

Summer 2011

Number 104

# Le Trésor des Kyrouac

Bulletin of the descendants of Alexandre de K/voach



St. Viateur's College: post card owned by Greg Kyroutac who won it on an eBay auction a couple of years ago. This post card is over one hundred years old and was mailed by a young lady from Bourbonnais in 1907 to her pen pal in New Jersey. At the bottom it is written in pencil: "Another from Bourbonnais Ills. Please exchange. Regina Burton". Regina Burton Kyroutac (GFK 00223) was Greg's grandfather's sister. St. Viateur's closed during the Great Depression but the building is still proudly standing in Bourbonnais on the Olivet Nazarene University campus.

Kéroutac



Kéroack



Kiroutac



Kyroutac



Kéroutack



Kiroutack

## ***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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## **Summary**

### **Le Trésor des Kirouac Number 104**

The President's Word	3
Press Review	4
Convocation to the Annual General Meeting	4
On the Right Track: always higher and faster	5
Montreal Botanical Garden, Multiple Anniversaries between 1931 and 2011	6
Again in Marie-Victorin's footsteps in Cuba	7
Les Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal in Cuba	7
Preliminary Programme — 18-19 June 2011	
Illinois K/ Families Reunification Gathering	8
Why Kankakee in 2011?	9
Invitation to Kankakee by Greg Kyroutac	9
Looking at Alexandre de Kervoach's era and our family's oral tradition	11
1768 Map of Brittany by Gilles Robert de Vaugondy	15
Pruneau & Kirouac Library and Bookstore	16
Arrival of Domestic Animals in New France	19
Kathryn Rem: Local college student says "NO" to Ramen noodles	21
Genealogy of Kathryn Amelia VanderMolen	22
Claude Laurin, an extraordinary pilot An honour to the Greater K/ Family	23
Financial Report for 2010	26
In Memoriam	28
Genealogy and The Readers' Page	30
Board Members for 2010-2011	31
Regional Representatives	31

# THE PRESIDENT'S WORD

**F**or the thirtieth K/ gathering during the KFA's thirty-three-year existence, we have chosen to go back to the USA for a fourth time. We were invited to Nashua in 1984, then to Hollis in 1991 and 2001, and this year we are invited to the Midwest. In 2008, Gregory and his wife, Nancy, came to our annual reunion held in Quebec City because of the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of Quebec and the KFA's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. That is when Greg first invited us saying how much he wanted to have a special gathering in his area. **So, three years later, we are extremely happy to accept his invitation and we will be in Kankakee, Illinois, on 18-19 June 2011.** As you read these lines, you will have received an invitation to this event and you will have read the programme on page 8. We certainly hope that you will be able to partake in this great weekend in June with all our **cousins** from the American Midwest.

Since the very first gathering, so many people have taken part in numerous K/ gathering organizing committees that we have lost count, but it provides an array of wonderful stories illustrating our family history. During the KFA's existence, each committee always made a point of presenting a very well researched history of their area, and, whenever it was a first reunion in a region, the stories of the first Kirouacs who settled each and every area were very well documented. This year will be no different. Indeed, **the fascinating stories of the Kyrouracs who settled in the Kankakee and Bourbonnais area will be presented by Greg who has been researching the subject and compiling data for well over thirty-five years!** No mean feat! Imagine the treasure-trove of information he has gathered. We are thrilled at the idea of eventually sharing these stories with you, cousins and readers, in future issues of our family encyclopedia, *Le Trésor des Kirouac*.

Each story is an extra gem in our family treasure and, if at all possible, there will be a first installment in the autumn *Trésor 105*.

Until then, and to wet your appetite, do read Éric Waddell's article about the French-speaking Canadians who settled the American Midwest between 1830 and 1930. I know you will appreciate this article written by the President of the *Jack Kerouac Observatory*. I take this opportunity to thank him very much for his contribution.

In the present issue, you will also find the convocation to our **Annual General Meeting to be held on Saturday, 9 July 2011, in Saint-Constant, on Montreal south-shore**. As, by law, we must hold our AGM in the Province of Quebec, we cannot do so in Illinois during our annual gathering, therefore we will use some time in Saint-Constant. As this is also meant to be a pleasant and animated family day, we have planned a visit to the **Canadian Railway Museum** located in St. Constant. It is a family outing, great for all ages. Do you know any one, young at heart, from 0 to 99 years, who does not enjoy trains, large and small, even miniature? Pleasant memories or dreams of adventure! We hope that many of you will join us for the AGM in the morning and a guided tour of the Museum in the afternoon.

In this *Trésor 104*, another article about one of the ancestor's sons was to be included. However, Lucille and Céline have yet to complete their research for their article about Alexandre's branch, so it is postponed until *Trésor 105* as they will not give you anything less than the best.

**As for the article about land acquired by Louis in Cap-Saint-Ignace that I am working on, it will be for the last**



François Kirouac

Collection François Kirouac

**issue of 2011. Hence, we offer you something special as a substitute: a study of the society in New France as our ancestor knew it while living here.** This came about after reading a book written by the late Marcel Trudel, a highly respected Canadian historian. **His study gives me the opportunity to present to you my perception of what Alexandre de Kervoach's life was in New France and, why, after an interval of nearly three-hundred years, this hypothetical noble status has survived till now.**

**In the present issue, we also invite you to discover a few other K/rouac descendants and their achievements** starting with the new culinary talents of Kathryn Amelia VanderMolen, the daughter of a first cousin of Greg Kyrourac, the convenor of our Kankakee reunion. Then Meaghan Ogonowski, a great athlete, introduced to us by her proud aunt Catherine Kirouac Robinson who is delighted to tell us about her niece. Jean-Yves Laurin writes about his brother, Claude, a retired air pilot; their mother was one of Marie-Victorin's sisters. There is also an article about *Pruneau & Kirouac*, a successful 19<sup>th</sup> century Quebec City store, famous for its historical postcards; Jean-Marie Lebel tells that story.

Enjoy reading!



## PRESS REVIEW

### Serge Kirouac, a *brilliant shooting star* in the Kirouac Hall of Fame.

Source: le Soleil de Québec, published on 11 May 2011

By J.A. Michel Bornais

According to journalist, Gilbert Leduc, this is the story of a bright and brilliant idea, created by Promo Plastik in 2003. The luminous passes created for the *Quebec City Summer Festival* (FEQ = Festival d'Été de Québec) produced a sparkling nebula "Made in Quebec".

But how interesting for the Kirouacs to learn that the brilliant mind behind the luminous passes created for the Quebec City Summer Festival is no other than **Serge Kirouac**. The glowing cards were not Made in China, like the previous metal passes, but they were all **MADE IN QUEBEC**, by **PROMO PLASTIK**, thanks to the gifted workers of the Saint-Jean-Port-Joli cooperative and their general director, Serge Kirouac.

One of the Quebec Summer Festival's organizers, Claude Doré, liked the idea and Serge Kirouac believed that it could be done. Back in Saint-Jean-Port-Joli, a village famous for its wood sculptors, he

had someone design the pass then a template was made. Serge K/ drove back to Quebec City to present the prototype to Claude Doré and Daniel Gélinas, the FEQ General Director. Both were bold over by the distinctive plastic pass. Since then it proudly bears *Made in Canada* engraved at the back of the *Quebec City Summer Festival* and this will be so at least until the end of the third contract in 2012.

The eighteen employee/owners of the cooperative specialized in promotional items are particularly proud of the annual production of 150,000 FEQ luminous passes. In 1998, at the World Cup Soccer presentation, Promo Plastik was internationally visible having supplied the official miniature mascots for the French soccer team.

Serge Kirouac makes a point to say that they are a partner of the FEQ not just a supplier. Every year, the Promo Plastik Cooperative workers, as well as the coop's sub-contractors

involved in making the colourful luminous passes are all invited to attend one evening during the Quebec Summer Festival. And Serge K/ adds: "When we go to the Festival, we get goose bumps watching thousands of scintillating passes. We feel very proud of our work *Made in Quebec*."

As well as the FEQ luminous passes, Promo Plastik ([www-promoplastik.com](http://www.promoplastik.com)) also makes a few hundred thousands *Bonhomme Carnaval\**, figurines every year. The small plastic *Bonhomme Carnaval* (the name of the Winter Carnival Mascot) are sold as admission ticket to the famous Quebec City Winter Carnival.

*Editor's Note: Serge Kirouac (GFK 02251) is the son of Conrad Kirouac (1920-1962) and Carmelle Caron Kirouac. He is also a first cousin of René Kirouac, our KFA treasurer. His mother, Carmelle, was responsible for coordinating the Sunday High Mass at the first ever Kirouac gathering in L'Islet-sur-Mer in August 1980.*

## CONVOCATION NOTICE

### AGENDA FOR THE 25<sup>th</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Saturday, 9 July 2011 at 9:30 at Restaurant Château grec, 97, Saint-Pierre Street, Saint-Constant, Quebec, Canada

- 1- Call to order and attendance; quorum;
- 2- Lecture and adoption of the agenda;
- 3- Adoption of the Minutes of the 24th AGM held in Sherbrooke, on Friday, 13 August 2010;
- 4- President's Report presented on behalf of the Board Members;
- 5- Treasurer's Report for the financial year ending 31 December 2010 and presentation of the 2011 budget;
- 6- Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2010 to be examined and received;

- 7- Ratification by those present of the Board's actions;
  - 8- Appointment of a President and Secretary for electing five new Board members:  
Adjournment followed by presentation of the new Board members;
  - 9- Other business: questions and comments;
  - 10- Adjournment of the AGM.
- Céline Kirouac, for the secretariat

## ON THE RIGHT TRACK ALWAYS HIGHER & FASTER

**M**eaghan Ogonowski's achievements were highlighted in the Hillsdale, Michigan local newspaper on Friday, 29 April 2011. The whole article can be found on: <http://www.ougrizzlies.com/sports/c-xctrack/recaps/042911aab.html>.

**HILLSDALE, Mich.** – [Kevin Luce](#) broke his own school record in the 400m hurdles and [Meaghan Ogonowski](#) went over 18 feet in the long jump, for the Oakland University men's and women's track and field team at the Hillsdale Relays Friday evening. The head coach [Paul Rice](#) was delighted with many performances and mentioned that: "Meaghan (Ogonowski) had a very strong long jump" and he was looking forward to the Saturday competitions. The newspaper also writes: "Ogonowski jumped 18 feet, 2.25 inches to place seventh in the long jump. It was the second longest jump in school history and she is just the second Golden Grizzly in school history to leap over 18 feet."



Meaghan, High School graduation photo, May 2009. She has just completed her second year at Oakland University. (Photo: Collection of Cathy K-Robinson)

Meaghan Rose Ogonowski, born on 2 August 1991, is the eldest daughter of Tim and Jennifer (née Kirouac) Ogonowski. She has a sister, Sarah, two years younger and also an enthusiastic sportswoman. The family lives in Clinton Township, Michigan. She is presently studying Health Sciences at Oakland University. On the Official Athletics Site of Oakland University, some of Meaghan's previous achievements are listed: [http://www.ougrizzlies.com/sports/c-xctrack/mtt/ogonowski\\_meaghan00.html](http://www.ougrizzlies.com/sports/c-xctrack/mtt/ogonowski_meaghan00.html)

### 2010 – Outdoor Track:

- Second-place finishes in the UDM Dual Meet (4/15).
- Three additional top-10 finishes.

### 2010 – Indoor Track:

- Tallied two top-ten finishes in the sprints and long jump.
- Ran a season-best 27.73 in the 200 meter dash.

### High School:

- A four-year letter winner under head coach Greg Goldon and served as team captain for one season.
- Earned all-state honors in the long jump and 200-meter dash her senior year.
- Also earned all-region and all-league accolades in the long jump and 200 as a sophomore and junior.
- Named team Most Valuable Player in 2008 and 2009.
- She also competed for the North Oakland Blue Dragons and Team Green in New Haven.

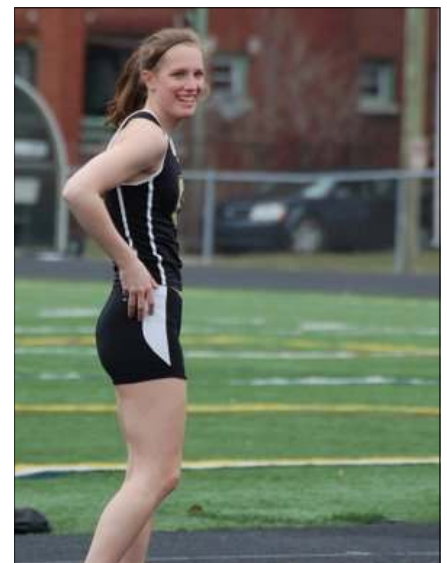
### Academics:

- At Regina High School she was a three-year member of the honor roll.



Meaghan with the medals she won on Regina High School's track team.

A great many thanks to Catherine Kirouac-Robinson, Meaghan's aunt, who sent us the above information about a niece she is rightly very proud of; and thanks for the Graduation photo. Thanks to Jennifer Kirouac-Ogonowski, Meaghan's mother, who sent the photos of Meaghan with her medals and on the track.



Meaghan on the outdoor track.

(Photo: Collection of Cathy K-Robinson)

(2011) (Photo: Collection of Jennifer K-Ogonowski)

# MONTREAL BOTANICAL GARDEN

## SO MANY ANNIVERSARIES BETWEEN 1931 AND 2011

By Marie Lussier Timperley

There are so many anniversaries, in so many fields, to be celebrated this year in 2011, however, for the Kirouacs there is one not to be overlooked particularly as it meant so much to our famous cousin, Conrad Kirouac, better known as Brother Marie-Victorin. Not only was it a very important moment in his life but also because it marked the fulfilment of one of his greatest dreams.

As one can read on Montreal Botanical Garden's Web site (MBG): *In 1929, Marie-Victorin, Brother of the Christian Schools, and President of the Montreal Biological Society, made an important speech promoting the creation of a botanical garden in Montreal. In the audience was Camilien Houde, the city's forward-thinking mayor and one of his former students. In 1930, the Montreal Biological Society founded the Association of the MBG and, in 1931, the official documents actually creating the MBG were signed in April.* (Source: [http://www2.ville.montreal.qc.ca/jardin/propos/histoire\\_chrono.htm](http://www2.ville.montreal.qc.ca/jardin/propos/histoire_chrono.htm))

So this year, 2011, marks the eightieth anniversary of the MBG. There are about 2,000 botanical gardens in the world and Montréal is one of the ten most important! This information was found on the Web site of *Quatre-Temps*, the beautiful bulletin produced by the *Amis du Jardin botanique* (in French only, MBG's Friends). (Source: <http://www.amisjardin.qc.ca/revue/3002.htm>).

Though, I like to add, I have heard that the MBG ranks number two in the world just behind *Kew Gardens* in London, England. Their top position is no surprise knowing that every English person has at least two green thumbs.

The exceptional reputation of the MBG is due to the *Institut de Recherche en Biologie végétale* (IRBV) and to the *Centre sur la biodiversité*; both institutes, located on the MBG's grounds, work hand in hand with Montreal University and the City of Montreal and are known worldwide as top institutions with regards to research and teaching of biodiversity. (Source: <http://www.irbv.umontreal.ca/?lang=en>)

In short here are some important dates/anniversaries:

**1931**, in April, signature of the documents officially creating the Montreal Botanical Garden.

**1936**, in May, the worst of the economic crisis being over, the botanical garden found a new impetus. Brother Marie-Victorin was named Director and Henry Teuscher, an American of German origin, botanist, horticulturist, and landscape architect, with whom Marie-Victorin had been corresponding for some years about the MBG, is named Chief horticulturist. If Marie-Victorin is known as the founder of the MBG, Henry Teuscher was its first designer. Then two thousand men were hired and work began again. That was 75 years ago!

**1976**, 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary marked by the inauguration of the Rose Garden.

**1991**, 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary: underlined by the inauguration of the Chinese Garden.

**1996**, 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary: highlighted by the inauguration of the Chlorophyll Hall, The House of Trees, the Fuji Pavilion, and the renovation of the administrative building.

**2001**, 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary: inauguration of the First Nations Garden.

**2006**, 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary: great celebrations: [http://](http://www2.ville.montreal.qc.ca/jardin/amisjardin/revue/3002.htm)



Photo: François Kirouac

[www2.ville.montreal.qc.ca/jardin/amisjardin/revue/3002.htm](http://www2.ville.montreal.qc.ca/jardin/amisjardin/revue/3002.htm)

**2011, 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary:** marked on 10 March by the inauguration of the new *Centre sur la biodiversité* of Montreal University built on the grounds of the MBG at a cost of \$26M. (See Web site). Marie-Victorin, a great ecologist before the word, must be rejoicing seeing how those involved with his Garden are pursuing the original mission of research, conservation, education, and transmission of knowledge.

In addition, if you were not able to visit the exhibition *UNDER THE CUBAN SUN WITH MARIE-VICTORIN*, now you can enjoy it anytime from home through a virtual visit on the MBG's Web Site.

Last year, in February 2010, for the first time, the Friends of the MBG went to Cuba IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARIE-VICTORIN. The tour was planned by Mr. Yvon Langlois, Activities Coordinator for the Friends of the MBG, and the group was accompanied by the late André Bouchard. What an unforgettable experience! So many other people wanted to benefit from the same adventure so, this year in February and March 2011, Mr. Langlois accompanied two more groups. And I understand that he may do so again next year.



## AGAIN IN MARIE-VICTORIN'S FOOTSTEPS IN CUBA

Photo: Collection Marie Kirouac



Marie Kirouac and Patrice Royer at the top of the promontory at one end of the beach; behind them the magnificent *Playa Esmeralda* and the hotel where they spent a week.

In March 2011, Marie K/ & Patrice Royer spent a wonderful week in Guardalavaca, Holguin Province, Cuba. Behind them: the magnificent *Playa Esmeralda* and their hotel. The beach is famous for its very fine white sand and also for being the landing place of Christopher Columbus on his first voyage to the New World in 1492. The beach is sheltered by two limestone and coral promontories which were formed millions of years ago under the sea. Marie & Patrice enjoyed walking in the ecological reserve atop the promontory, admiring the bromeliads and cacti as well as the impressive *Guana Hildegardia Cubensis*, a tall impressive tree endemic to Cuba but rare nowadays because its bark was poached illegally to make traditional Cuban hats. The ecological park is actually a nursery to protect the *Guana* where the soil is dark orange due to the iron rich earth, a characteristic noted by Marie-Victorin when exploring the area.

## LES PETITS CHANTEURS DU MONT-ROYAL IN CUBA

What a privilege it was for the boys to visit the Institute and sing for the personnel, especially considering that three groups of *Friends of the Montreal Botanical Garden* who went to Cuba "in the footsteps of Marie Victorin" in 2010 and 2011, did not have that opportunity. The younger PCMR, thanks to their teacher's efforts, were CJN members while in elementary levels and saw the TV programme, *La Quête* (the quest) about Marie-Victorin produced by TFO (*Télévision Franco-Ontarienne*).

On Wednesday, 30 June, they took part in a Gala Concert at the *Basilica Menor*. This magnificent old church, *San Francisco de Asís*, is now an air conditioned concert hall and Museum of Religion. The concert was recorded by *Radio-Havana* and broadcasted the following 11 July. During their weeklong tour, they enjoyed swimming in the ocean and toured an orchid plantation and admired the *mogotes*, those surprising flat-topped mountains special to Cuba.



Photo: Sylvie Bourassa

On the photo taken in Cuba by Mrs. Sylvie Bourassa, the Boys Choir and their musical director, Mr. Gilbert Patenaude. Since 1978, Mr. Patenaude has trained hundreds of young boys including his two sons and now the eldest of his grandsons. Among the former members are two K/ descendants: one, my son and, the other one, a great-grand-nephew of Brother Marie-Victorin. — Marie Lussier Timperley

Les Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal web site: <http://www.pcmr.ca/>

## Preliminary Programme – Illinois K/ Family Reunification

### **FRIDAY, 17 JUNE 2011**

Registration & Reception: 5:00—9:00 p.m.

America's Best Inn & Suites, 1500 Illinois Route 50, Bourbonnais, IL – Suite 322-324

### **SATURDAY, 18 JUNE 2011**

#### **Morning events**

Registration: 8:00—9:00 a.m.

9:00 a.m. Welcome

**What's in a name?** Panel of family members

*Learn how the K/rouac family name developed and why we have so many different names.*

**On the Road to Illinois – How and why did we go to Illinois?** Vic Johnson, local historian

*Vic Johnson is a life member and past president of the Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society and the current editor of Le Journal du Village, the society's newsletter. Between 1990 and 2002, Johnson contributed 535 articles to the Kankakee Sunday Journal's "Up 'til Now" column. He is the author of two books on Kankakee County history.*

**Where do I fit in?**

*Help fill in the blanks and find your place in the family. Bring documentation/ photos and help create a display.*

#### **Lunch on your own**

#### **Afternoon events – Tours of historic sites in the Kankakee area**

LeTourneau Home tour (Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society). – One of the first homes of Bourbonnais, built in the 1830s-1840s, the tour will be led by Kenneth Ponton, Executive Vice-President of the Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society. George LeTourneau was the first village president (mayor) of Bourbonnais.

Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (BVM) Church and old cemetery. – The original church in Bourbonnais, a wooden structure dedicated to St. Leo, burned in 1853 during Father Charles Chiniquy's tenure, who having to leave, established himself in the nearby town of St. Anne. The current church built of limestone taken from nearby quarries was completed in 1858. The original cemetery, where many K/ family members were buried in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, is adjacent to the church. We plan to place a marker in memory of those family members who are buried without a gravestone.

(Optional) The B. Harley Bradley House tour, 701 S. Harrison Avenue, Kankakee, IL. Explore the history of the house, the owners, life in turn-of the century Kankakee, and the birth of Frank Lloyd Wright's Prairie style design. The tour includes both floors of the house and most rooms. No interior photography permitted.

6:00 p.m. – Dinner Catered meal (Baked chicken, roast pork, sides and dessert)

8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Music and dancing from the 60s and 70s; John Weber Band

### **SUNDAY, 19 JUNE 2011 – Father's Day**

Morning Holy Mass: time and location to be determined.

12:00 noon - Lunch. A typical Illinois family reunion atmosphere, with a picnic styled lunch, where we provide the meat and families bring sides and desserts (not required for out-of-town guests).

Games and activities (where am I on the tree, photos)

Closing event. Au revoir!

### **MONDAY, 20 JUNE 2011 (optional event)**

For those who wish to learn more about Abraham Lincoln while in Illinois, Greg and Nancy Kyrouac will lead an excursion to Springfield, Illinois, to visit the relatively new Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, the only home Lincoln owned, his family tomb, and the reconstructed New Salem village where he lived for several years in the 1830s.



## ANNUAL GATHERING OF THE KIROUAC FAMILIES

# WHY KANKAKEE IN 2011?

By Éric Waddell

"A Kirouac Family Association gathering in Kankakee, in the middle of the United States? It does not make sense. There are no Canadians out there; only Americans."

I am quite sure you have heard that kind of remark or perhaps you thought so yourself: why plan the annual KFA reunion in the middle of the States. Well, it is very easy indeed to explain and justify this invitation. Have you ever heard the popular ballad song by the Quebec folk group **Garolou**?

*Aux Illinois il y a trois jolies filles  
Aux Illinois il y a trois jolies filles  
Mais il y a en une qui est parfaite en  
beauté  
Elle a volé le cœur des mariniers*

*"In Illinois, there are three lovely girls  
In Illinois, there are three lovely girls  
But one of them is the perfect beauty  
She stole the heart of the mariners"*

It is an old folk song referring to the tens of thousands of French speaking Canadians went to the American Midwest and settled in Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Ohio, and Indiana between 1830 and 1930, looking for better living conditions. Some went directly from the Saint Lawrence valley, where as others first went to New England to work in the cotton mills. But all were attracted by the numerous opportunities for work in forestry, agriculture, and mining in the border regions. Their favourite destination may have been Michigan but many went on to Illinois: Chicago, of course because it was an established fur trading post, but rapidly they also went on to the Village of Bourbonnais, located 82 km (50 miles) south of Chicago. This is where Noël Levasseur, from Yamaska, in the 1830s, founded an agricultural settlement and urged some one thousand French speaking Canadian families to settle in the area and around.

However, two major events taking place after 1850 cut short the growth of the

colony. First there was the arrival in 1852 of Father Charles Chiniquy, 'the apostle of temperance'; then followed the Illinois Central Railroad in 1853. The

outspoken and hot tempered Chiniquy, with his doubtful religious and commercial practices created rifts in the community and was eventually

### INVITATION TO KANKAKEE

#### Hello Family,

Since the first Kirouac (K/) gathering in 1980, there have been many Kirouac Family Association (KFA) gatherings including three American events in New England: 1984, 1991 and 2001. This year, for the first time, the Illinois branches of the family wish to welcome you to the Kankakee County Fairgrounds in Kankakee, Illinois, on June 18-19 to celebrate the re-unification of the families whose ancestors settled in Illinois.

Kankakee County is rich in French history, beginning in 1679 with the discovery of the Kankakee River by Cavalier De La Salle during his exploration of the Mississippi River. The village of Bourbonnais is named after François Bourbonnais, a 19th-century French Canadian fur trader who maintained a trading post in a grove of trees along the east bank of the Kankakee River that became known as Bourbonnais Grove. Noël LeVasseur, a former American Fur Company employee, bought two sections of land in the grove in 1834 and established a settlement of immigrant French Canadians. Bourbonnais Grove's first families, including members of the K/ family, came from Quebec's upper St. Lawrence Valley in the 1830's and 40's to settle what would become the largest 19th century French Canadian farming community in Illinois.

You may have noticed that we have named this a **family re-unification** of the Illinois branches of the K/ family. There were five brothers, sons of Joseph K/ (GFK 00174) and Marie Gezeron (Gesseron dit Brûlotte) as well as at least two K/ female cousins, who left Quebec and came to Bourbonnais in those early years.

Today, their descendants have names such as Kyrourac, Kerourac, Curwick, Curwack and Burton. Many of these family members have not known if and how they are related to each other. This event is to get those with local roots to realize this fact, as the early Quebec KFA gatherings in the 1980s have done. We invite all the K/ family members throughout North America to join with us, as some of you are just as closely related to us as we are to each other!

June 19 is also the day we celebrate Father's Day. What better way to honor our ancestors and our living fathers than to spend time with family. The organizing committee looks forward to meeting all of you and hope you will join us in this special event.

Hope to see you soon,

**Greg Kyrourac, Chair**  
**Kankakee County, Illinois Organizing Committee**  
**KFA US Central Time Zone Representative**



Maternity BVM (Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary) Church in 1890.  
Reproduced with permission from the Maternity BVM parish school web site.

excommunicated by the Archbishop of Chicago, so he founded his own Presbyterian congregation in the nearby village of St. Anne taking along with him his faithful French speaking Canadians.

As far as the railroad is concerned, it ran south of Bourbonnais, and this is how Kankakee became the new economical and commercial centre of the area. However, Bourbonnais remained the cultural and religious centre. In 1858, a stone church dedicated to the Blessed Virgin and inspired by the old parish church in Cap-St-Ignace was built. In 1861, the Congregation of Notre Dame sisters opened a convent and, in 1865, members of the Congregation of the Clerics of St. Viator, originally from Joliette, Quebec, established a 'college classique' like those found in the Province of Quebec.<sup>(1)</sup> "The college . . . soon became the key institution enabling the French speaking Canadians to keep their identity...in the American Midwest. In 1874, the college was granted a university Charter by the State Legislature. This university generated numerous priests, lawyers, journalists, medical doctors and many other professionals who all felt strongly the urge to preserve their language, faith, and national identity."<sup>(2)</sup>

We are talking of a population of 7,000 French speaking Canadians in Bourbonnais and some 20,000 within the State of Illinois by the end of the 1850s, most lived off agriculture and related activities.

Various reasons brought about the decline of the French Canadian communities in Illinois; the arrival of other groups of immigrants was the first cause and the unavoidable loss of their importance; being far away from Quebec was not helping either. For the French Canadians from the Province of Québec who wanted to better themselves, the attraction came from Western Canada opening up to colonization as well as New England's industrial towns' offering lucrative jobs.

French probably started declining in the 1860s but it is only at the beginning of the twentieth century that the situation became more difficult and transformation was unavoidable. However, even today one can recognize the French speaking roots of so many people in this faraway "country", I was there in 1981 and met at *The Corner Café* in St. Anne elders

(1) See the photo of St. Viator's College on the front cover.

(2) A. McQuillan, p.102, *Du continent perdu à l'archipel retrouvé : Le Québec et l'Amérique française*, sous la direction de D. Louder et E. Waddell, Québec, *Les Presses de l'Université Laval*, 2007.

who met there every morning and spoke French among themselves. In Bourbonnais, I met Mr. Adrien Richard<sup>(3)</sup>, French speaking historian who told me about his wife born in St-Georges-de-Beauce, and about his grandparents, one of whom was from Cap-St-Ignace and the other from Saint-Roch-des-Aulnaies. This gentleman told me that even in the 1920s, some people from his village still subscribed and received *La Presse* and one man still subscribed to *Le Devoir*! Even more surprising, Holy Mass was often said in French until the 1930s and, occasionally (at Christmas and Easter), until the fifties!

The building that housed the former "collège classique" is always proudly standing in Bourbonnais, while around Bourbonnais and Kankakee there are many former French Canadian villages: St. Anne, St. George, Papineau, Beaverville... Go have a look. You will see for yourself these remnants of Quebec in the middle of the continent!

Yes, there are many good reasons to meet in Kankakee on June 18-19, 2011.

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(3) Mr. Richard was a family friend of Greg Kyroutac's family. Mr. Richard and Greg looked through the original Maternity BVM church records prior to Greg's attending the first KFA gathering in 1980. Mr. Richard's experience with reading Latin was beneficial, since a few priests who served Bourbonnais were not native French speakers, so they wrote in Latin rather than French. Nearly all the pre-1900s records were in French. Greg remembers that occasionally priests would come to hear confessions in French even into the 1970s. He also remembers going over with his grandfather, Leo Kyroutac, former village president of Bourbonnais, to visit Mrs. Evangeline Parent Legris, who was daughter of Simon-Napoléon Parent, former Quebec City Lord Mayor and Premier of the Province of Quebec, according to Mr. Richard's book "The Village, a Story of Bourbonnais", written in 1975. This additional info was supplied by Greg Kyroutac after reading the above text sent in by Éric Waddell.

## A LOOK AT ALEXANDRE DE KERVOACH'S ERA AND THE ORAL TRADITION IN OUR FAMILY

by François Kirouac

**O**n 11 January 2011, Quebec lost one of its greatest historians, Marcel Trudel. He wrote more than fifty books. His works garnered twenty prestigious prizes. The on-line encyclopedia, *Wikipedia* says about his work as an historian: “*His entire life was devoted to rewriting the history of New France in order to put to rest the empirical, nationalistic, and pious vision presented, during the 19th and early 20th centuries in books and history volumes, as the only reality of life here. For sixty-five years this was the works of Marcel Trudel, the historian.*”

After reading Marcel Trudel's book entitled *Mythes et réalités dans l'histoire du Québec*, published by *Bibliothèque Québécoise* in 2006, a reader of *Le Trésor* suggested I read one of the chapters from that book because it has to do with *Du « dit » au « de »: noblesse et roture en Nouvelle-France* this translates as: *from dit (known as) to de (of): upper birth and lower birth in New France; or, nobles and commoners in New France.*

In this chapter, Marcel Trudel gives a great deal of information shedding light on various characteristics of the society at the time our ancestor lived in New France. You may remember how much importance I gave to that matter in the conclusion of the interview published in *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 100: “If I may add as a last word, I think that when analyzing the results of the research, it is important to look not only at what is written in the documents and what it says, but it is also important to take into consideration **the ways and customs of the time** (...). This showed you clearly that looking at events within their context not only

helps us to get closer to the historical truth but it also prevents us from evaluating the documented proofs, as found during the research on our ancestor, according to our contemporary values.

In the above mentioned chapter, Marcel Trudel tells us that hierarchy was a major factor and very strict in the society of New France then; just like it was in France at the same period. And I quote Trudel: “*In this vertical society, based on hierarchy, nobility exercises a very powerful attraction. Commoners seek the company of the nobles (...) Non-titled parents seek noble godparents for their children, (...) Daughters seek husbands within the nobility (...).*”<sup>(1)</sup> This extract from Marcel Trudel's book about the hierarchy of social classes and the attraction the nobility exercised on ordinary people shows clearly how strongly segregated the social classes were. How can be explained the attraction exercised by the upper classes on the lower ones? If nothing had differentiated the upper classes from the lower ones, no one would have been attracted, even lured by them as Marcel Trudel noted.

According to what Marcel Trudel writes, the various psychological strata constituting the social classes at the time in New France look quite tightly closed, that is shut to anyone who did not belong. “*Society watches the noble marriages and analyses them.*” An interesting example can even be found in the comment dropped by Mother Marie de l'Incarnation about the engineer and Seigneur, Jean Bourdon, who was not a noble but still married Anne Gasnier, widow of a former nobleman: “*she married below her condition*”. The

*surprising fact is not that the judgment came from a cloistered nun, but by a member of the nobility. Nobility keeps its head very high and the middle class (bourgeoisie) does exactly the same.*”<sup>(2)</sup>

This last passage suggests that any social class has no tolerance whatsoever for the one just below itself in the hierarchy, only if absolutely forced to. This, it seems, does reveal a lot about society as a whole then. Of course, judged by today's standards, such a comment would be quite unthinkable, even pretentious, especially coming from a Mother Superior like Marie de l'Incarnation. But, then in New France, within the highly compartmented society, it seemed to be the norm, i.e. to be normal. And, as all people living in New France then had originally come from the *old continent*, they had imported their own French values in their baggage. So whether in France or in New France, society's values then were the same as both belonged to the same highly hierarchical society.

I think this is also what we see in parts of the text that François-Joachim Le Bihan, Sieur de Kervoac, Royal Notary, wrote about his son in his plea against the Barthelemy family and dated 25 September 1720: “*Between said inhabitants of the town of Huelgoët (sic) he has the advantage of holding the first rank by himself*”

(1) *Mythes et réalités dans l'histoire du Québec*, Marcel Trudel; *Bibliothèque Québécoise*, 2006, page 184.

(2) Marcel Trudel; *Bibliothèque Québécoise*, op.cit. page 185.



*and as part of his family*”<sup>(3)</sup>. And, also in this other passage: *“However people of the lowest possible rank, such miscreants, the dregs of society*”<sup>(4)</sup>. These two extracts from the plea written by Urbain-François Le Bihan’s father, show very clearly that not only social ranks existed, but also what one, belonging to the highest class thinks about those from the lowest possible rung of the social ladder at the time, *“the dregs of society”*, unless it was used figuratively.

This hierarchical society had its own set of rules and another part of the 1720 plea sheds light on the deportments forbidden when you do not belong to the same social class: *“the miscreants now pretend they equal all others and that they can abuse the main upper class as they wish with insults and calumnies and freely commit the worst impudence.”*<sup>(5)</sup>. If we look at this last quote through the prism of our current values, the Royal Notary from Huelgoat would be labelled a haughty and pretentious character; nevertheless, most likely he was only a reflection of the society he belonged to. Another article written by Marcel Trudel proves this: *“The society under the Old Regime was a hierarchical society, a vertical society including, at the bottom, the ordinary people up to the middle class, and, from the middle class to the upper class, the nobility, this last category including many echelons [...]”*<sup>(6)</sup>. *Degrees within the nobility? Some nobles own very old titles and, because of that, they look down on those who have more recent titles and particularly the provincial squirelings of little financial means (...)”*<sup>(7)</sup>. If there is a hierarchy within the same social class, then it is unthinkable to refuse to admit that there is none between the social classes. Marcel Trudel explains that very clearly in

his book. It is very obvious how important all this was at the time. People were extremely conscious of social ranks and it was very important indeed not only in general but for each person, his own social rank mattered a great deal; this even more to those belonging to the middle class (bourgeoisie) and the upper class, the nobility. This also shows there was envy and resentment between the various social classes prompting conflicts between them; human nature being what it is. Then there were those who wanted to belong to a higher class or at least pretend to. So these people in some way modified their name. Marcel Trudel writes about this: *“In New France during the 17<sup>th</sup> century, people went from using dit (known as) to de (of) with no afterthought”*<sup>(8)</sup>. However, it gave some the illusion of belonging to the nobility, the upper social class seemingly so important then.

Therefore, this thinking being prevalent, it was not surprising to see someone asking a person of a higher social class to attend a family event like a christening or a wedding. Simply the fact that someone important, i.e. from a higher social class attended an event was an honour for the host family and also it made the host family look more important in the eyes of its guests. The Royal Notary, François-Joachim Le Bihan referred very clearly to this aspect of society when he wrote in his 1720 plea: *“Urbain François Le Bihan, son of the plaintiff, was invited to attend the ceremony in order to honour the company by his presence after the meal and at the public dance...”*<sup>(9)</sup>.

So it is clear that in those days if one wanted to honour someone or even a whole family through one’s presence at an event, one had to be honourable and, according to the accepted values of the time, it meant belonging to a higher social

class. However, it seems to me that in order to honour the inviting party, whether a person or a family, not only must one belong to a higher social class, but also have given proof of past honourable behaviour; otherwise, for the inviting party, the intended goal would not be attained.

However, between the practice in Old France and the reality in New France, there is a wide gap: *Noble people must draw revenues from their land.[...] it will take many generations for some noble families to be able to live only from the revenues of their land; those who lived during the 17th and 18th centuries will have to fall back on a then considered ‘vile’ career like commerce and business. Something our former educators placed way below any of the liberal professions. Commerce, yes, but as long as it was not retail business, then looked upon as “ignoble”, anyway our nobles were authorized to do business without tarnishing their social status.*<sup>(10)</sup> [...] *In order to conserve one’s noble status, in principle, one needs to live like a person of noble birth, and that means earning revenues through the work of others and not through one’s manual labour, one does not exercise vile professions, e.g. one does not work for others.*<sup>(11)</sup>

Another passage is also very interesting: *“(...) in Canada, there is a net similarity between being noble and bourgeois (middle*

(3) *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, September 2000, number 61, pages 45-49.

(4) *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, op.cit.

(5) *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, op. cit.

(6) Marcel Trudel, op.cit. page 176.

(7) Marcel Trudel, op.cit. page 177.

(8) Marcel Trudel, op.cit. page 172.

(9) *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, op.cit. pages 45-49.

(10) Marcel Trudel, op.cit. pages 183-184.

(11) Marcel Trudel, op.cit. page 183.

*class*). As nobles cannot live according to the standards of their status, i.e. earning enough revenue from their land only, **hence they do like the bourgeois, they are into commerce and business, they are into the same professions, enjoy the same quality of life and the same problems.**<sup>(12)</sup> All in all, in New France, contrary to what was the case in France at the same period, there seemed to be little differences between ‘Nobles’ and ‘Bourgeois’. However, as Marcel Trudel indicates, there were enough advantages for lower people to feel the **“powerful attraction”** of the upper class.

To conclude this first part, I must underline that given the above comments there are enough distinctive characteristics about the society then to help us understand the research concerning our ancestor’s life and time:

- A highly hierarchical society where the existence of one level, the upper echelon, exercised **a strong attraction** on the other two;
- A rather special situation distinct to New France due to the similarity between **nobility and bourgeoisie**, at least as far as **professions** chosen by both classes;
- A set of **privileges for the nobility**, though less important than in France, **nevertheless arose great interest and attraction** from the lower classes in that society.

The nobility’s **strong attraction** on all was so inherent to society at the time that it could well explain Alexandre de Kervoach’s choices in life; this is the explanation I prefer above all others. Does it not seem normal that a man of his time, attracted and fascinated by ‘nobility’, would want, like so many others, to project the image of one belonging to the upper echelon of society?

### Our ancestor’s social rank

In his book, Marcel Trudel indicates that one of nobility’s privileges at the time was to show its status by adding **“de”** and **a second (family) name** linked to a noble estate or, at least, to a land owned by the person or, simply due to some geographical accident, would be used to make up a name. Nowadays this may be surprising, however, in the highly hierarchical society of the time the simple fact that one could rise above the crowd by using the particle **“de”**, obviously was very valuable. Auffroy Le Bihan, from the land of *de Kervoach* in Lanmeur, was the first Le Bihan to decide to add to his family name the toponymic name *de Kervoach* and his son, Laurens followed suit as well as his grandson, François-Joachim, who also proudly used the name which in turn was used by his own son, Urbain-François. So let us look at the particle *de Kervoach* that our ancestor Alexandre used in fifteen of his eighteen signatures found so far.

To help us see the incredible importance that people put into the use of **“de”**, in order to give a noble touch to their family name, Marcel Trudel gives some examples:

- **“Guillaume Couillard will call himself *de l’Espinay*, a title he will pass on to his eldest son; another son will be known as *Couillard de Belleruche*,”**
- **“Pierre Boucher, holder of the Seigneurie known as Grosbois called himself *Boucher de Grosbois*; his eldest son chose *Boucher de Boucherville*; there was also a *Boucher de Montbrun*, and a *Boucher de Grandpré*,”**
- **There were also those who believed that “they were about to be ennobled and in readiness of the fulfillment of their dream, chose a second family name after**

**the *de***. This happened within the Morin family: one called himself ***Morin de Belleruche***; another became ***Morin de Valcourt***.”

- **“One of Jean Bourdon’s sons, in order to give himself a name inverted the spelling of his first family name so he became *Bourdon de Dombourg*.”**

Another aspect of the social code then which allowed people to stand out from the ‘crowd’ was: **“to use the noble label *Sieur* [...] however, let’s not forget that *Monsieur* then belonged to the upper mobility, *Monseigneur* was used by and for the Governor, the Intendant and the Bishop(...).**<sup>(13) (14)</sup>

These few examples demonstrate clearly how important it was to ‘look good’. Most likely, it also enabled people to denote themselves from others in a highly hierarchical society as well as benefit from some privileges reserved to the nobles.

This brings me to talk about our ancestor’s wedding in 1732. In the church records in Cap-St-Ignace Simon Foucault, the Missionary priest wrote about the groom known to all as *Alexandre de K/voach*, dit le Breton: *Le Sieur Maurice Louis Le Bris de K/voach, son of Monsieur François Hyacinthe Le Bris de K/voach and of dame Véronique Madeleine De Meu Seuillac.*

Here, let us go back to what Claude Le Petit wrote in 1991 when he started to research our ancestor’s multiple Christian names: *He (the K/ ancestor) gives two Christian names to both his parents and to*

(12) Marcel Trudel, op.cit. page 185.

(13) Marcel Trudel, op.cit. page 181.

(14) Translator’s note: in France until the French revolution, *Monsieur* was the title of the King’s brother, and *Madame*, of the King’s sister, definitely the highest noble echelon.

himself. In Huelgoat, the custom was to give only one Christian name. **It seems that the number of Christian names given to a child increases according to the parents' social rank.** However, Auffroy Le Bihan, and his son, Laurens Le Bihan, the first two people to use the particle de Kervoach, seem to have had only one Christian name each, but François-Joachim and his son, Urbain-François, both had two.

So, on 22 October 1732, not only did Alexandre and his so-called parents were given the title **Sieur, Monsieur & Dame**, in the marriage act as entered in the Cap-Saint-Ignace Church records, demonstrating their superior social rank to all and sundry, but the bride and groom were also given two Christian names.

Since arriving in New France, our ancestor tried to give the impression that he belonged to the nobility by regularly adopting the particle **de Kervoach** when signing documents. On 25 January 1727 in Quebec City, upon signing a deed in Notary Dubrueil's office, he even used three Christian names: Hyacinthe, Louis, and Alexandre. But, when looking at all the deeds found so far, it is only at his wedding that he managed to set himself up on a higher rung of the highly strung society of his time. After that event, in a number of deeds, not in all but in most, the term "**Sieur**" is used when referring to Alexandre de Kervoach, whereas this had never happened before his wedding. Even Intendant Hocquart used the term **Sieur** in his ordinance of 4 December 1733. So this means that even the government and judicial authorities considered him a 'noble'. There is yet more to come; in 1735, at the christening of his third and last son, when Simon Foucault, the priest, entered the names in the church records, he

would give the title **Monsieur** to the father, which then was reserved only for the highest echelon of the nobility.

However, it is important to underline what Marcel Trudel writes in his article: "*In Canada, one becomes noble through letters patent, that one must present for registration within certain delays and that one must keep very precious because, from time to time, the authorities investigate those who call themselves 'noble'; then the person must produce the proof (...)*"<sup>(15)</sup>. Thus we may conclude that our ancestor's pretensions were never investigated. Hence we may assume, according to recently discovered documents that our ancestor, most likely influenced by his own ancestors and by the society he lived in, that he rose in the social ladder through his own initiative.

Well, is it surprising that the apparent noble standing of our ancestor, the high social rank he managed to raise himself to, survived long enough after him for the family's oral tradition to reach even the family of Chevalier François Kirouac in Quebec City, father of cleric Jules Adrien Kirouac and grandfather of Brother Marie-Victorin? As well as the descendants of Anselme Kérrouac from L'Islet, and those of Léon Solyme Le Brice de Keroack? Spreading the 'nobility legend' around the North-American continent?

So, there seems to be many explanations why the 'so-called noble status' of our ancestor endured through decades to reach us. It seems that everybody believed it in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and, given the society then as described above, such stories would not and could not be easily forgotten within a family. Therefore, common custom

during the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries became, through some incredible chance, a common suitable idea accepted by all. Thus Alexandre's noble dream (or dream of nobility) was transformed into a noble legend (or legend of nobility) for and by his descendants.

**Finally, considering all the known events within their social context, it seems perfectly plausible that another conclusion could be drawn from the genealogical and historical research so far carried out, still, it would be far less dubious than the one published in France in 2009** (contradicting the conclusions drawn from a previous study published in 1999 by the same authors) by insisting on the assumption that Jack Kerouac's ancestor would have been a fugitive exiled in New France and living under aliases to avoid exposure.

**The way I perceive our ancestor's life is as follows: a free spirited young man, eager for adventure leaves his native Brittany to seek his fortune in New France. Fascinated by the nobility and very clever, he manages to create the impression that he is noble. He did not make a fortune, of course, however, if his life had not been cut short so soon, most likely he would have succeeded. Starting as a "voyageur", he became a fur trader then later a fully fledged merchant. He was considered a 'noble' and treated as such. As far as I am concerned, this is a rather impressive achievement! And this seems to me the nearest impression of the man, a gentleman, given all the elements found in the documents unearthed and studied since 1978.**







# PRUNEAU & KIROUAC BOOKSTORE\*

by Jean-Marie Lebel

French Text from: *Le Québec en cartes postales, Répertoire des Éditeurs Pruneau & Kirouac*

*Club des cartophiles québécois, Répertoire 1, Québec May 1994*

\*LIBRAIRIE PRUNEAU & KIROUAC – official name of the store

*We wish to thank Mr. Jean-Marie Lebel and Mr. Yves Beauregard, members of the Quebec Postcard Club, for permission to reproduce this text in Le Trésor des Kirouac. Translation by Marie Lussier Timperley for Le Trésor des Kirouac, number 104, Spring 2011 of the text taken from Quebec on post cards, Index of Pruneau & Kirouac Editors, Quebec Postcard Club, First Index published in May 1994 in Quebec City.*

One day in 1888, Odilon Pruneau and Arthur Kirouac agreed to enter into a business partnership and opened a bookstore. It was located on one of the most fashionable streets of Quebec City, Côte de la Fabrique, a very steep hill curling upward around the City Hall from Saint-Jean Street all the way up to Notre-Dame Basilica. A number of prestigious businesses, neighbours of Pruneau & Kirouac,

were located along that famous street: Seifert, the jewellers, and Glover, Fry & Co, dry good merchants, selling clothing and material by the yard.

For decades there had been bookstores on this famous Côte de la Fabrique. It is along this hill that the Quebec poet, Octave Crémazie was a bookseller. After him, Samuel Chaperon then J.P. Garneau followed. In 1912, The Garneau book store moved to the other side of the Basilica Square and opened its doors on Buade Street. Since 1991, the Garneau book store has been back on the Côte de la Fabrique.

In 1896, Pruneau & Kirouac opened their store in a building belonging to a Mrs. Weippert on Côte de la Fabrique. In 1897, they bought all the stock of Forgues & Wiseman book store. In May 1900, they moved in the former Seifert Jewellery Store. The book section opened onto the Côte de la Fabrique, but the back of the store where the toy department was, opened onto Garneau Street. In addition, the religious department occupied the whole of the second floor. So this rather large business was close to the Seminary and the Bishop's Palace, hence Pruneau & Kirouac were after the clerical clientele and named their business: *Librairie Montmorency-Laval*<sup>(1)</sup>. Besides selling Missals and Breviaries, they also offered religious articles and liturgical vestments.

On 28 December 1900, a Quebec newspaper wrote that, according to the general opinion, the Montmorency-Laval Bookstore was the busiest in Quebec City. That

year, Pruneau & Kirouac travelled to England, France, and Germany to visit the most important toy manufacturers.

Arthur Kirouac was one of fifteen siblings in a very well known and respected family. Their father was a gentleman from the Saint-Sauveur district, no other than the Chevalier François Kirouac. This François had arrived in Quebec City as a penniless lad in 1840 but he learned the ropes and climbed every rung of the business ladder to become an influential wholesale merchant of flours and grains. His vast enterprise was located in the Lower Town, at the corner of Saint-Pierre and Saint-André Streets, close to the Bassin Louise (Louise Dock). The Chevalier and his family lived on Saint-Vallier Street. For many years, before this large working village was annexed, he was County Sherif and Mayor of Saint-Sauveur. It eventually became a district of Quebec City. For his extraordinary philanthropic work, as he was President of the Saint-Vincent-de-Paul Society during thirty-eight years, François Kirouac was received into the Order of the Holy-Sepulchre in 1886 and he proudly wore the title of Chevalier, e.g. Knight.

He died on 12 May 1896. One of his grandsons was Conrad Kirouac, better known under his religious name as brother Marie-Victorin, who was one of the most important Quebec botanists. François Kirouac retired in 1890, but his sons, Cyrille and Napoléon-Georges, carried on the flour and grain business. Their brother, Arthur, born on 13 October

(1) *Montmorency-Laval*, in honour of the first Quebec Archbishop.



Arthur Kirouac (GFK 00494)



Émile Kirouac (GFK 00527),  
son of Joseph Arthur Kirouac (GFK 00494)

1853, became a bookseller. He married Amanda Lemieux in 1880 and they had nineteen children. Pruneau & Kirouac offered a very large choice of merchandise. They carried all the latest books from France as well as the few locally

published ones. They also offered a large selection of stationery and toys. Pruneau & Kirouac not only sold books, they also published books like other publishers in Quebec City, Hardy, Garneau, Langlais, Déry, and others. Many writers from the Old Capital entrusted their manuscripts to Pruneau & Kirouac. They were also the authorized publisher of the official Catechism of the Ecclesiastical Province of Quebec.

In the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, a new trend suddenly appeared: collecting post cards. This new craze invaded Quebec just as it did every where else and Quebecers were keen to buy postcards sold in local book stores. Many people owned extra-large album to store their postcards. Exchanging postcards with people from other regions of Quebec was also popular as well as from other countries, in order to enrich one's collection.

Pruneau & Kirouac bookstore first offered, to its clientele and tourists, postcards imported from the United States, England, Germany (Saxony) or France. Finally they decided, like many other Quebec City bookstores (Garneau, Bilaudeau & Campbell), to publish their own postcards in order to profit from the new postcard collecting craze. Looking at postal cancellations on Pruneau & Kirouac postcards shows that they were on sale as early as the spring of 1905. One series was printed in Saxony, famous for its engraving, producing and printing of postcards. Another series was printed in Canada.

The subjects chosen by Pruneau & Kirouac for their 302 postcards show the outreach of the bookstore in the greater Quebec City area and in Eastern Quebec. Their cards show many sights of Quebec City and of numerous towns and villages in the Beauce, Lotbinière, Côte-du-



Ernest Kirouac (GFK 00499), son of Arthur (GFK 00494) standing behind the counter, posing with some employees in the shop on Côte-de-la-Fabrique in Quebec City. Photo: collection of Simone Kirouac Masson.





Winter 1936, Arthur Kirouac's (GFK 00424) bookstore the day after the fire. (Collection of Céline Kirouac)

Sud, Lower-St-Lawrence, Portneuf, Beauré, and Charlevoix regions. Many photographers provided them with illustrations. Some pictures were recent but others were a few decades old. Many photos taken by the Livernois, the most important photographers in Quebec at the time, were often reproduced.

Were the Pruneau & Kirouac postcards popular? Most likely, because they were the first to illustrate many small villages and the selected subjects were always pleasing. However, while the Pruneau & Kirouac postcards were in black and white, collectors could then find very beautiful colourful postcards produced by renowned foreign publishing houses. In addition, many publishers including John Valentine & Sons and Raphael Tuck & Sons from London, England, were producing coloured postcards of Quebec. Furthermore, as early as 1901, Detroit Photography was also publishing coloured postcards of Quebec City.

Although Pruneau & Kirouac was liquidated in 1906, Arthur Kirouac

stayed in business as a toy merchant under the trade name J. A. Kirouac, while Odilon Pruneau remained a bookseller and his library was known as A. O. Pruneau. Soon afterwards, J. A. Kirouac produced another series of postcards, similar to those previously published by Pruneau & Kirouac.

In 1936, J. A. Kirouac bookstore was still on the Côte de la Fabrique, but it was destroyed by a violent fire. After the death of Arthur, his son, Ernest, took over the business. At first, his brothers, Odilon and Marcel, worked with him but eventually they started their own wholesale and retail business. The Kirouac stores, specialized in toys, were set up by some of Odilon's descendants. These toys stores still thrive and are now under the management of André Kirouac. (See article in *Trésor* #103).

In 1945, Émile Kirouac opened a wholesale business selling greeting cards, obituary/funeral cards and postcards. During the 1950s and 1960s, he published a large number of coloured postcards, known then as chrome cards. He died in 1971.

So the name Kirouac is well linked to Quebec and to postcards. And postcards from Pruneau & Kirouac, J. A. Kirouac and Émile Kirouac are collectors' favourites. The Pruneau & Kirouac postcards were long forgotten, but nowadays, people will search high and low to find them because they are a colourful expression of the past, of Quebec a century ago. (some are on sale on E-Bay).

*Other suggested reading: La carte postale Québécoise, une aventure photographique, Jacques Poitras, 1990, Édition Broquet, 206 pages.*



**Safeguarding the Kirouac Family Photographic Heritage;** Joseph-Arthur (J.A.) Kirouac (GFK 0494) and Amanda Lemieux celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1930. Céline Kirouac's collection; acquired by the KFA on 12 November 2007. Archive number: X4330-0032.



Title: Main Street, Normandin. Author: Editors, Pruneau & Kirouac, Québec.  
Date: about 1900. National Library and Archives of Quebec, Direction du Centre  
d'archives de Québec. Collection Magella Bureau, P547,S1,SS1,SSS1,D311,P4.

## I read for you

by Marie Lussier Timperley

### ***Domestic Animals—How and When They Arrived in New France***<sup>(1)</sup>

by Dr. Claude Deslandes, Veterinarian

**I**n *Le Trésor des Kirouac* number 98, winter 2010, I shared with you my enthusiasm about a subject very close to Dr Claude Deslandes' heart: the story of how domestic animals found their way to New France. I listed many questions but had to wait until his book came out to give you some answers. The first edition of his book came out in August 2010 and a second one in January 2011. Dr. Deslandes was one of the guest speakers at the 2011 Genealogical Fair organized every year by the *Fédération des familles souches* at Place Laurier shopping mall in Quebec City!

Domestic animals obviously played an important role in New France's development. However, in 1534, when Jacques Cartier made his first official trip to this side of the Atlantic, he found no domestic animals here and he did not bring any either, as he was only exploring and had no intention of settling here. Only in 1541, did he bring a few cows, oxen, ewes, goats and pigs, but NO horses.

The following year, in 1542, the Sieur de Roberval, who came here to settle, brought some domestic animals but the natives killed them all, either to eat them or simply to terrorize the newcomers. So, until some Europeans came in 1608, not a single animal found its way into New France.

In 1617 at Quebec, Louis Hébert had no domestic animal; no matter what the illustrations in our history books showed us. He turned the soil over with a hoe. His son-in-law, Guillaume Couillard, was the very first one to use a plough pulled by two oxen in April 1628. This event is preserved in stone on Guillaume Couillard's monument in Quebec City. (See photos on website)

In 1619, a few Jersey cows were imported from France. The inhabitants then had some cattle; however, the long cold winters proved to be a serious challenge, therefore it became normal practice to slaughter the animals in the autumn. In the countryside, the small domestic animals kept warm in winter by



Dr. Claude Deslandes, speaking about the arrival of domestic animals in New France, during the First Families Fair in February 2011 at Laurier Shopping Mall in Ste-Foy, Quebec. (Photo published on the Web in *Nouvelles de chez nous*, FFSQ, March 2011)



living inside stables and barns with the larger animals. In towns, the animal population was cut down to the minimum during winter. As a result, the live-stock increased rather slowly. Animals were so precious that it was even forbidden to seize them as guarantee for payment of debts. Eventually, more cows were imported from Europe: Jerseys, Normans, and Bretons.

Pigs were introduced into New France as early as 1610. As pigs reproduce rapidly they were very welcomed. And they were such efficient garbage-eaters onboard ships! Each family had a pig, it was the most economical and profitable animal because everything in a pig is edible. It was THE wedding gift then. Sometimes it was also given in lieu of tithe. The ancestors of the pigs we eat today were imported from England after the conquest.

Religious orders were the first to import sheep as early as 1667. As for goats, there were eighteen in Sorel in 1666, but there were none left by 1700. French settlers did not like goat meat or mutton.

Wild black turkeys were always present on this continent. The Spanish explorers discovered them in South America and brought them to Europe. They were known as *poules dindes*, i.e. Indian hen! From Europe they came to North America on the French ships. Then they were called *poule dinde* in French, like there was also *blé d'Inde*, i.e. Indian corn, but in both cases, the word *poule* (hen) and the word *blé* were dropped (and dropped in the pot too) and *dinde* remained in New France; hence turkey in English is known as '*dinde*' in French. Geese appeared in New France in 1700 but very few families could afford them.

In Quebec, the ideal egg-laying hen was created one feather at a time over a century ago by Brother Wilfrid Châtelain<sup>(2)</sup>. TFO, Television Franco-Ontario, produced a French TV program for children telling the story of the monk, a geneticist, who became the father of CHANTECLERC, the ideal laying hen<sup>(3)</sup>.

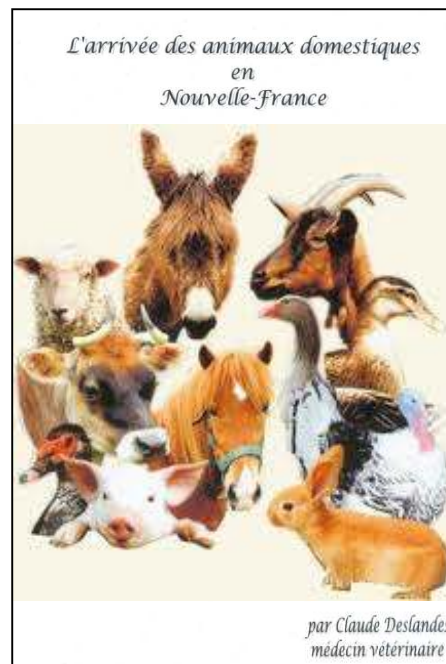
Before the white men arrived, only Iroquoian and Eskimos had dogs, and

their dogs are the only Canadian native breeds; all others were imported particularly by the English after the conquest, i.e. after 1760. As cats ran after the rats creeping aboard ships bound for the New World, then they were leaping into their new destiny. Neither knew what they were getting into! Poor cats, they may have left behind famous and infamous adventures in the Old World but more awaited them in the New World.

In 1640, religious orders were the first to import donkeys: Jack and Jennies. Like the Ursuline nuns in Quebec who believed in the curative value of Jenny's milk. However, by 1724, donkeys were rarely seen in New France as they were rather expensive!

The first horse landed in New France in 1647, owned by the Sieur de Montmagny who followed Champlain as Governor. Upon seeing the first horse, the natives' commented: *European moose are far more docile than the Canadian ones*. In 1665, King Louis 14<sup>th</sup> of France sent twenty horses. In 1667, three horses were given to the Ursuline Nuns in Quebec. In 1669, captains and knights each received a horse. Each settler was also offered a free horse accompanied by a gift of 100£ BUT, there were strings attached! If the horse died, the settler/owner had to reimburse 200£. Talk about a poisoned gift? No inhabitant could possibly risk incurring such a debt. The Canadian horse was small, robust, resistant, tolerant, and possessed an excellent sense of direction. So he inherited a well-deserved nickname: *iron horse*. In 1681, there were 96 horses in New France, ancestors of the present day Canadian horses.

TOURTE is the name of a pigeon-like bird. They would darken the sky as they came in such terrific numbers. They flocked down like rain and ate everything around. Consequently, when they were swarming in, every available means of capturing them was accepted and the hunt was on. The Iroquoian caught them with nets. The hunt was relentless until the last one died in captivity in 1914. Today in Quebec, we eat '*tourtière*'. But in France then, this word referred to the container in which a certain type of pie



Cover of Claude Deslandes' book

was made; and still is today. In New France, '*tourtière*' refers only to the content and not to the dish<sup>(4)</sup>. It is most likely that, in the old days, our ancestors put some *tourte* into their '*tourtière*' but no one has done so for over a century.

This is a streamlined presentation of this fascinating subject but, unfortunately it leaves out all the colourful details and the author's lively sense of humour and shows none of his wonderful illustrations when giving his talk. The book is available directly from Dr. Claude Deslandes, by writing to him at 12525 Boulevard Dansereau, St-Hyacinthe, Quebec, Canada - J2R 1R6. Please include a cheque for \$25 (\$20. book + \$5. S&H).

(1) Literal translation of the French title: **L'arrivée des animaux domestiques en Nouvelle-France** written and published by Claude Deslandes, *Doctor of Veterinary*, 2010.

(2) His story is at: <http://breedsavers.blogspot.com/2011/04/chanteclerc-canadas-chicken-breed.html>

(3) It was the fourth installment in a series of over 70 episodes entitled **La Quête** (The Quest); the 43<sup>rd</sup> instalment was about Brother Marie-Victorin. <http://www.laquete.ca/fr/index10.html>

(4) When in Quebec, make sure to try *tourtière*, which can translate as meat-pie in English, but there are many variants. For example, Montreal's *tourtière* is totally different from Lac St-Jean's *tourtière*. You will want to try both and you can check the Web for photos and recipes.

## Local college student says “no” to ramen noodles, by Kathryn Rem

**THE (SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS)  
STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER**

<http://www.sj-r.com/food/x1621728352/Kathryn-Rem-Local-college-student-says-no-to-ramen-noodles> - Copyright 2011 The State Journal-Register. Some rights reserved.



Kathryn Amelia VanderMolen  
Photo: STATE JOURNAL - REGISTER

**S**elf-taught amateur cook **Katie VanderMolen** wants other college students to know they don't have to live on ramen noodles alone.

“Cooking just takes a little perseverance,” said Katie of Springfield, a senior at DePaul University in Chicago and author of the food blog, **The College Culinarian: Simple cooking for college students — on the cheap**: <http://thecollegeculinarian.blogspot.com>

As a freshman, she enjoyed eating meals in the dorm cafeteria. “I found out the ‘freshman 15’ was real,” Katie said. So when she moved to an apartment in her sophomore year, she gave up her campus meal plan and decided to cook for herself. “I ate ramen noodles for four weeks. Then I

decided I could do better,” said the political science major.

She started reading cookbooks. *How to Cook Everything* by Mark Bittman, was especially helpful. And she went online to find recipes and step-by-step cooking videos. She pored over [www.epicurious.com](http://www.epicurious.com), [www.allrecipes.com](http://www.allrecipes.com), [www.finecooking.com](http://www.finecooking.com), [www.marthastewart.com](http://www.marthastewart.com) and a variety of cooking blogs.

“I told my friends I was teaching myself to cook, and we started sending recipes back and forth.” The blog began in 2009 as a way for Katie to trade recipes with friends and family. Then other people got wind of it. Now The College Culinarian has more than 50 followers and is growing.

“I’m hearing from college students all over the country,” Katie, 22, said. The Glenwood High School grad posts two to three times a week. Each includes a recipe that she has made, a photo of the dish and an anecdotal or humorous introduction to the recipe.

“To the health nuts, look away. To the vegetarians, look away. To the high-falutin’ foodies, look far, far away. This, my friends, is not a recipe that would tickle your fancy. It might tickle other things, like a gag reflex, and I don’t want that to happen,” she wrote last month in an ode to the horseshoe sandwich<sup>(1)</sup>.

Katie loves the opened-faced toast-meat-french fry-cheese sauce concoction, especially at D’Arcy’s Pint in Springfield. (But just occasionally.) She and her

sister, Carolyn, a sophomore at DePaul, were “seriously missing Springfield” recently when they decided to make horseshoes. Without a recipe, they re-created hamburger shoes from memory. The result, said Katie, was “excellent.”<sup>(2)</sup>

“I got a huge response, the biggest I’ve ever gotten,” she said about

(1) Springfield, Illinois *Horse Shoe Sandwich* - On the Internet there are photos and recipes and the history of this rather unusual sandwich popular in Springfield, Illinois. The K/ cousins can try it at the annual meeting of the KFA in June 2011.

The sandwich was created in the late 1920s by Chef Joe Schweska at the Leland Hotel, then the leading hotel in Springfield. The five story structure built in 1867, now an office building, is located on the corner of Sixth and Capitol. Hundreds of prominent Americans resided in its 235 rooms. The original **Horseshoe Sandwich** was served on a sizzling metal plate (known as the Anvil). Two thick-cut slices of bread were toasted and added to the plate. Then a thick slice of ham, shaped like a horseshoe, was added, to it a Welsh rarebit cheese sauce made of white sharp cheddar, and then just before serving, fresh-made French fries were added as the (nails) in the horseshoe. The secret to this sandwich is the delicious cheese sauce. Today’s sandwiches now offer either a thick fried ham steak or two large hamburger patties, and the cheese sauce is poured over the fries. If you order a **Pony Shoe Sandwich**, it is the same thing, but a smaller or half a Horseshoe portion (usually one slice of toast). The “Horseshoe” or variations of it soon became a popular item in many Springfield restaurants. Today, every restaurant and chef serving this sandwich seems to have his or her own secret cheese sauce recipe. Even local schools serve horseshoes as part of their menu!

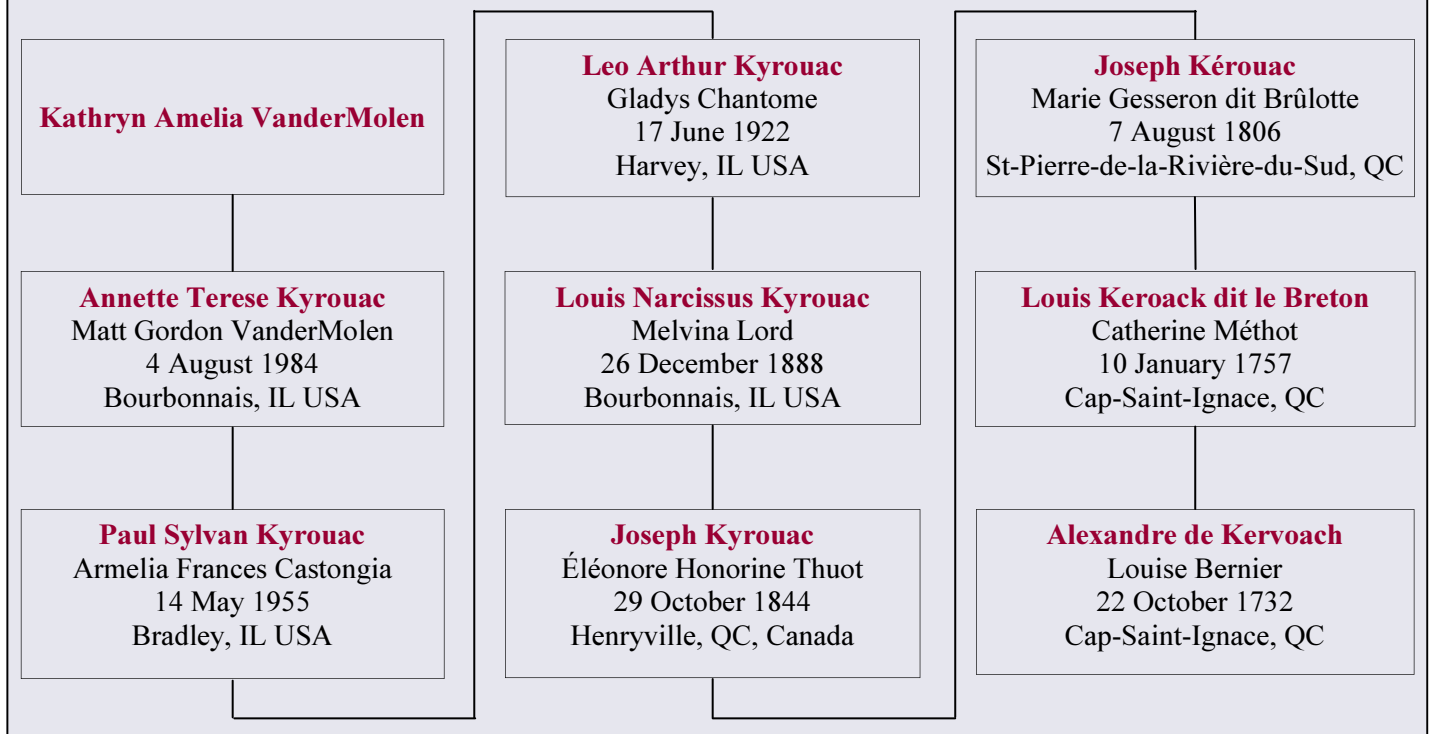
(2) Comment by Marie Lussier Timperley, the translator of this article into French: “*Horseshoe Sandwich and Quebec POUTINE with hamburger! It seems to me that they look like they might be cousins.*”



## GENEALOGY OF

### *Kathryn Amelia VanderMolen*

**First cousin (once removed) of Greg Kyrouac, responsible for the organization of the  
Annual Gathering of the Kirouac Families 2011**



her horseshoe blog post. Many of her followers had never heard of Springfield's signature sandwich.

"OMG ... this ... sounds ... looks ... AMAZING!!" wrote follower Jenn. "I can't look away, yum," responded Jennifurla. Peggy wrote: "I would find it very hard to not have at least one bite ... or two, or three. Heck, who am I kidding? I would eat the whole thing!"

Many students say they can't cook for themselves because they have erratic schedules, little money and few cooking skills. But Katie says the key is planning.

"I make a meal plan for the week. I know exactly what I need to buy when I go to the grocery store and I don't buy too much of it. It can

save you a lot of money. And it's healthier," she said.

She spends about \$30 a week on food, which includes lots of beans and vegetables and not much meat. One of her favorite things to cook is pasta, because it's versatile and cheap.

Katie isn't giving up her blog when she graduates next month. She's going to continue her education, working toward a Ph.D. in political science at the University of Missouri at Columbia.

"Cooking takes practice. I vividly remember sitting and eating a burnt chicken breast a time or two," she said. "But it really is rewarding to make something simple and good for you."

Food editor Kathryn Rem can be reached at (217) 788-1520 or [kathryn.rem@sj-r.com](mailto:kathryn.rem@sj-r.com).

**We are very grateful to Ms. Kathryn Rem and The State Journal-Register for permission to reprint the above article, also for allowing us to translate the article into French for publication in the French edition of *Le Tr sor des Kirouac* prepared by Marie Lussier Timperley. In addition we give a big thank you to Greg Kyrouac who sent the article to *Le Tr sor*.**

# Claude Laurin

## An Extraordinary Pilot and a Great Honour for the Kirouac Family at large

By his brother, Jean-Yves Laurin

Claude, as the son of Eudora Kirouac (GFK 00578) and Édouard Laurin, is a proud nephew of Brother Marie-Victorin. Claude's exploits as a pilot are regrettably unknown to most people in Quebec even to most of his Kirouac cousins. He deserves to be known so here it is.

Having flown 27,192 hours I believe he must be among the pilots' elite and one of the most experienced ones. Already as a young boy, Claude spent hours building miniature planes, all kinds of models in Balsa wood, all the while dreaming about a career as a pilot. It is not too surprising given that our family lived in L'Ancienne-

Lorette close to the airport.

In October 1952, when he was barely seventeen years old, he flew solo for the first time after having taken only three hours and fifty minutes of flying lessons with an instructor from the Quebec City *Aéro-Club*. His path to becoming an airline pilot and flight instructor was rather remarkable. First he obtained his licence as a private pilot in 1953 which was followed by many theory classes enabling him to earn his military wings within the Naval Aviation affected to aircraft carriers; and finally he received his airline pilot licence in 1956.

As a pilot and Captain for *Québecair*<sup>(1)</sup> for over twenty-five



Claude Laurin, pilot  
(Collection Claude Laurin)

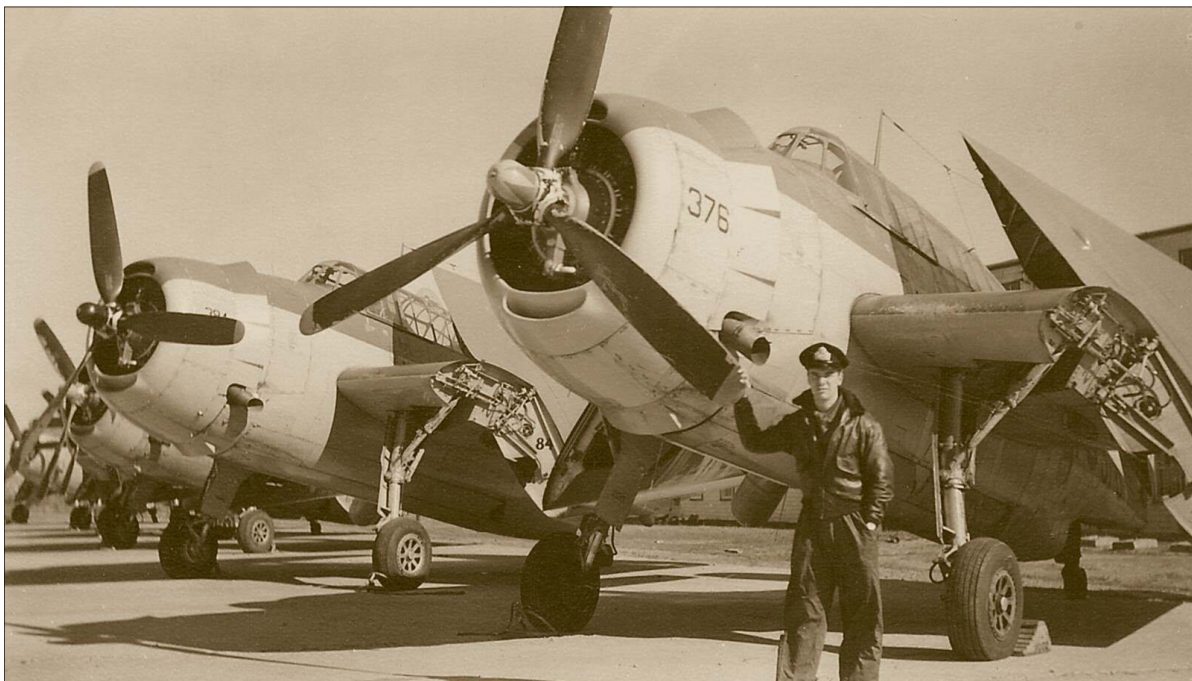


Claude Laurin ready to fly an Harvard plane part of the national air fleet in 1955  
(Collection Claude Laurin)

years, he had the opportunity to fly to the three Americas, Europe, and the Middle-East. After his career at *Québecair*, he worked as a pilot, flight instructor and Chief Pilot for

(1) *Québecair* was founded in 1946 as a regional air company then known as *Rimouski Aviation Syndicate*. (Editor's note: also known as *Rimouski Airlines*) The following year, it became *Air-Rimouski Ltée*. In 1953, this company merged with *Aviation du Golfe Inc.* to become *Québecair*. And in 1965, *Québecair* bought out *Matane Air Service*, *Les Ailes du Nord Ltée*, as well as *Northern Wings Helicopters*. *Québecair* provided regular flights for those wanting to fly within the Province of Quebec, in the western part of Labrador and Ontario as well as domestic and international chartered flights. The company employed about 900 people. In 1981, the Province of Quebec government took control of the company and became the major share-holder. By 1986, because it was not too profitable, the company was sold to *Nordair-Metro*. (Source: L'Encyclopédie canadienne, Deborah C. Sawyer)





Claude Laurin standing in front of an Avenger airplane in September 1955 (Collection Claude Laurin)

**Conifair Aviation Inc.**<sup>(2)</sup> flying four-engine planes like DC-4 and DC-6 (Douglas Aircraft Company) as well as Constellations (Lockheed Corporation)<sup>(3)</sup>. During that period, from 1982 until 1985, his work was mainly spraying forest against the Eastern spruce budworm as well as flying hunters.

In 1986 and 1987, he worked for

**City-Express**,<sup>(4)</sup> a Toronto company, as pilot inspector of Dash-8 planes (de Havilland Canada). Among his duties, he was responsible for two airfields and sixty-five pilots.

At the end of 1987, he worked for **Air Alliance /Jazz**, an **Air Canada** subsidiary, as first pilot, flight instructor and flight inspector on the Dash-8 plane and he retired in 1996

at the age of 61. He flew twenty-nine different types of airplanes, from the Fleet-Canuck (*Fleet Aircraft*) to the Boeing 707.

During his career, while he was working for **Québecair**, among other things, Claude Laurin contributed to rescue a bush plane



Commander Claude Laurin in the cockpit of a BAC-111, part of the Québecair fleet in 1973, in Miami. (Photo taken by Rolland Bédard, actor/comedian)

(2) **Conifair Aviation Inc.** was founded by two Quebec businessmen in 1979, M. Leblanc and G. Bernier. The company rented out airplanes for spraying operations. The company kept this name until 1992. In October 1999, it started operating a regular domestic network. In March 2001, **Royal Airlines** became a branch of **Canada 3000** that eventually went bankrupt. (Source: <http://www.al-ailiners.be/p-r/royal/royal.htm> and [http://www.zoggavia.com/Conifair\\_Aviation.html](http://www.zoggavia.com/Conifair_Aviation.html))

(3) In **DC-3**, DC stands for Douglas Corporation. In **DC-8** and **DC-9**, DC stands for Douglas-Convair. Also the Douglas-Convair DC-9 is now the **MD-80**, i.e. McDonald-Douglas. B stands for Boeing and L for Lockheed as for the L-1011.

(4) **City-Express**, also known as **Air Atonabee Ltd.** flew passengers in Eastern Canada, the north-eastern part of the USA and Mexico between 1971 and 1991.

lost in Labrador. He found it on a lake where it was forced to land after running out of gas. Among his many exploits, in 1975 while working with *Québecair*, he piloted the very first Boeing 707 flight between Quebec City and Paris. What was remarkable then is the fact that the main runway at the Quebec City Airport was only 8,000 feet at the time.<sup>(5)</sup> Only a short time before, he had come in third in an air-obstacle race at the *National Exhibition in Toronto*.

He also faced some scary moments during his career, some near-death experiences. There were tire

punctures, and once an engine caught fire. One emergency landing in Beirut, Lebanon, when it was considered illegal to do so, put him and his crew into a rather tricky position. His plane, himself and his crew, were kept prisoners by the military authority. Eventually, it all ended after a \$10,000 fine was duly paid. There was also an accident upon landing in Ste-Lucie (in the Laurentian mountains, north of Montreal) when the plane was totaled!

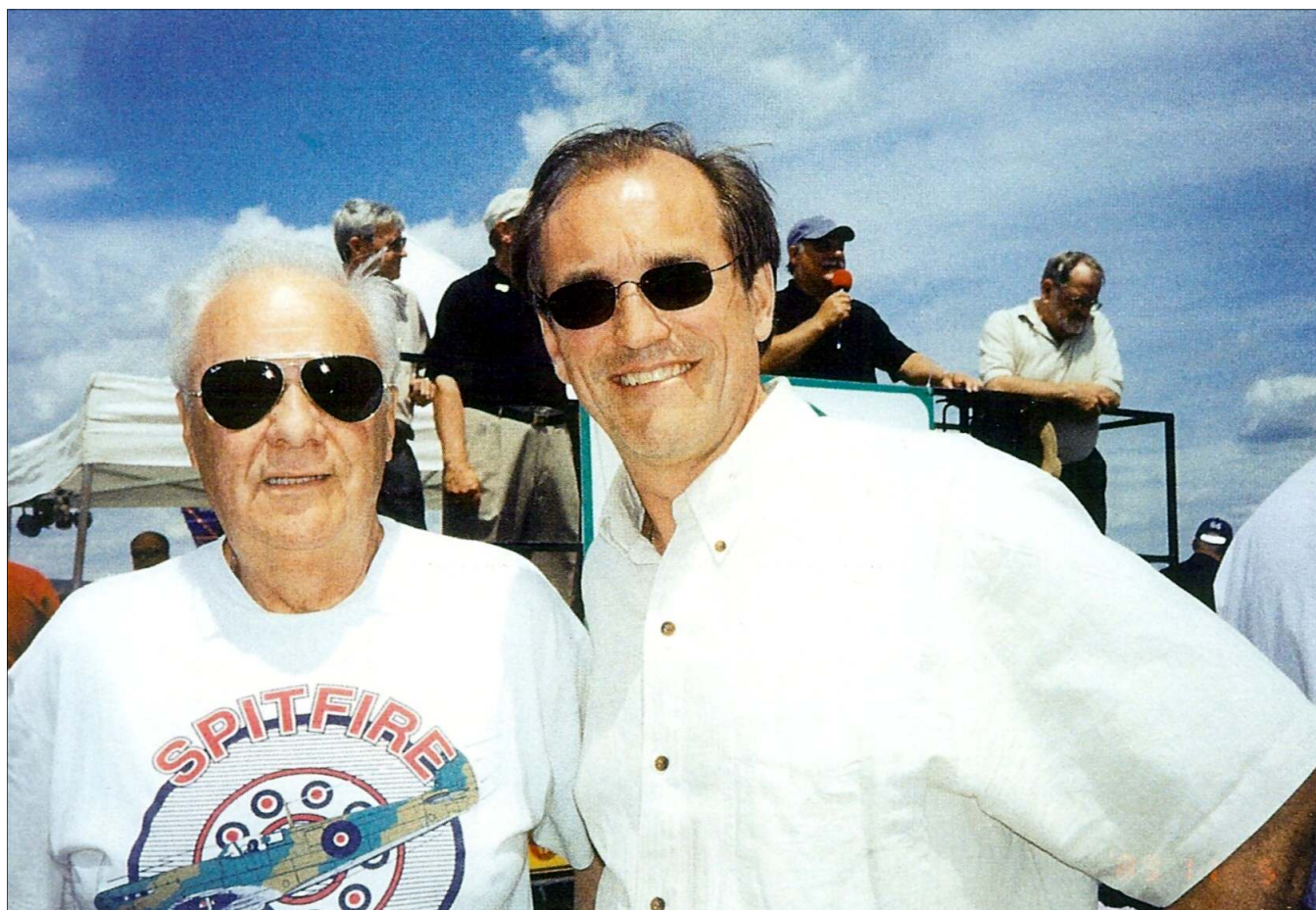
After flying thousands of hours, Claude considers himself lucky to have survived all these adventures

and now that he is retired, to be able to enjoy wonderful years with his wife, his children and their spouses, and his grandchildren.

### Bravo Claude

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(5) An 8,000 foot runway was the minimal length required to accommodate the Boeing 707 or a fully loaded DC-8. The main runway (06-24) in L'Ancienne-Lorette, now known as the Jean-Lesage International Airport, code YQB or CYQB, is 10,000 feet long. This is the standard length required for heavy flyers like the Boeing-747 and even the AIRBUS A-380. The *Antonov 225*, the biggest aircraft in the world (only one in existence), used Quebec City airport without any difficulty, while B-747 are regular visitors. (Info given by J.A.M. Bornais)



Claude Laurin and the now famous Air Transat Commander, Robert Piché, photographed together during an air show in Saint-Georges-de-Beauce, on 24 June 2004. (Collection Claude Laurin)



# FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR 2010 (NOT AUDITED)

**René Kirouac, Treasurer**

The financial report for the year 2010 presents **a surplus** of revenues over the expenses of **\$1,438.54**. The number of members is 156.

Revenues for 2010 are about \$1,000.00 more than budgeted. This can be explained by an exceptional life membership (\$250.00) and a donation of \$500.00 from an estate, which amount was entered as a gift towards administration expenses; the annual family gathering in Sherbrooke also generated an extra surplus of \$260.00 over and above the expected surplus.

Expenses for 2010 are basically the same as budgeted. However, it is worth noting that \$550.80 were spent to defray the cost of decoding ancient texts and this amount had not even been budgeted for 2010. On the other hand we spent nearly \$600.00 less than budgeted in the SUNDRY expenses.

The table below shows the production expenses for each of the four issues published in 2010. For your information and for comparison the expenses were \$2,120.44 in 2009.

Finally, for the 2011 Budget, estimated revenues are \$4,840.00 and expenses \$4,300.00 generating a surplus of \$540.00.

## REVENUES

<b>ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS 2010</b>	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$3,754.00</b>
Exceptional life membership MAV	\$250.00	
Regular Members (114)	\$2,505.00	
Benefactors (37)	\$999.00	
<b>PREMIUM &amp; INTERESTS</b>	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$5.68</b>
Exchange on US currency	\$3.81	
Interest Earned	\$1.87	
<b>GIFTS &amp; RECOVERED AMOUNTS</b>	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$1,592.89</b>
Jacques Kirouac Fund	\$855.04	
Jacques Kirouac Fund (return on investment 2009)	\$40.85	
Gifts (administration expenses)	\$697.00	
Amount Recovered	\$0.00	
<b>ANNUAL KFA GATHERING</b>	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$461.31</b>
Surplus of Annual KFA Gathering	\$461.31	
<b>PROMOTIONAL ITEMS</b>	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$252.00</b>
1991 Genealogies sold (1)	\$10.00	
Bulletins sold (28)	\$130.00	
Crest & Badges sold (1)	\$5.00	
Memory Babe - book sold (1)	\$30.00	
Jan Kerouac, Book sold (1) & post cards sold (2)	\$27.00	
30th Anniversary DVDs sold (4)	\$50.00	
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>		<b>\$6,065.88</b>

## EXPENSES

<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$581.40</b>
Canada Custom & Revenue (Annual Return 2010)	\$32.00	
Insurance-general responsibility (12 1/2 months)	\$54.75	
FFSQ membership = \$1.75/member/year)	\$337.75	
Bank fees for bank book	\$156.90	
<b>LE TRÉSOR bulletins (no. 99 to 102)</b>	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$2,199.00</b>
KFA Secretarial expenses	\$12.29	
Printing	\$1,122.55	
Handling	\$371.31	
FFSQ Secretarial Expenses	\$51.20	
Canadian Postage	\$391.65	
USA Postage	\$250.00	
<b>KFA SECRETARIAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$684.05</b>
Postage stamps	\$456.63	
Photocopying	\$39.62	
Stationary, envelopes & cards	\$187.80	
<b>GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH</b>	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$550.80</b>
Genealogical Research in Quebec	\$550.80	
<b>SUNDRY - Publicity &amp; Promotion</b>	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$612.09</b>
WEB SITE CGFA annual fee: 2009 and 2010	\$90.00	
Photos & albums (Sherbrooke gathering)	\$129.67	
Training for two members	\$34.00	
Registering of KFA crest & logo	\$100.00	
Printing of 15 X 93-page documents	\$125.86	
In Memory Donation to Sainte-Hénédine Church	\$50.00	
Reception at Petit Coin Breton Restaurant	\$82.56	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$4,627.34</b>
<b>SURPLUS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES 2010</b>		<b>\$1,438.54</b>
<b>BANK ACCOUNT</b>		
Balance at 31 December 2009		\$8,974.14
Amounts credited as from 1 January to 31 December 2010		\$6,118.55
Amounts debited from 1 January to 31 December 2010		\$5,012.99
<b>Balance as of 31 December 2010</b>		<b>\$10,079.70</b>

### Expenses related to the publication of *Le Trésor*

Bulletin Number	99	100	101	102	TOTAL
Production Cost	\$577.43	\$611.57	\$478.59	\$531.41	\$2,199.00





# IN MEMORIAM



## **BERTRAND, MARY LOUISE KYROUAC (1923-2011)**

Mary Louise (née Kyrouac) Bertrand (**GFK 00249**), 88, of Bourbonnais, died Friday, March 18, 2011, at Provena St. Mary's Hospital, Kankakee. Mary Louise was born on 10 January 1923, in Kankakee, the daughter of Leo and Gladys (née Chantome) Kyrouac. She was a member of Maternity BVM Catholic Church and the CCW. She was also a member of the Women of the Moose and the Kankakee Valley Doll Club. She was an honorary member of the Bourbonnais Historical Society. Surviving are her husband, Duane Bertrand, whom she married June 7, 1941, at Maternity BVM Catholic Church; one son and daughter-in-law, Randy and Lisa Bertrand, of Bradley; three daughters and one son-in-law, Regina "Jean" Carroll (the late David Carroll), of Bourbonnais, Nancy and James Prince, and Chris Vaughn, all of Bradley; 10 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren; one sister and brother-in-law, Theresa (née Kyrouac) and Fred Gifford, of Bourbonnais; three brothers and two sisters-in-law, Don Kyrouac, and Jim and Janice Kyrouac, all of Bradley, Richard and Pearl Kyrouac, of Naperville; and sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Gilbert and Ann Wheeler, of Kankakee. She was preceded in death by her parents; one sister, Cecile (née Kyrouac) Lobue; two brothers, Paul and Art Kyrouac, and one great-grandson, Michael Kinstner. Funeral Mass was on 22 March, at Maternity BVM Catholic Church, Bourbonnais, followed by burial in Maternity BVM Cemetery.

## **BILODEAU, MICHEL (1940-2011)**

On 19 April 2011 passed away at the CSSS (long term health care centre) in Chicoutimi, aged seventy and six

months, Michel Bilodeau, husband of Monique Bélanger. Funeral was on 23 April 2011 at St-Philippe Church. Ashes were interred in the Arvida Columbarium. Besides his wife, he leaves to mourn his children: Jean-Pierre Bilodeau (Hélène Tanguay), Isabelle (Dominique Saint-Pierre); his grandson, Charles Saint-Pierre; his brothers and sisters: Jacques Bilodeau (Monique Bergeron), Hébert (Lise Martin), Andrée (the late Roger Dufour) (André Boivin), Micheline, his twin (Yvon Perron), Louise (Claude Marleau), Paul (Jeannine Fillion), Jean (Magda Gabour); his brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: **Annette Bélanger (the late Earl Kirouac, son of Kathleen née Hugues and Alfred Kirouac, GFK 02650)**, Gisèle (Adrien Dion), Régis (Jocelyne Tanguay), Irène (the late Michel Jean).

## **BOUCHARD, JEANNETTE GAUDREAU (1928-2011)**

On 7 February 2011, passed away, aged 83 Jeannette née Gaudreault, widow of Victor Bouchard, at Maison Notre-Dame du Saguenay Residence. Funeral was on Friday, 11 February 2011 in the Cathedral in Chicoutimi and the ashes were interred in the Gravel & Son Columbarium. She was the daughter of the late Émilie, née Lalancette, & Ernest Gaudreault. She leaves to mourn her children: Monique Bouchard, Aline, Camil (Marjolaine Côté), Hubert (Josée Nantel), Bernard and Marielle (Yves Rossignol); her sixteen grandchildren and four great-grandchildren; her brothers and sisters: **Rose-Hélène, widow of the late Hubert Kérouac, GFK 02430**, the late Lydia Gaudreault, the late Élie (the late Marie-Marthe Vaillancourt), the late Laurette (Sister of Bon-Pasteur), Lucien (Raymonde Gadouas), the late Hermance (Sister of Bon-Pasteur), the late Armand, the late Robert (Aline Girard), Blanche-Yvonne (Henri-Paul Girard), Raymond (Magella

Labrecque), Bernadette (Marcel Grenon), the late Jean-Claude (Nicole Charland) and Martine.

## **COULOMBE, WILFRAND (1927-2011)**

On 12 February 2011, passed away, aged 83 years and six months, Mr. Wilfrand Coulombe, husband of Jeanne D'Arc Gagné. He was the son of the late Rosa, née Lapointe, and the late Arthur Coulombe. Funeral was on 15 February 2011 in St-Charles-de-Bourget Parish Church. His ashes will be interred in the parish cemetery at a later date. He was the father of: Claude Coulombe (Céline Dufour), Lise (Errol Tremblay), the late Raymond (Francine Vachon), **Rolande (Benoît Kirouack, GFK 02458)**, (Régis Tremblay), Robin (Micheline Lajoie), Nicole (Réjean Tremblay), Bertrand (Lise Lavoie) and Marcel (Nathalie Vaillancourt). He also leaves to mourn twenty-one grandchildren and twenty-seven great-grandchildren.

## **DESCARREAU, HENRI-CLAUDE (1921-2011)**

In Quebec City, on 11 March 2011, aged ninety, passed away Henri-Claude Descarreaux son of the late **Délia Kirouac (GFK 01182)** and the late Oscar Derome dit Descarreaux. The funeral was on 19 March 2011 at St-Rodrigue Church in Quebec City. Ashes were interred in the St-Charles Cemetery Columbarium. He leaves to mourn his sister Marie-Marthe (Jean Essayan); his nephews, Raynald Descarreaux (Diane Fontaine) and Gaétan Descarreaux as well as his great-nephews Guy Descarreaux and Éric Descarreaux.

## **DUQUET, JEAN (1955-2011)**

In Quebec City, on 8 April 2011, aged fifty-five, passed away Mr. Jean Duquet, son of Pauline, née Bornais, and the late Laval Duquet. He leaves to mourn his wife, Danielle Émond, his son Bruno, his mother, his brothers and sisters: Diane (Pierre Champagne),

Marc (**Johanne Kirouac, daughter of Louise née Poulin and Gérard Kirouac, GFK 00621**), Lise (Benoît Perras) and Robert; his brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: Martine (André Cloutier) and Christine (Louis Malouin).

#### **FERLAND, LUCIEN (1930-2010)**

At the CSSS Paul-Gilbert (Long term care residence) in Charny, on 17 November 2010, aged eighty years and nine months, passed away Lucien Ferland, husband of **Marie-Jeanne Kirouac (GFK 01871)**. He leaves to mourn, besides his wife, his children: Raymond (Louise Rioux), Irène (Clarence Gamache); his granddaughters: Julie (Adam Vadnais), Danielle (Véronique Moro), Marie-Pier (Sébastien Roy), his great-grandson, Éric Vadnais; his brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: Benoît Côté (the late Gracia Ferland), Estelle Gingras (the late Léo Ferland), Lucille Bédard (the late Robert Ferland), Marie-Claire Vermette, **widow of the late Robert Kirouac, GFK 01873**, **Laurette Kirouac** (widow of the late Gaston Poirier. Memorial service was at the Claude Marcoux Funeral Home on 20 November 2010. In 2002, when the annual KFA gathering took place in Issoudun (QC), André Kirouac, responsible of the gathering, underlined the fiftieth wedding anniversary of Marie Jeanne, née Kirouac, and Lucien Ferland. (See *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 69, page 9.)

#### **KIROUAC, JACQUES (1942-2011)**

On 16 March 2011 at the CSSS Maria-Chapdelaine in Dolbeau-Mistassini, (Lake St.Jean) aged 68 years and ten months, passed away **Jacques Kirouac (GFK 00313)**, husband of Rolande Lalancette-Kirouac. He was the son of the late Marie-Jeanne, née Cauchon, and the late Maurice Kirouac. Funeral was on 19 March 2011 in Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes Church in Girardville. Ashes will be interred in the parish cemetery at a later date. Besides his wife, Rolande Lalancette, he leaves to mourn his children: Chantale (Denis Gendron), Marlène (Pierre Tremblay), Anne-René (Patrice Mailloux); his

grandchildren: Alexandra Tanguay, Coralie & Janélie Tremblay, Béatrice & Gabrielle Mailloux, Henri & Antoine Gendron; his brothers and sisters: Hélène (the late Jean-Paul Sicotte), Simone (the late Marcel Ménard), Gisèle (the late Gérard Verreault), the late Claude (Brigitte Paquet), Richard (Géraldine Tremblay), the late Régis (Denise Savard); his Lalancette brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law : Jacques (Andréa Lapointe), Raymond (Pauline Bolduc), Fernande (Adrien Marceau), Yvon (the late Edberge Harvey, Marie-Ange St-Amant), Élianne (Rosaire Fournier), the late Armande (Gilles Marceau), Bernard (Pâquerette Légaré), Maurice (feu Claudette Ouellet), Guy (Anne-Marie Allard), Robert (Lucie Allard).

#### **KIROUAC, PAULINE DÉSILETS (1921-2011)**

At Ste-Marie Pavilion in Trois Rivières, on 9 May 2011, passed away aged ninety years and five months, Mrs. Pauline, née Désilets, Kirouac, widow of Léopold Kirouac (**GFK 00333**), living in Trois-Rivières. Funeral was held on Saturday, 21 May in the St-Pie-X Church in the Saints-Martyrs-Canadiens Parish, followed by burial in St. Michel Cemetery. She leaves to mourn her daughter Sylvie (Pierre Lalancette); her grandchildren: Jinny Lalancette (Kevin Aspinall), Stéphanie Lalancette (Tobby Gravel), Éric Lalancette (Valérie Lamothe); her great grandchildren: James and Terry; her sisters and brother, sisters-in-law and brother-in-law: Jeannine Désilets (Germain Dion), Jean-Paul Désilets (the late Mariette Lemire), Yvette Désilets (the late Raymond Veilleux), Aurore Guillemette (the late Roland Désilets), Marguerite Gingras (the late Roger Désilets); as well as many nephews and nieces, cousins, and friends. She was the aunt of Pierre K/, from Trois Rivières, past KFA President from 2002 till 2005.

#### **LALANCETTE, LUCILLE BÉLANGER (1927-2011)**

On 26 March 2011, aged 83 years and eleven months, passed away in Baie-Comeau, (Quebec) Lucille Bélanger,

widow of René-Rock Lalancette. Funeral was on Friday, 8 April 2011 at the St. Prime Parish Church. Ashes will be interred in the St. Prime RR #3 Cemetery at a later date. She leaves to mourn her children : Yvon (Johanne Frobes), Dianne (Jacques Arsenault); her grandchildren: Éric Lalancette (Sherryl Fortier) and Karine Lalancette (Joe Poirier), **Jean-François Kirouac (Marie-Josée Lacroix), son of Dianne, née Lalancette, and Jacques Kirouac (GFK 01455)**.

#### **MASTRIANO, ANGÉLINE ROBERGE (1919-2011)**

At St-Brigid's Home, on 14 March 2011, aged 91 years and four months passed away Angéline Roberge-Mastriano, widow of Thomas Mastriano. She was the daughter of the late Angéline, née Lemieux, and the late David Roberge. Ashes were interred at Mausolée du Belmont (Columbarium). She leaves to mourn her sisters: Lucienne Couture (John Mc Anally), Marguerite Lemieux (the late Pierre Lemieux), Gertrude Couture. She was also the sister of the late Antoine Couture (Pierrette Houde) and the late David Couture (**the late Margaret Kérouac, GFK 02755**); as well as the late Madeleine Roberge (the late André Gravel).

#### **MELANSON, CARMEN KIROUAC (1912-2011)**

In Montreal, on 7 April 2011, aged ninety-eight passed away **Carmen Kirouac (GFK 00856)**, widow of Jacques Melanson. She leaves to mourn her daughter Lina, her grandchildren: Lyana (Martin Leduc), Louis (Catherine Noël) and one great-grandson Renaud. Funeral at Urgel Bourgie Funeral Home in Town of Mont-Royal, Montreal, on 16 April followed by burial of the ashes in Urgel

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

## ANSWERS RECEIVED FROM A READER

**Answer received from Greg Kyrouac, Ashland, IL, USA (ref.: *Le Trésor* Number 103)**

### 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?*

**The parents of Laurenda Brière are Joseph Brière and Amanda St-Louis. Joseph Sirois and Justine Keroack were married at St-Paul Parish in Grand-Mère on 4 July 1904. Joseph Sirois was born on 23 December 1881 and NOT on 22 December 1878 as indicated in the question.**

### 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?*

**The parents of Joseph Potvin, husband of Marie-Anna Sirois, were Joseph Potvin and Marie Léocadie Pellerin. Joseph Potvin was married three times; first marriage was to Virginie Leclerc dit Francoeur, on 22**

**February 1881 at Ste-Anne-de-la-Pocatière. Second marriage was to Vitalie Caron (daughter of François Caron and Émérence Ouellet) on 3 September 1888 at Ste-Anne-de-La-Pocatière. Finally his third marriage was with Marie-Anna Sirois, daughter of Joseph Sirois and Justine Keroack dit Breton. Marie-Anna had previously been married to Émile Hudon dit Beaulieu, on 18 January 1898 at the same parish.**

### 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?*

**The parents of Amélia Handfield, wife of Gustave Sirois, son of Joseph Sirois and Justine Keroack dit Breton, were Arthur Handfield and Almaïde Chagnon.**

Many thanks to Gregory Kyrouac for answering these questions and correcting some errors. Do read previously published Readers's Pages in earlier issues of *Le Trésor* and never hesitate to let us know the answers. We will be delighted to publish your input.

## NEW QUESTIONS

### Question 344

What are the names of the parents of Jean Essayan, husband of Marie-Marthe Descarreaux, daughter of Oscar Derome dit Descarreaux and of Odélia Kirouac, daughter of Joseph Kirouac and Julie Pichette?

### Question 345

What are the names of the parents of Marie-Josée Lacroix, spouse of Jean-François Kirouac, son of Jacques Kirouac and Diane Lalancette?

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 346

What are the names of the parents of Jean-Marc Baker, spouse of Claire Kirouac, daughter of Joseph-Aimé Kirouac and Lucienne Drolet?

### Question 347

What are the names of the parents of Monique Beaupré, spouse of Louis Kirouac, son of Joseph-Aimé Kirouac and Lucienne Drolet?

### Question 348

What are the names of the parents of Helen Demontigny, spouse of Roland Kérouac, son of Ernest Kérouac and Alice Chamberland?

### Question 349

What are the names of the parents of Diane Lefebvre, spouse of Michel Richard, son of Ernest Richard and Candide Kirouac, daughter of Philias Kirouac and Lucia Guimont?

### Question 350

What are the names of the parents of Jean-Marie Coulombe, spouse of Estelle Richard, daughter of Ernest Richard and Candide Kirouac, daughter of Philias Kirouac and Lucia Guimont?

### Question 351

What are the names of the parents of Georgette Charrette who married Paul-Émile Bérubé, son of Jean-Baptiste Bérubé and Célanire Kirouac (GFK 01540), at Notre-Dame-de-la-Merci (QC) on 18 July 1953?

### Question 352

What are the names of the parents of Roger Perreault who married Émilie Bérubé, daughter of Jean-Baptiste Bérubé and Célanire Kirouac (GFK 01540), in the Très-Saint-Rédempteur Parish in Montreal on 15 May 1943?

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**ANNUAL FAMILY GATHERING ON 18 & 19 JUNE 2011  
IN KANKAKEE, ILLINOIS UNITED STATES**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
OF THE KIROUAC FAMILY ASSOCIATION  
SATURDAY, 9 JULY 2011, SAINT-CONSTANT, QUEBEC, CANADA  
(SEE CONVOCATION ON PAGE 4)**

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