.

#### **KYROUAC, BERNARD C. (1922-2010)**

Bernard C. Kyroutac (**GFK 00226**), passed away peacefully with his family on 29 November 2010, at the age of 88. He was the beloved husband of Ellen (née Wang) Kyroutac; loving father of Diane (Ron) Falete and Dennis (Sharon) Kyroutac; dear grandfather of six and great-grandfather of four; and fond brother of Ronald Dale (Karen) Kyroutac. He was a World War II veteran and POW. He was past president of Associated Retail Stores. Interment will be private in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, Illinois.

#### **LEGARÉ, PIERRETTE VÉZINA (1927-2011)**

At the Residence St-Antoine in Quebec City, on 17 January 2011, aged 83, passed away Mrs. Pierrette Vézina, widow of the late Raymond Légaré. She leaves to mourn her son Gilles; her sisters: Jacqueline (the late Roger Matte), Charlotte (Lucien Laperrière) and Liliane (**Claude Kirouac, GFK 01833**); her sisters-in-law: Cécile Sylvain (the late René Vézina), Alda Légaré (the late Joseph Lacasse) as well as many nephews and nieces, and cousins, and friends.

#### **L'HEUREUX, YVAN (1952-2011)**

At the Hôtel-Dieu Hospital in Quebec City, on 21 January 2011, aged 58, passed away Yvan L'Heureux, son of the late Gérard L'Heureux and the late Hélène Bolduc, husband of Carole Paquet. Funeral was celebrated on 29 January 2011 in St-Rodrigue Church,

Quebec City. He leaves to mourn, besides his wife, his children: Andrée (Jérôme Têtu) and Dominique (Bernard Plante); his grandchildren Zachary and Alexia; his brothers and sisters: Rénaud (**Gaétane Kirouac**, daughter of **Alexandre Kirouac, GFK 00654**), Ghislaine (the late Guy St-Pierre) (her partner Dominic Duchesne); Noël (Lise Blais), Émile (Sylvie Lapointe); the late Danielle (René Giroux) and Marie (Laurent Blanchet); his brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: André (Lise Renaud), Marthe (Daniel Lyonnais), the late (Yves Fortier) and Johanne (Yves Bernard); three godchildren: Josée St-Pierre, Sandra L'Heureux and Catherine Bernard.

#### **MINIER, YVETTE (1915-2010)**

At Alma Hospital, on 23 December 2010, passed away aged 95 years and two months, Mrs. Yvette Minier, daughter of the late Ernest Minier and the late Hélène Tremblay-Minier and widow of the late Joseph-Henri Lavoie. Funeral was held on 27 December 2010 in the St-Bruno Parish Church. Internment will be in the Hébertville Parish Cemetery. She leaves to mourn her children: the late Carmen Lavoie (Jean-Marc Deschênes), Patrick Lavoie (Dolores Juair), Lucille Lavoie (**Bertrand KIROUAK, GFK 02457**), the late Léopold Lavoie (the late Thérèse Cantin) and the late Fernand Lavoie (the late Brigitte Girard); her grandchildren and great grandchildren and many other relatives.

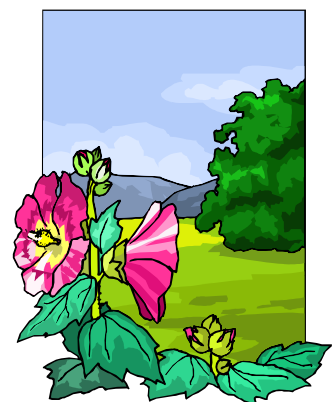
#### **O'CONNOR, FLORENCE P., née GUIMOND (1922-2010)**

Florence O'Connor, 88, of Clifton, Illinois, died Tuesday, 11 January 2011, at Provena St. Mary's Hospital, Kankakee. Funeral Mass was celebrated on Friday, 14 January at her parish, St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church, Kankakee, followed by burial in St. James Cemetery, Irwin. Mrs. O'Connor was a former employee of the Redwood Inn and the David Bradley factory. She was born 19 October 1922, in Manteno, the daughter of Homer and Hattie Kerouac Guimond (**GFK 02735**). Her husband, Francis R. O'Connor, whom she married June 5, 1943, at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, died Sept. 20, 2007. She was a

graduate of St. Patrick High School and a member of the CCW at her church. Surviving are three daughters and sons-in-law, Judith Ann and Wayne Coplea, of Cary, N.C., Eileen and Dan Boudreau, of Clifton, Donna and Ken Clark, of Kankakee; one daughter-in-law, Tammie O'Connor, of Atlanta, Ill.; eight grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren; and one brother and sister-in-law, Robert and Marge Guimond, of Bourbonnais. She was preceded in death by her parents, one son, Mark; and two infant grandchildren.

#### **TOUPIN, YVON (1932-2011)**

At the Hôtel-Dieu Hospital in Arthabaska on 28 January 2011, at the age of 78, passed away Mr. Yvon Toupin, husband of Raymonde Bergeron. He leaves to mourn beside his wife, his son: Patrice Toupin, spouse of Caroline Beaulac, his grandchildren: Antoine and Mathieu, his brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law of the Bergeron family: Jeannette, wife of Marc Nadeau, Gisèle, wife of **Bruno Kirouac (GFK 00714)**, Jocelyne, Jean-Claude, Rita, widow of the late Rolland Bergeron, Étiennette, widow of the late Paul Bergeron; as well as nephews and nieces in the Toupin and Bergeron families and many other relatives and friends. Funeral Mass was celebrated on 5 February 2011 in Saint-Christophe Church in Arthabaska.



**OUR DEEPEST  
CONDOLENCES  
TO THE BEREAVED  
FAMILIES**

# GENEALOGY / THE READERS' PAGE

The KFA's computerized genealogical database includes a number of couples where the name of a spouse or their parents, are missing. Answers to the following questions would enable us to complete our data.

Feel free to consult previous issues of *Le Trésor* and if you know the answers to any of the questions, please forward them to us and we will publish them in the Readers' Page in future issues.

Thank you very much

François Kirouac

## ERRATUM

In *Le Trésor*, number 102, question **number 327** should have read: What are the names of the parents of Philip Wolf, spouse of Tamara Swanson **born in Chicago on 12 April 1958**, instead of married in Chicago on 12 April 1958. Philip Wolf was born on 16 March 1951.

## NEW QUESTIONS

### Question 328

What are the names of the parents of Bret Swanson, husband of Nicki Chambers, married in Chicago on 24 November 1956? Nicki is the daughter of Jessie Kérouac but what is the name of Nicki's father?

### Question 329

What are the names of the parents of Charlotte Brown, spouse of Kim Swanson, son of Edwin Swanson and Jessie Kérouac-Swanson?

### Question 330

What are the names of the parents of Sandra Banach, spouse of David Kérouac, married on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1980, son of Edmond Kérouac and Simonne Tremblay-Kérouac?

### Question 331

What are the names of the parents of Valère Marquis, husband of Cécile

Kirouac, married on 4 July 1953 at Squatec? Cécile is the daughter of Wilfrid Kirouac and Régina Lévesque-Kirouac?

### Question 332

What are the names of the parents of Robert Kirouac, husband of Madeleine Lafleur, married in Hull, QC, on a 24 September? Madeleine is the daughter of Conrad Lafleur and Liliane Duquette-Lafleur?

### Question 333

What are the names of the parents of Alcide Fraser, husband of Isabelle Lévesque, married at Rivière-du-Loup on 1<sup>st</sup> February 1939? Isabelle is the daughter of Alfred Lévesque and Antoinette Kérouac-Lévesque?

### Question 334

What are the names of the parents of Jeanne Fraser, second wife of Lucien Lévesque who died in Montreal on 30 June 1954? Lucien is the son of Alfred Lévesque and Antoinette Kérouac-Lévesque?

### Question 335

What are the names of the parents of Louisa Laplante, first wife of Lucien Lévesque, who died in Montreal on 30 June 1954? Lucien is the son of Alfred Lévesque and Antoinette Kérouac-Lévesque?

### Question 336

What are the names of the parents of Laurenda Brière, wife of Joseph Sirois, born on 22 December 1878 at La Pocatière and married at Grand-Mère? Joseph is the son of Joseph Sirois and Justine Keroack dit Breton-Sirois?

### Question 337

What are the names of the parents of Joseph Potvin, husband of Anna Sirois, born on 16 March 1880 at La Pocatière and married on 29 November 1934 also in La Pocatière? Anna is the daughter of Joseph Sirois and Justine Keroack dit Breton-Sirois?

Please send us your genealogical questions; we will try to answer them and the results will be published in a following issue of *Le Trésor*.

The Editorial Team

### Question 338

What are the names of the parents of Amélia Handfield, wife of Gustave Sirois, married in Montreal? Gustave is the son of Joseph Sirois and Justine Keroack dit Breton-Sirois?

### Question 339

What are the names of the parents of Hector Poulin, husband of Juliette Bérubé, married on 2 September 1933 in Nashua, NH. Hector Poulin is the son of Hilaire Poulin and Georgiana Kérouack-Poulin?

### Question 340

What are the names of the parents of Eugène Dionne, husband of Léonie Nepveu, married in Nashua, NH, on 30 May 1936? Léonie was the daughter of Charles Edward Nepveu and Blandine Kirouac-Nepveu?

### Question 341

What are the names of the parents of Gilberte Vadeboncoeur, wife of Sylvio Nepveu, married in Nashua, NH, on 4 July 1935? Sylvio was the son of Charles Edward Nepveu and Blandine Kirouac-Nepveu?

### Question 342

What are the names of the parents of Emma Bérubé, first wife of Armand Nepveu married in Nashua, NH, USA, on 11 May 1931? Armand was the son of Charles Edward Nepveu and Blandine Kirouac-Nepveu?

### Question 343

What are the names of the parents of Dorothée Laflamme, second wife of Armand Nepveu, married in Nashua, NH, USA, on 5 September 1959? Armand was the son of Charles Edward Nepveu and Blandine Kirouac-Nepveu.



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**FIRST CONTINENTAL FAMILY GATHERING, 18-19 JUNE,  
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**AGM & VISIT TO THE CANADIAN RAILWAY MUSEUM  
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