

Autumn 2011

Number 105

Le Trésor des Kirouac

Bulletin of the descendants of Alexandre de K/voach



(Photo: Pia Karrer O'Leary)

Greg and Nancy (Beckman) Kyrouac, our hosts in Kankakee/Bourbonnais, Illinois, USA, for the 2011 KFA annual gathering, A REUNIFICATION, on 18-19 June, with their daughter-in-law, Kayla Marie (Yeagle) Kyrouac, and their granddaughter, Selah Mercy Kyrouac.



Kirouac
Kirouack



Kéroutac
Kéroutack



Keroac
Keroack



Kéroack
Kyroutac



Burton
Curwick



Le Trésor des Kirouac

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Table of Contents

Le Trésor des Kirouac Number 105

| | |
|--|----|
| The President's Word | 3 |
| Lucie Jasmin's Talks on Marie-Victorin | 4 |
| Michel Bornais' Talks on Jack Kerouac | 4 |
| Marguerite Kirouac's 90th Birthday Celebration | 5 |
| Book Launching: The story of the Kirouac-Pépin House | 5 |
| To his Descendants by Robert K/ of Abitibi | 6 |
| Thierry Lefever's Show <i>On The Road</i> | 6 |
| What a Small World! | 7 |
| Jack Pickett Vindicated | 8 |
| Wedding bells for Noëlle Kirouac & Adam Reed | 8 |
| Gerald Nicosia's Latest News | 9 |
| RE-UNIFICATION in Kankakee/Bourbonnais | 10 |
| Raymonde Marie Maranda Sears | 17 |
| Press Review . . . for the Year 1944 | 20 |
| Book Review: <i>Jack Kerouac / Allen Ginsberg: The letters</i> | 22 |
| Philippe's Papers, 3 rd part | 23 |
| President's Annual Report to the KFA Board & Members | 28 |
| 2012 - KFA Annual Gathering Announced | 29 |
| French as Spoken Here and Elsewhere | 30 |
| On the Road with Georges Simenon | 31 |
| In memoriam | 32 |
| Genealogy and The Readers' Page | 34 |
| KFA Board for 2011-2012 | 35 |
| Regional Representatives | 35 |

THE PRESIDENT'S WORD

Our 2011 annual KFA gathering was most successfully held in Kankakee, Illinois, on the weekend of 18-19 June 2011. There were so many new faces as over 130 new people attended, all *de Kervoach* descendants. For the first time ever, many Curwicks met with Kerouacs and Kyrouacs; but it will not be the last, judging by the enthusiastic comments I heard. This re-unification of the family and getting to know a new branch of the family all happened thanks to an important discovery made by Greg Kyrouac. He and his wife, Nancy, were the hosts of this first official gathering of our Association in the American Mid-West.

As the invitation said, we were all invited to a **re-unification**, not just a reunion, and we owe this inspiring and inspired expression to Nancy Kyrouac. We were royally received and entertained by Greg and Nancy. There were seven of us from Quebec: Jacques Kirouac, our founding-president; Pierre Kirouac from Trois-Rivières, who preceded me as KFA president; Louis Kirouac, his brother, KFA regional representative for the Greater Montreal area, the Abitibi region and Ottawa/Ontario Valley; Brian & Marie Timperley, Marie being also a Board member; my wife, Francine and I; and Pia and Paul O'Leary who travelled from London, Ontario. It was a perfect occasion to let people know about our Association which, as of today, includes twenty new members among our American cousins. Many said they would talk to their relatives about the KFA. As they all left with English copies of previous issues of *Le Trésor*, it will be easy for them to promote our Association. For so many years we have been hoping to widen our

American membership and readership, finally, now, it is happening.

Let's talk again about the preserving of our photographic heritage; I must underline how Greg has enriched it particularly at Kankakee where he brought a scanner for people to scan their old photos. Quite a few old family photos were brought but usually without names behind! (One of them you will see in the next issue of *Le Trésor*.) So how could we identify all these good-looking people? It took the combined efforts of two families present to do that. So again, I say: if you own old family photos, please identify the people on them, scan them in order to preserve them and share them with your relatives and descendants. If you do not recognize the faces, please ask relatives and family friends to help you identify them. And remember how we would be most grateful for all old photos - scanned or not- and, with your permission, we would publish them in future issues of *Le Trésor*.

This year's annual gathering having been held outside of Quebec, we had to hold our AGM (Annual General Meeting) in the Province. So we did, on Saturday, 9 July 2011, at St-Constant, on the south shore near Montreal. After the reports were presented and accepted, we proceeded with the election. The three outgoing councillors' (their mandate having come to an end) were re-elected. Since Michel Bornais left the Board in 2009, the position of secretary was vacant but Johanne Kirouac from Laval was also elected to the Board and has accepted to fill this position. So after two years, the number of Board members is back to nine according to our Bylaws.



François Kirouac

Collection François Kirouac

For the moment, Johanne will be our meetings' secretary. In my name and in the name of the Board members, I warmly welcome Johanne to our KFA Board. In the next issue of *Le Trésor*, we will publish Johanne's photo and a short bio.

After our AGM we enjoyed a very pleasant lunch; then we simply crossed the street to visit **ExpoRail**, the Canadian Railway Museum. Everyone fully enjoyed *discovering the world of railways as this museum features the largest railway collection in Canada and one of the most remarkable in North America*. I also wish to underline that those who did the tour were full of praise for the very well-informed young lady/student who was our guide.

May I reiterate my heartfelt gratitude to those who organized those two activities? Greg & Nancy Kyrouac from Ashland, Illinois, for the 2011 KFA Annual Gathering in Kankakee; as well as René Kirouac, from St. Constant, and Mercédès Bolduc-Villeneuve for planning the AGM in St. Constant. In the following pages you can read about the great Re-Unification gathering in Kankakee. As for **Expo-Rail** in St. Constant, we are keeping this for *Le Trésor* 106.

LECTURES BY LUCIE JASMIN

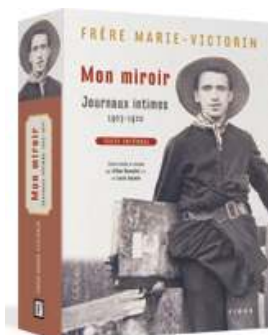
“MARIE-VICTORIN AND THE ODYSSEY OF THE LAURENTIAN FLORA”

Since May 2007, Ms. Lucie Jasmin, a KFA Board Member, has been invited to give talks in various regions of the Province of Quebec about our cousin, Brother Marie-Victorin, born Conrad Kirouac.

On 26 October 2011, she will be the guest speaker at the *Société de Biologie de Montréal* (Montreal Biology Society). It will be her eighteenth talk about the first French speaking scientist in Canada. If you have not had the opportunity to hear her tell the story of Marie-Victorin's famous book *Flore Laurentienne*, still considered today as the Bible of botany for Eastern Canada, please do so. You will be surprised and delighted to discover how important this Kirouac 'cousin' is. A botanist, scientist, writer, poet, and ecologist years before the word existed.

We take this opportunity to thank Ms. Lucie Jasmin for her unstinting work and passion to make sure that the name and mission of Conrad Kirouac is known by one and all.

The Editors



In 2007

17 May 2007: Contrecoeur, in Montérégie; (Montreal South Shore);
12 June 2007: Saint-Jérôme, in the Laurentians; north of Montreal;

In 2008

22 May 2008, Rivière-du-Loup;
11 September 2008, Saint-Colomban; Laurentians

Dates of Lectures

21 October 2008, Laprairie; (Montreal South Shore)
20 November 2008, Sainte-Foy; Quebec City Suburb
26 November 2008, Boucherville; (Montreal South Shore);

In 2009

17 March 2009, L'Ancienne-Lorette; (Quebec City Suburb);
29 April 2009, Saint-Antoine-sur-Richelieu;
14 May 2009, Saint-Nicolas, Lévis, (Quebec South Shore);
22 May 2009, Saint-Irénée in Charlevoix; (North of Quebec City)
11 June 2009, Châteauguay; (Montreal South Shore);
11 July 2009, Saint-Venant-de-Paquette, Eastern Townships;
19 November 2009, Cap-Rouge; (Quebec City Suburb);

In 2010

24 September 2010, Rouyn-Noranda, Abitibi; (North Western Quebec);
25 September 2010, Amos, Abitibi;

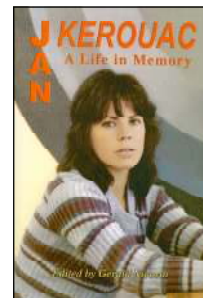
In 2011

8 April 2011, Saint-Roch-de-l'Achigan, in Lanaudière, north of Montreal;
26 October 2011, *Société de Biologie de Montréal, Lajeunesse Community Centre Montreal.*

JACK KEROUAC ... the one we fear to love

The KFA also offers a talk on **Jack Kerouac ... the one we fear to love**. This talk is given by our former KFA secretary, Michel Bornais. This is a fairly intimate biography and an honest view of the rather stormy family relations that was the load of this famous Franco-American writer and the dire consequences of his rejecting his legitimate daughter, Janet Michelle Kerouac, who died at the age of only forty-four on 5 June 1996. Jack's attachment to his French-Canadian and Breton origins is examined as well as the unrelenting influence of Jack Kerouac's works since his death in 1969. **The talk also covers the July 2009 Florida Court decision confirming the fact that the will of Jack's mother was a forgery. (Maintained by a Court of Appeal in 2011).**

This talk was first presented in Montreal at the *Founding Families Fair* at Place Desjardins. Afterwards, Michel Bornais was invited to present it to the members of the Ste-Foy Historical Society, to the "Golden Age" students at Laval University in Quebec City, to the Drummondville Historical Society and to the Saint-Venant-de-Paquette Heritage Society in the Eastern Townships. **The last talk was on 18 October at 7 p.m. at the Municipal Library in Lavaltrie, (Lanaudière County).** Thank you, Michel!



A VERY HAPPY 90th BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR MARGUERITE KIROUAC



(Photo: François Kirouac)

On 2 July 2011, parents and friends gathered in Victoriaville to celebrate Marguerite Kirouac's (GFK01152) ninetieth birthday. She was a KFA Board Member from 1997 to 2001 like her sister Hélène who is sitting beside her. Hélène is also the author of our Association's crest. On the souvenir-photo are, first row from left to right: Dianne Lupien, Agnès Beaudet, Caroline Beaudet holding Vincent, Marguerite Kirouac holding Émile, Monique Kirouac, Hélène Kirouac, Jean Beaudet; second row, l. to r.: Nicole Lavallée, Renée Beaudet, Colette Beauchemin, Lyne Gauthier, Jacques Gauthier, Chantale Lemay, Bruno and Gisèle Kirouac, Denise and Renaud Kirouac; third row, l. to r.: André Durocher, Marcel Parenteau, Gisèle Daudelin, André Beauchemin, Josée Bertrand, Gaétan Thivierge, Michel Kirouac and Louise Houle.

Book Launching: *L'Histoire de la maison Kirouac-Pépin*

(The story of the
Kirouac-Pépin house)



Photo : François Kirouac

Many people were invited to mark the launching of this new book including the last two Kirouacs born in the house who are still very much alive today. The house, built in 1850, was bought on 8 January 1858 by Louis-Grégoire who was the first Kirouac to settle in Warwick. His descendants lived in this house until 1933. (See *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 66, December 2001, p. 18.

From left to right: Claude Pépin, Bruno Kirouac (GFK 00714),
Lise Carrier and Monique Kirouac (GFK 00725).

Le Trésor des Kirouac no 105

5

MEMOIRS FOR HIS DESCENDANTS

François Kirouac

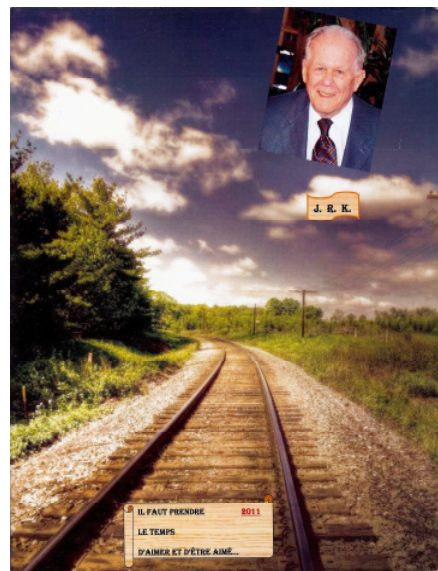
"I thought it would be a good idea to write my memoirs for my children, my grandchildren and great-grandchildren as, one day, they might be interested to read about my life as a child, a teenager, and an adult." Thus begins Joseph Robert Kirouac's 202-page book that is just hot from the printer. If you were in Abitibi for our 2007 gathering you certainly have met him there or at other annual gatherings.

In the introduction, Robert also adds: *"I would like them to be proud to bear my name and to belong to the greater Kirouac family. (...) May they follow the example of their forebears and be loyal to our motto: PRIDE, DIGNITY AND INTEGRITY."*

This is an outstanding way to preserve our family heritage and we were keen to bring it to your

attention as it is perfectly in line with the mission of our family association. If you ever thought about leaving memories to your descendants, do not hesitate any

longer, it is the perfect way to do so. **Congratulations to Robert Kirouac from Lasarre in Abitibi for this wonderful initiative!**



Front and back covers of the souvenir book written and published by Joseph Robert Kirouac (GFK 02153), son of Louis Kirouac, one of the first Kirouacs to settle in Abitibi, and of Céline Poirier-Kirouac. (See *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 89, Autumn 2007, pp. 10-11.)



"On the road", a one-man show

by Thierry Lefever

By Jean-Paul Loubes ⁽¹⁾

Bob Dylan declared once: "I read *ON THE ROAD* and it changed my life, as it changed the life of all who read it." This consecrated the cult-novel that marked a generation and installed Kerouac as the *pope* of the Beat Generation. Quite a few religious terms in one sentence; you might think? It is normal. Jack used to say of himself that he was a "Catholic mystic who loved his mother". Thierry Lefever takes us on a *speedy race in a crazy world*; it is a ceaseless rhythmic poem through the hallucinated

vagaries of a generation. We cross the States from East to West at 150 miles per hour. The actor drives like mad during seventy-five minutes jostling us on the backseat of the old Ford. It is no mean feat to manage to confront the public with the novel's second dimension, so subtle a dimension that most people never saw it forty years ago. Later on, of course, Kerouac's life would reveal a hidden breathing, a poetic decency and sensitivity.

It certainly was difficult to choose the right texts from this novel in order to present it as a poetic show. The challenge was for the actor to cut & paste and link it all with Kerouac's own words and loose nothing in the process; as well as presenting to today's public one of the greatest contemporary authors ... a Francophone during his youth and a Francophile during his life. Connivance over time between Thierry Lefever and Jack Kerouac, who wrote: "The secret of writing is the rhythm of urgency." (*Some of the Dharma*). That is exactly what this show has successfully achieved.

WHAT A SMALL WORLD!

Michel Bornais

Our daughter, as well as my wife and I, own a Trillium Caravan from the seventies and, like the Boler, Scamp, and other similar campers, have become collectors items and curiosity objects whenever camping.

A few weeks ago, as I was looking up a Web Site we often consult to exchange various information, including tricks to repair our precious campers, quite unexpectedly I found a message from a lady living in California, proudly announcing that after looking for a long time she had finally discovered the small SCAMP Caravan she had been dreaming about for years. And she signed: Sandi Kirouac.

So I congratulated her on her purchase and mentioned that my mother was born Léona Kirouac, therefore we might be distantly related. She wrote back that she was born in Massachusetts and had never been able to trace her genealogical roots. She sent me two more emails, we exchanged some names and with the help of François Kirouac and Greg Kyrouac, our KFA genealogical brains, we



Sandi Kirouac from California, USA

quickly managed to find the link between her and my great-great-grandfather Marcel Kirouac (GFK 00174), husband of Françoise Gagné, married in St-Paul-de-Montminy, to the Kyrouacs, Kerouacs, Curwicks and Burtons from Illinois and also to the only Kirouac family living in France whose ancestor was an American soldier who settled there in 1918.

Who could have imagined that Sandra-Jeanne Kirouac, living in California, now a KFA member, found her ancestors and lots of new relatives because she went looking for and found her dream SCAMP caravan to go camping in the magnificent Yosemite National Park.

I suggested a name for her SCAMP: MAGIC MOMENT.

WANTED

Last year in our December issue, on page 5, we published the pictures of nine "little treasures" with the wishes of the board of directors and the editorial board of the *Trésor des Kirouac*. We would like to repeat the experience this year. We would be very pleased to receive photos of the youngest descendants of our Kervoach ancestor. These digital photos can be sent to us at the email address of the Association (afkirouacfa@hotmail.com). Thank you in advance for giving us the pretty faces of your "treasures" for the sake of all our readers.

François Kirouac on behalf of members of the Editorial Board

Photo : Collection Sandy Kirouac

Press Review / Latest News
MICHIGAN APPEALS COURT UPHOLDS CONVICTIONS
FOR ROBBERS OF WORLD WAR II VETERAN*
A Just Sentence Rendered and Maintained

Many thanks to Cathy Kirouac Robinson of Detroit, Michigan, for sending us the article written by Lisa Roose Church and published in the DAILY PRESS & ARGUS, on 30 September 2011. Below are a few excerpts.

“The convictions and sentences for two men who robbed and beat a World War II veteran at his Genoa Township home in 2008 were upheld by the appeals court, according to a decision released today. H. T. Riley, 40, and N. R. Lovell III, 35, are both serving prison terms for armed robbery, first-degree home invasion, unlawful imprisonment and torture in connection to the brutal beating of John “Jack” Pickett, then 83.” (...) “Riley claims he received inadequate representation during his trial while Lovell’s appeal claims Pickett’s testimony was coerced. The appeals court rejected their arguments. Riley, was sentenced to a total of 88 years and four months to 135 years in prison; and Lovell, of Plainwell, received a



Uncle Jack with Marie Lussier Timperley and Catherine Kirouac Robinson, photo taken by Pia Karrer O’Leary on Saturday, 17 September 2011, during the annual picnic of the Michigan Kirouacs held at Steve & Neysa Kirouac in Romeo. For many years, this annual gathering was held at Uncle Jack’s home. We hope to have the pleasure and honour to welcome to Quebec in 2012 this remarkable 86-year young gentleman. His wife, the late Rollande Kirouac (GFK 880), like most Michigan Kirouacs, was related to the Kirouacs from Warwick, Quebec.

total of 50-95 years in prison.” Both will be locked up for a very long time.

**Articles were published about John “Jack” Pickett in previous issues of Le Trésor des Kirouac: number 97, autumn 2009, number 98, winter 2010, and number 99, spring 2010.*

Detroit, 16 July 2011

Wedding Bells: Noëlle Kirouac, eldest daughter of Steve (GFK 00907) and Neysa Kirouac, and her husband, **Adam Reed**, son of Gary and Sandra Reed.

The family gathered at the Westin Southfield Hotel in Detroit for this great day.
 (Photo: Jennifer Kirouac Ogonowski)



Latest News

by Gerald Nicosia

The past year, I have been running hard on the “Jack Kerouac trail.” I was invited to speak on Jack Kerouac at Girton College of Cambridge University in England in late October 2010, by British poet Malcolm Guite, who teaches at Cambridge and is also an Anglican university chaplain there. The experience was very eye-opening, as I found that British scholars and poets are pursuing the Beat Generation, and Jack Kerouac’s legacy, in a big way. I will soon write at greater length about the writers, teachers, and publishers I met on that trip who are spreading the appreciation of Kerouac’s work throughout the British Isles.

Last summer, I was invited to work as an advisor to the film of ON THE ROAD by Walter Salles. I was the first “drill instructor” in the so-called “Beat Boot Camp” in Montreal, where I worked with actors such as Sam Riley, playing Jack Kerouac, Garrett Hedlund, playing Neal Cassady, and Kristen Stewart, playing Lu Anne Cassady. It was while working with Kristen that I played the tape of my full, almost-8-hour interview with the real Lu Anne, which I had made in 1978. The real Lu Anne died a few years ago. But her interview was unbelievably rich in details of the meetings, friendship, and road trips of herself, Kerouac, and Cassady - the very material that Jack Kerouac transmuted into his landmark novel ON THE ROAD.

When I got back to the Bay Area of San Francisco, I approached Brenda Knight of Viva Editions in Berkeley, and she was very excited about the idea of building a book around that interview. That book, called ONE AND ONLY: THE



Photo by JAM Bornais - Le Trésor des Kirouac

Gerald Nicosia with Charles Gillibert, French Producer (MK2) of the film *On the Road*. Photo taken in Montreal, Canada, on 15 July 2010, during the filming.

UNTOLD STORY OF ON THE ROAD, is now about to be released in October at Kerouac Week in Lowell, where I will give the first talk and book signing from it on October 8 (3-5 p.m.) at Edson Hall, at St. Anne’s Church.

The biggest news, of course, happened on August 10, 2011, when the District Court of Appeal for the Second District in Florida ruled against the Sampas family and

in favor of Paul Blake, Jr. After Judge George Greer had ruled that Gabrielle Kerouac’s will was a forgery on July 24, 2009, the Sampases immediately took an appeal of that decision. Now, the appellate court has ruled against the Sampases, affirming Judge Greer’s decision that the will is a forgery. The Sampases may finally be forced to give up the greater part of that thirty-plus-million-dollar estate. Stay tuned....



Do you remember Vincent-Gabriel Kirouac, the young knight to be and his project to cross Canada on horseback? (*Le Trésor des Kirouac*, Summer 2010, number 100, pp. 30-33). Planning to depart next Spring, he created a Web Site : <http://chevaliautourdumonde.webs.com/>

RE-UNIFICATION IN KANKAKEE/BOURBONNAIS

Pia Karrer and Marie Lussier Timperley

Wonderful week-end in Kankakee for a “FAMILY RE-UNIFICATION”; what a lovely term! Thanks to Nancy who came up with the perfect word to illustrate what her husband has been working on for over 35 years: the re-unification of a family whose branches got separated over a few generations by multiple variations of their surname: from **Kirouac** to **Kyrrouac**, **Kerouac**, **Curwick**, **Curwack**, and **Burton** (from **Le Breton**, **Berton**).

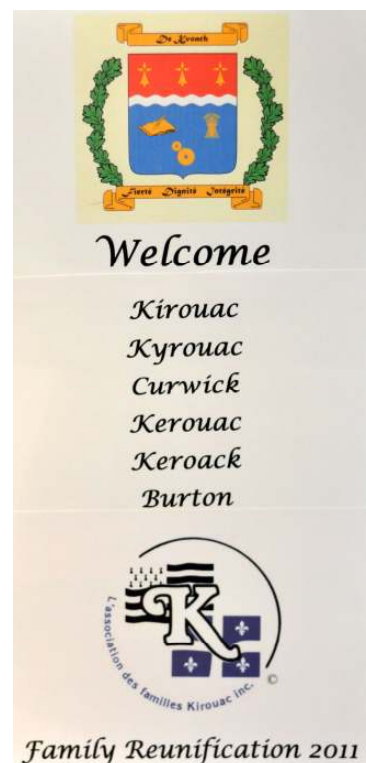
The official opening was on Friday, 17 June 2011, at 5 p.m. at America's Best Inn and Suites in Bourbonnais, where the Canadian cousins were staying. We enjoyed this easy to find location to renew acquaintances with our hosts and with other out-of-towners who were staying at the same hotel, an excellent choice for comfort, convenience and reasonable price for bed and breakfast. We were greeted by Greg and Nancy in a room festooned with balloons and flags where a thoughtful “snack” of chicken legs, vegetable and fruit trays, K/ cupcakes and drinks had been prepared.

It was so nice to finally meet with people one has been emailing for a few years, like Cousin Cathy K. Robinson from Michigan and the Curwick family from various states, including LeRoy Curwick who had so many fascinating stories to tell.

We found long lost cousins from Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, Arizona, Florida, Kentucky, (the other states/territory

represented over the weekend were Indiana, North Carolina, Louisiana and Washington DC. By the way, total attendance over the weekend was **132** people).

Saturday, 18 June, we drove to the Kankakee County Fair Grounds. We could not miss the place, the K/ weekend was clearly posted at the entrance. The main building that Greg had rented was very large. Tables were set up in one section for lunch and supper. But first we stopped to admire the floor! WOW. A complete giant colour-coded family tree was taped to the floor and we all had fun figuring out how we were related to one another. That was a first, another remarkable idea of Nancy's. Starting with Alexandre de Kervoac'h, our Breton ancestor, then showing his two sons and on and on for many generations. Well, it was fun to see people present looking and finding their particular branch and parent, grand-parent, etc. and what a scramble it was to get everyone standing in the proper place to take



a souvenir photo. Many photos were taken and it proved a challenge to get all in focus! It was so much fun standing beside our immediate ancestor and seeing exactly how the different K/ participants were related to you.

Greg welcomed one and all on Saturday morning, and then invited Mr. Vic Johnson, a past President of the Bourbonnais Grove



Greg Kyrrouac, Paul O'Leary and Brian Timperley, Friday, 17 June 2011.

Photo: Pia Karrer O'Leary



Harold Tobenski, grandson of Phillip Kerouac (GFK 02732) and Mark May, great-great-grandson the same Phillip Kerouac.

Historical Society and Chief Editor of Le Journal du Village, the Society's news bulletin, who has also written over 500 articles and two books on the history of Kankakee County.

The general history was a good background to Greg's much anticipated talk on the family surname and how it morphed into Kyrouac, Kerouac, Curwick, Curwack, and Burton, why and when. Greg's important study will be published in Le Trésor 106.

Pierre and Louis Kirouac, two brothers from Trois Rivières, Quebec, write: *"My brother, Louis and I were very keen to attend this reunion because our direct ancestor, Marcel (GFK 00269) (a great-grandson of Alexandre de Kervoach, our Breton ancestor), was the only one who stayed in Quebec while his five brothers left for Illinois in the mid-19th century. The numerous descendants of those five brothers are now known as Kyrouac, Kerouac, Curwick, Curwack, and Burton; however, until very recently most had no idea they were related to each other and knew nothing about their Quebec origin."*

"Being of the same kith and kin as them, we were just as enthusiastic to attend this family re-unification. Nancy and Greg Kyrouac's organization was remarkable and they found new creative ways to illustrate the degree of family ties between the participants. Thanks to their work and perseverance the relationships between all came to light and we are ever so grateful to them. Our newly found cousins were so friendly and open and kept asking lots of questions about Quebec and about Marcel, their ancestor's brother."

Both had only praise for the wonderful programme prepared by Greg and Nancy.

The local newspaper published two articles to inform people of the region of the important meeting of K / and acknowledge the presence of Canadians who had decided to hold their 2011 annual meeting in Kankakee-Bourbonnais.

After lunch on **Saturday afternoon**, we were encouraged to carpool with the locals for the tours. Pia and Paul carpooled with Joe Kerouac from Chicago who was

originally from the region and gave a very interesting tour of the whole area complete with details of the current political and economic situation.

We visited the Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Bourbonnais. Father Richard Pighini, CSV, showed us the oldest church of the region and told us his story. We learned that many **K/s (since they were from all three branches)** are buried in its old grave yard behind the church but that most markers have disappeared over the years. Greg would like to put a memorial plaque there. More about this project soon.

From there we went to visit the **Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society-Letourneau Home/Museum**. The museum was the home of Bourbonnais' first mayor George R. Letourneau. The exhibits center on the French-Canadian



After e-mailing for a number of years, they finally met: Cathy Kirouac Robinson and Marie Lussier Timperley.



A very first K/ family gathering for these descendants of Hippolyte Paul Curwick (GFK 00178): first row, left to right: William Curwick, Mable (Curwick) VanGilder, Alvina (Curwick) DeRoode, Cindy (Curwick) Evans; second row, left to right: LeRoy Curwick, Christine Marie (DeRoode) Matimba, Mary (Curwick) Bowen, Carol (Curwick) Ginger, Danielle (Bowen) Stoner, and Bob Curwick.

influence in the Bourbonnais area. Our visit was made possible through the generosity of a volunteer, Kenneth M. Ponton, Vice President of BGHS, who opened the House/Museum especially for us and was also our guide. Marie bought one of Adrien Richard's (see Le Tresor 104) books on the local history and one about the mayors of Bourbonnais including two **K/s (Leo Kyroutac and Gabriel Kerouac)**, one being Greg's grandfather.

After that, we visited Bradley House in Kankakee, one of several early 20th century Prairie-style houses designed by the famous architect Frank Lloyd Wright. That was Pia's favourite visit; very impressive in many ways, but much less friendly than the humble Letourneau Home.

What a spread at supper time! A Gargantuan dinner awaited us at the fairgrounds. A local caterer

provided a delicious main course but there were so many scrumptious contributions from the local Kerouac, Curwick and Kyroutac family members for the dinner organized by Carol Curwick Ginger that we really needed to dance afterwards. The John Weber Band played many well-known and well-loved hits was a good choice which got us in the American

Midwest mood whether we were dancing or just listening.

BINGO: Pia writes: "The best ice breaker was a game where we had to find different people with specific characteristics to sign a sheet. Some were easy: "a cat lover", a "White Sox fan", etc., but as each person could only sign once, finding a "hockey fan" proved to be a challenge. Of course Pia was the one signing in the box about speaking a language in addition to French and English. What a wonderful way to encourage us to mix and mingle!"

On Sunday morning, Deacon Euchrist "Mush" Marcotte officiated at the communion service. This is a tradition at all K/ gatherings. The Sunday morning service is the occasion to remember and pray for all the departed K/s and, this being Father's Day, it was particularly fitting to remember our fore-fathers. Cathy Bergmann [great-granddaughter of Marie Clara Kerouac (GFK 01353) and Jack Kerouac's 1st cousin twice removed] served as Lector and Nancy lead the singing.

Before sitting down for lunch: **FAMILY PORTRAIT.** That was a



Photo: Pia Karrer O'Leary

Joe Kerouac of Chicago and Cathy Bergmann, first cousin twice-removed of Jack Kerouac



Photo: Pia Karrer O'Leary

Some members of Greg Kyroutac's family, left to right: his brother, Brian Kyroutac (GFK 00245), his niece, Abbey Kyroutac, his sister-in-law, Bonnie (Lockwood) Kyroutac, his other brother, Tom Kyroutac (GFK 00244) and his father Don Kyroutac (GFK 00238).

bit of a scramble to get everybody standing where on the right spot on the giant family tree. The locals not only outnumbered those of us from Canada but there were so many in each branch that the photo is a little lopsided!

Sunday brunch was a yummy, appetizing and soooo generous spread. There were salads galore, desserts of all kinds but the "pièce de résistance" was the wonderful pulled pork! Pierre and Louis noted that the Sunday Brunch was provided by the K/ Illinois spouses. They appreciated the friendliness and generosity of all those helping with the organization through the weekend.

Door prizes, there were so many, some were raffled on Saturday evening and more on Sunday at lunch time. Pia, Marie and Brian did very well! There was also a particularly decorative wooden bowl that Marie noticed and said she hoped to win but did not. However, an aunt of the artist won the bowl and most generously

offered it to Marie who was *bowled* over (see photo at right) by such kindness. On the web, look up CURWICK CREATIONS or send an e-mail to Dale and Donna Curwick at this address: curwickcreations@gmail.com. After asking about seeing more art works by Dale and Donna Curwick, Dale brought along a boxful and quite a few could not resist buying a souvenir made by a cousin!

Most tickets for the **50-50 raffle** were sold on Saturday evening but the winning ticket was drawn on Sunday after lunch and won by Bud Curwick who had insisted on attending the reunion as his dying wish. LeRoy, his younger brother, phoned him on Sunday to tell a very surprised Bud that he had won. He could hardly believe it having not bought a ticket; one of his brothers had and had written his name on one. (His obituary is on page 32 in the present Trésor.)

AU REVOIR: All good things must come to an end. It was hard to

say good-bye to all the new cousins we had come to know and love!

On Monday, our hosts, Greg and Nancy Kyroutac invited the Canadian contingent to Springfield,



Photo: Pia Karrer O'Leary

Marie Lussier Timperley with the sculptor Dale Curwick



Sunday, 19 June, Father's Day! Three Kyrourac generations: the proud grandfather, Greg, with his son, Joseph Samuel and his granddaughter, Selah Mercy.

Illinois, to discover one of the most famous American presidents: Abraham Lincoln. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, his grave and the magnificent memorial in the Oak Ridge Cemetery are a must see.

We did not have time to see all the Lincoln sites in the area, including his law office, the neighbourhood in Springfield where the only house he ever owned in his lifetime stands, and New Salem, a reconstruction of the village where Abraham Lincoln spent his early adulthood.

Surprise for supper, Greg and Nancy took us to **D'Arcy's Pint** to introduce us to the local specialty: the **HORSESHOE SANDWICH**, consisting of Texas toast, hamburger, piles of fries smothered with melted cheese, a distant cousin of Quebec's "poutine". Do you remember reading about it Trésor 104, page 21!

Thanks to Nancy and Greg who made the K/ Reunification a truly memorable and wholly enjoyable week-end for all who attended!

To conclude this short appreciation about the First Re-Unification Gathering in Kankakee/ Bourbonnais, Illinois, we quote Alverna (Curwick) De Roode (see photo with her brother, Bud, below)

who could not have expressed it better: **"It's like discovering a new planet! It's like a rebirth, starting a new life! I have not been this excited about anything in the past half century! I am being dowsed with all this history!"**

P.S.I: So we wish to take the opportunity to thank our respective *Anglofun* husbands for their patience, support, and as driver/ chauffeur.

P.S.II: Pia enjoyed visiting the various family groups as she went around taking family group shots. She never brags about the fact that she is an award winning photographer but we are very grateful for her talents as her photos illustrate this article.

P.S.III: As the person who puts together the English version, I want to thank everyone who volunteered in the planning and implementation of this event, especially Carol Curwick Ginger and her family. To all of the Kankakee area family members, thanks for your donations of food and door prizes. Of course, my wife, Nancy, is owed a big **THANK YOU** for all of her ideas, hard work and support. Thanks to all who traveled long distances to attend this event, especially those from Canada. Just think about how our ancestors made that same trip over 150 years ago without the conveniences and technology we have today. I also wish to thank each and every person who attended our Reunification event and helped to make it a memorable weekend. We have renewed our family heritage, let's not make this a one-time event! — Greg Kyrourac



Alverna Curwick De Roode and her brother, Bernard "Bud" Curwick
(Photo: Pia Karrer O'Leary)

PROCLAMATION RECOGNITION OF THE KIROUAC FAMILY ASSOCIATION

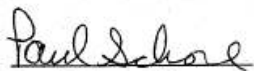
WHEREAS, The Kirouac Family Association was founded November 29, 1978 and incorporated February 26, 1986, in accordance with the laws of Quebec. An organization whose purpose is to reunite all who are fascinated by history and genealogy; and

WHEREAS, Beginning in the late 1840's, the earliest entries of the family arriving from Quebec are located in the Maternity BVM church records with the baptism of Hilary Ponton, son of Louis & Angele "Kerowak" Ponton on June 20, 1848. Other family members, who were Angele's father's first cousins (Didace, Joseph, Hippolyte, also called Paul, Agapit and Louis) arrived over the next several years. At the Bourbonnais Centennial in 1975, Leo Kyrrouac ("Pip"), a former mayor of Bourbonnais said all the Kerouacs, Kyrrouacs, Burtons and Curwicks were related. Also Leo's second cousin Gabriel Kerouac was village president in the 1950's and Paul Grinstead was a former Bourbonnais Fire Chief for eight years & a volunteer fireman for many years. Paul was the son of Henry and Irene (Curwick) Grinstead; and

WHEREAS, After the passing of Leo Kyrrouac in 1977, Greg Kyrrouac traveled to Quebec to do some research to find the ancestry, and was told there was a huge gathering of all the Kirouacs planned for the summer of 1980. Greg Kyrrouac, his future wife and a few others from the area attended along with about 700 others from all over North America and eventually it grew to be known as the Kirouac Family Association;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Paul Schore, Mayor of Bourbonnais, do hereby proclaim June 18-19, 2011 as Kirouac Family Association Day.

Dated this 6 day of June 2011


Paul Schore, Mayor
Village of Bourbonnais, IL

(Photo: Pia Karrer O'Leary)



Distant cousins meeting for the very first time: Louis Kirouac of Repentigny, Quebec and LeRoy Curwick of Brooklyn Park, Minnesota.

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Louis (GFK 00327) | |
| Camille (GFK 00320) | LeRoy Curwick |
| Télesphore (GFK 00315) | Leo Elmer Curwick |
| Marcel (GFK 00278) | Joseph Napoléon Curwick |
| Marcel (GFK 00269) | Paul Kirouac (GFK 00178) |
| | Joseph (GFK 00174) |
| | Louis (GFK 00002) |
| | Alexandre de Kervoach |

KIROUAC FAMILY REUNIFICATION

KANKAKEE/BOURBONNAIS, ILLINOIS, USA

17-19 JUNE 2011

FINANCIAL RESULTS

REVENUES

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Registrations | \$3,443.16 |
| 50/50 raffle and door prize drawing | 702.00 |
| Donations | 565.00 |

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| TOTAL REVENUES | \$4,710.16 |
|-----------------------|-------------------|

EXPENSES

| | |
|---|------------|
| Kankakee County Expo Center rental | \$1,500.00 |
| Reception room rental | 152.14 |
| Food and beverages for reception | 99.68 |
| Decorations | 283.63 |
| Paper, copying, tickets and materials for family tree floor display | 122.91 |
| Bradley House tour | 168.00 |
| Food at Saturday evening dinner | 1,694.00 |
| Musicians for after dinner dance | 500.00 |
| Food at Sunday afternoon lunch | 150.00 |
| Postage | 28.60 |

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$4,698.96 |
|-----------------------|-------------------|

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| <u>EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES</u> | <u>\$11.20</u> |
|--|-----------------------|



Photo: Pia Karrer O'Leary

Our founding-president, Jacques Kirouac, who knew Jan very well, enjoying the opportunity to sign copies of Gerald Nicosia's Book *Jan Kerouac, A life in Memory* in which his testimony appears.

RAYMONDE MARIE MARANDA SEARS

By Jean-Yves Laurin, her cousin

Among the Kirouac descendants in North America, there is a great lady deserving our homage on her ninetieth birthday. I am talking about Raymonde Marie Maranda Sears, the daughter of the late Bernadette (née Kirouac) Maranda, therefore a niece of Brother Marie-Victorin (born Conrad Kirouac). Her mother, like mine, was a sister of Conrad. My cousin is an extraordinary person now living in Prescott, Arizona, USA. I believe it is my duty to let you know about the remarkable career of my cousin who was always, and still is, the pride of our family wherever she was in the world but, unfortunately, so few know about her fascinating journey.

Born in Quebec City on 30 January 1921, she studied at the Grey Nun Convent in Saint-Anselme, a small town on the south shore of the St. Lawrence River, near Quebec City. She had the opportunity to study music and sing in the choir. By the age of seventeen, accompanied by a pianist, Raymonde already had her own weekly program on a local Quebec AM radio station CHRC ⁽¹⁾. During eight months she performed regularly and her salary was eight dollars per week.

In 1941, the family moved to Montreal. Already at the age of twenty-one she had her own weekly radio music program with CKAC ⁽²⁾ for nine months. During that year, without telling her father, but clearly intending to make him proud of her, she decided to enlist in the Canadian Army, with the **CWAC'S**, the

Canadian Women's Army Corps, and to be part of the **Canadian Army Show**. Here it is important to mention that her father, Albert Maranda, was an army Colonel who had served his country during the First World War between 1914 and 1918. In addition, her brother Robert Maranda had also enlisted in the RCAF, Royal Canadian Air Force (see article published in *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 100, Summer 2010, p. 7-10).

Having discovered her singing talents, without asking for her permission, the Army Officers assigned her, as early as 1942 to sing in a quintet. As she did not speak English, the other four members of the group taught her to sing phonetically. She was the one who sang all the French songs like *Mon homme* (i.e. *My man*), as well as other songs by Édith Piaf and Charles Trenet, both very famous French artists. Their songs became part of her repertory.

In Canada, the **Army Show** toured many towns and cities to promote enrolment in the armed forces. They performed in the United States, where Raymonde sang right after Jack Benny and Bob Hope; the two extremely well known and very popular artists always stayed on after their performance to hear the Canadian Army quintet.

Their first European assignment was in London during the Blitz in 1942. Afterwards the group was shipped to Italy; and Raymonde still remembers how seasick she was during the voyage from England to Italy.



Raymonde Maranda, daughter of Bernadette Kirouac-Maranda (GFK 00579) in June 1943.

French-Canadian soldiers really loved it when she sang for them, particularly as she was the daughter of a Colonel of the famous 22nd Regiment. On a number of occasions, she also sang for the soldiers of this renowned Quebec Regiment stationed in Italy during WWII. During the Camping of Italy, every second day she changed locations which meant singing for the troops stationed in many places including Rome, Naples, and Florence, as well as in various hospitals where sick and

(1) This Quebec AM radio station first aired in 1926 and is the only one still 'on the air' in 2011. (Source : Wikipédia)

(2) CKAC is a Montreal AM radio station that first aired in 1922. In 2011, it became a traffic information radio station for the Greater Montreal area. (Source : Wikipedia)

wounded soldiers were being treated. In 1943, on a number of occasions they performed so close to the front lines, that they could hear the cannons firing.

When her father passed away in Canada in March 1944, Raymonde and her brother Robert were asked to go to London from where they could help their mother with the funeral arrangements. However, military commitments being what they are particularly during a war, neither of them were able to attend their father's funeral in Quebec City.

Later on in 1944, mail being delivered sporadically, she suddenly learn that her brother Robert had been lost in combat during a mission over the Channel

on 7 June, during the invasion of France that had begun the day before in Normandy. It is also only in September that she learned that her uncle Conrad's (Brother Marie-Victorin) had passed away in a car accident two months before in July.

These three deaths were tough blows for her, however, as they say, 'the show must go on' so she had to stay in Europe and sing for the troops. Towards the end of 1944, finally after one show, an Army General gave her the permission to return to Montreal to be with her mother and sister.

Back in Canada, she remembers that, during six months, she sang in a show including a magician's performance. After she was

discharged from the Army, she went to work for the *Canadian Civil Service* and, in 1947, she answered an add and was hired as secretary to the Commanding Officer of the American Base in Goose Bay, Labrador, where there were 3,000 men and 28 women. She certainly kept up her singing career there and still remembers singing *Sainte Nuit*, e.g. the French version of *Holy Night*, in the church on the Goose Bay base at Christmas time.

In 1949, now speaking English and Italian as fluently as French, she applied to work with various airline companies. Among 300 applicants she was selected by **TWA, Trans World Airlines** ⁽³⁾ for the position of Director of Personnel for the women's division. During ten years, she flew around the world on board Constellation planes ⁽⁴⁾ to give lectures and plan business travels for high class clientele.

In 1961, she was hired by **Coats & Clark** ⁽⁵⁾. Having learned to sew while studying with the Grey Nuns in Saint-Anselme, now she taught other women in various large stores. During the eight years she worked for **Coats & Clark** in Dallas, she was also their representative in eighteen American States as well as giving radio and television interviews.

(3) TransWorld Airlines was bought by American Airlines in 2001. (Source: Wikipedia)

(4) A four-engine plane built by Lockheed to carry between 44 and 80 passengers with a crew of six to eight members. (Source: Wikipedia)

(5) Then and now, one of the world's oldest and most important manufacturers and distributors of yarn and sewing materials.



Raymonde Maranda (Photo: Raymonde Maranda collection)



Raymonde Maranda

(Photo: Raymonde Maranda collection)

In 1962 while working in Dallas, at the age of forty-one, she married Dan Mc Cafferty whom she had previously met in New York. However, in 1971 with the death of her husband, her happy marriage ended.

In 1970, she was hired by the Republic National Bank ⁽⁶⁾, a large Texas bank in Dallas, in the investment department. In 1974, she married her second husband, Bill Greenfield, president of **Culver City Bank**, whom she had met in Dallas. They moved to Santa Monica, California. A few years later her husband had a heart attack and had to retire. Raymonde felt the need to go back to work and found a position with the **Santa Monica Bank** in the newly created Trust Department.

In 1981, she married her third husband, Ben Sears, in Prescott,

Arizona, where he owned a food company so they settled there. But he passed away soon after.

Raymonde then decided to move back to Santa Monica, California, and became the manager of **Cal Mar Hotel** where she worked until 1992. To mark her retirement, she took a well-deserved cruise to Alaska. But she returned to Prescott, Arizona, to settle permanently. There she worked for many charitable organizations. Of course, she never lost her passion for music and regularly sang and still sings with her parish church choir.

In 2007, she moved to the Casa de Pinos Retirement Home in Prescott. Her positive attitude in life enlightens the existence of the many friends she made there. She still loves music and never misses a concert of the Phoenix Symphony Orchestra and whenever she sings at the church people always recognize her warm voice.

With her first husband she occasionally came back to Montreal and Quebec to visit with the family. She never had any children. Raymonde likes to tell people that the nuns formed her character and that God was always the most important person in her life. She is a wonderful great Lady with an outstanding personality.

Information source: Video interview by Ed. Carter on 12 June 2010 for the Military Archives in Washington DC.



Photo : collection Raymonde Maranda Sears

Raymonde Maranda Sears, on her 90th Birthday.

(6) Opened in 1920, this bank closed its doors in 1988. (Source : Wikipedia)

PRESS REVIEW... FOR THE YEAR 1944

François Kirouac

APRIL 1944 — The Allied Forces are secretly preparing the D-Day Landing in Normandy to take place in June and thousands of soldiers are stationed in England awaiting the big day. To lighten stress and boost morale, military authorities arranged for variety shows to be presented to the troops. Among the many artists taking part in these reviews, there was one in particular, Raymonde Maranda. As you read in the previous pages written by Jean-Yves Laurin, he is very proud of his cousin.

On 23 April 1944, the Montreal daily, *Le Petit Journal* published an article entitled: *A Young Canadian Delights our Overseas Officers and Soldiers* and subtitled: *She is Our Own Montreal's Carmen Miranda*. The journalist wrote that since she landed in England: "Raymonde has been singing everywhere there are Canadian soldiers. On Christmas afternoon, she sang in a Canadian Military Hospital. She was received with open arms and rave enthusiasm which greatly moved her. She says: "I was the only C.W.A.C. (Canadian Women's Army Corps) on the programme and I knew I could feel my face burning as I went up on the stage to sing."

"Denis Vaughn accompanied me on the piano and I sang some favourite French tunes that were much appreciated by the soldiers."

The journalist, who wrote this article at a very difficult time in the History of Canada, also tells us that Raymonde Maranda "wrote lots of rather interesting things while touring London. Here are some

excerpts from a letter she wrote to a friend: 'We went to Trafalgar Square to see Nelson's Column. There is a small construction in the middle of the Square; from a distance it looks like a newspaper kiosk, but as you get nearer, you can see that it is all painted over. It is a guards' hut, full of rifles and machine guns. Guards are permanently on duty in case anything happened. We also saw Piccadilly Circus, St James Palace, and Marlborough House where the Queen Mother now lives, also Buckingham Palace, etc. It was wonderful...'*

Raymonde also writes: "Two days ago we sang for the de Maisonneuve Regiment, whose Chaplain is Father Marchand, from St-Francis of Assisi Parish. Of course he came to see us after the show and we talked for almost an hour."

'Last Monday, we played in an Indian style palace where King George III lived. The concert hall was round that used to be for the Princesses' riding lessons then.. Now, it is a dance hall with a moving floor that can be lifted up automatically to the ceiling. Before the war, the town we are in used to be a large amusement centre. Nowadays, in England it is referred to as 'Little Montreal', because troops from Montreal were stationed here.'

'On New Year's Eve we moved into some pretty cottage, but without central heating. There is a fireplace in each room and a stove in the kitchen. We are given coal and wood to heat the place ourselves. But we are not allowed to light the fire before 4:30 p.m. and it must be put out by 9:30 p.m. It is rather cold

during the day, but we get used to it.'

Jean-Yves Laurin tells us that Raymonde used to sing one of the most famous tunes of the great French singer Édith Piaf. And the newspaper, *Petit Journal*, says that Raymonde's success was extraordinary: "In one of the Canadian Camp, Raymonde's success was simply phenomenal with her bilingual version of 'Mon Homme', a.k.a. 'My Man'. She had to sing it at least ten times for her admiring fans. Finally, her voice broke, and she had to stop singing but she kept talking with the soldiers and many of them were from Montreal."

We also learn that it was a very emotional moment for Corporal Raymonde Maranda, who had been in England for a while, when by chance she met with her younger brother, R.C.A.F. Sergeant-Pilot Bob Maranda who was also in England. Having earned his wings at eighteen he had been piloting a Spitfire for two years. Many times Raymonde had tried unsuccessfully to get in touch with her brother but had not seen him for two years.

'One day, after a rehearsal, as she walked off the stage into the wings, she bumped into a young man. 'Imagine' she writes, 'it was my brother!' What a wonderful surprise! So we left together and talked, and talked. We had so much to say to each other after such a long time apart.'

Unfortunately, we have no idea who wrote the article in *Le Petit Journal* as the journalist did not sign it. But, no doubt, he was under the spell of this charming twenty-three-year-old young lady as he entitled his last

paragraph: **'Feminine Charm'**. And he writes: *Since arriving in England, Corporal Raymonde Maranda celebrated her 23rd birthday. 'Ray', as her friends in the C.W.A.C. call her, is a lively, cheerful, pretty, and young French Canadian. She enjoys excellent health; she likes skiing and tennis, but also sewing and cooking. She is unpretentious and did not let fame spoil her attitude. Above all, she remains feminine and when she left to go overseas, she packed her favourite 'cold-cream', lipstick, and Cologne hidden in an empty flask. Her mother regularly sends her more of those because beauty products are hard to find in England.*

Like many other members of the C.W.A.C., Raymonde has been doing her share overseas, and knowing her charm and talent, undoubtedly many French Canadian soldiers posted in one of the 'invasion' camps there or in a hospital are given a small dose of happiness from his country when Raymonde sings, with the loveliest smile: 'Darling, I love you very much'.

As you can see, these extracts from an article published in 1944 very well complement the information provided by Jean-Yves Laurin about Raymonde Maranda, in the beautiful testimony about his famous cousin. And to conclude this, is there anything better to say about the talent of this young singer and her excellent work during the last world war than to quote the subtitle given to this article: **'Our Own Carmen Miranda'**.

**Editor's note: The Queen Mother then was Queen Mary, widow of George V and mother of George VI.*



Corporal Raymonde Maranda, photo by Ken Bell.

Source: Library and Archives Canada/La Presse (18 March 1944)/AMICUS 8211685

Caption used when this photo was first published in La Presse, Montreal's French daily: Corporal Raymonde Maranda from the Canadian Army Show, by her presence and voice, charmed thousands of soldiers in England and North Africa. (This photo of Raymonde wearing a flamboyant dress was taken by Lieutenant Ken Bell for the Canadian Army's Foreign Affairs Department. (Colour composition by an artist from the Montreal daily La Presse).

*When the article was published in **Le Petit Journal** (popular Montreal daily) in April 1944, there was another photo with the following caption: Here is our lovely sweet Montreal artist, Corporal Raymonde Maranda, who is currently touring the Canadian military bases and camps overseas. The photo was taken when singing one of her great successes, accompanied by a military orchestra. Raymonde is obviously one of the most successful entertainers of our Canadian troops. - (Photo Canadian Army).*

I READ FOR YOU

Reviewed by Mark Pattison

JACK KEROUAC / ALLEN GINSBERG: THE LETTERS

Correspondence between Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg, Viking Press, 2010

For all of you Jack Kerouac ‘completists’ out there, there is yet another book to be gleaned from Ti Jean’s voluminous writings: **Jack Kerouac/Allen Ginsberg: The Letters**, published in 2010 by Viking Press. Even the paperback version is a hefty tome, at 500 pages even, including index.

Kerouac, of course, was at the vanguard of the “Beat” movement, and Ginsberg was a willing disciple. But by the end of the 1950s, Kerouac, his alcohol use sending him on a downward spiral had rejected the Beat Generation – and vice versa. Ginsberg, his poetry on the ascendancy, not only embraced the Beat culture but continued to do so until his death in 1999, making a caricature of himself in the process.

What will the reader find in this exchange of letters that spans 1940 to 1963? Well, a little French – but, surprisingly, most of it written by Ginsberg! You’ll also find that the index and the footnotes come in handy to understand the supporting cast of characters so frequently referred to in the letters. Barbara Hale, for example, is not the actress who played Perry Mason’s secretary on TV.

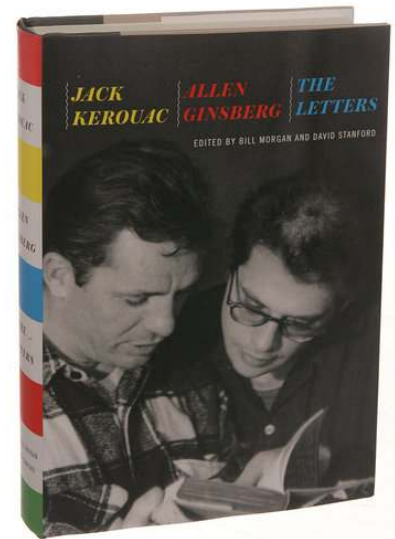
Readers will also find paragraphs a page long and more, filled to

bursting with so many ideas and so much imagery that they may scarcely be able to take it all in. They will also find references to their published and to-be-published works (including one Kerouac manuscript not published until 35 years after his death). “*Typing up ‘Dharma Bums,’ all day, every day, while people ball in bars (it’s Saturday night) I toil and toil on my typewriter and get bored and so revert to letters like these,*” Kerouac complained in 1958.

The only anger expressed from one to the other comes in 1952, when Kerouac rips Ginsberg for criticizing aspects of “On the Road” and tells him not to write back. (This is well before Truman Capote’s put-down: “That’s not writing, that’s typing.”) Of course, Ginsberg does, and by the next letter, Kerouac has reached a different equilibrium.

Kerouac also unsuccessfully persuades Ginsberg to remain apolitical in public life and to let the words of his poetry speak for themselves, as Kerouac had tried to do. But Jack’s fan base would have none of that, so Kerouac retreated from the world. “*I’m not a Messiah,*” he wrote in 1960, “*I’m an artist.*”

Near the end of their correspondence, Kerouac let Ginsberg know he had saved



pretty much all of the “Howl” poet’s letters and had them in a durable filing cabinet in case Ginsberg needed to reference them for later use. Ginsberg did not respond in kind, but the evidence of so many Kerouac-to-Ginsberg missives indicates he must have done the same. Their respective estates gave permission to Bill Morgan and David Stanford to edit the letters for publication in this book.

As this review is being written amid the “phone hacking” scandal engulfing Rupert Murdoch and his British tabloid newspapers, a postscript written by Ginsberg in 1954 carries added weight in this day and age: “*I’m afraid to say too much here — this is strictly for you and not the public if any.*” Perhaps he was afraid of U.S. postal censors, who were still active in the age of McCarthyism. Tomorrow’s book editors will simply compile the accumulated e-mails of their favored literary figures – with or without their consent.

Philippe's Papers (part 3)

by Lucille and Céline Kirouac

PHILIPPE'S PAPERS: A WORLD IN ITSELF

This mountain of documents is indeed a world in itself. There are almost three-hundred deeds (marriages, sales, purchases, exchanges, donations, inventories, receipts, etc.) covering over two hundred years of our family history from 1682 to 1912.

In order to share this information with you, we planned to group the documents according to different themes. Thus the first article, entitled *Our Heritage*, aimed at letting you know how, during the 18th century, goods and chattel were passed on from one person to another and from one generation to the next. Hence the second article entitled: *Simon-Alexandre (01276), eldest son of our Ancestor*, wanted to introduce you to this man who heads the branch of the family we will be talking about and discovering through Philippe's Papers.

Today, in this third instalment, we are dealing with what is at the heart of the subject in these documents, e.g. "land ownership" (purchase, sale, donation, exchange). The present article deals more specifically with the **properties purchased by Simon Alexandre (01276) between 1757 and 1781.**

This takes place in the middle of the 18th century, so the social organization then was vastly different from ours nowadays and many expressions (terms) are no longer relevant, or simply are meaningless to us. Therefore we thought that you might appreciate some definitions and descriptions that will enable you to better understand today's subject as well as others to come.

LA CÔTE-DU-SUD (AREA ON THE SAINT LAWRENCE SOUTH SHORE)

This article is accompanied by a map of the Seigneuries* of the Côte-du-Sud, showing the limits of a rather scantily known region of the Province of Quebec. It extends along the south shore of the St. Lawrence River, and covers the area from Beaumont, all the way East to Rivière-du-Loup. It is important not to confuse this area with the next area

called Lower St. Lawrence a little further east, just before the Gaspé peninsula. (*Seigneurie = estate held by a Seigneur as established under the French Law)

SEIGNIORIAL REGIME & LAND DIVISION IN NEW FRANCE

In 1623, in order to develop its new colony, France established a feudal system called Régime seigneurial = lordship system. The governor and (or) the Colony's Administrator (called Intendant) allotted a domain "Seigneurie" to someone, either a person, a family or an institution, whom they wish to honour or thank for their services, particularly for military services. (Translator's note: the head of a *Seigneurie* was called *Seigneur*. In English, it can be translated as Lord and Lord's estate but that is only as an indication to help understand how it works; however it is important to know that the French terms were the only ones used at the time and, they are usually found in French in history books on the subject, whether the books are written in French or in English.)

The land was then divided in long rectangular strips usually fronting on a river. On the South Shore, each long rectangular lot was perpendicular to the St. Lawrence River. It was normal as waterways were the only highways then.

The *Seigneur* distributed his land between the settlers also known as *censitaires* (in the various contracts being studied here, they are called *habitants* = *inhabitants*).

Both the *Seigneur* and the *inhabitant* had respective duties. The inhabitants, as we will see in the contracts, had to pay various taxes to the Seigneur including *cens* & *rentes*, e.g. *rents* and one percent of their *revenue*. The seigniorial system was officially abolished on 18 December 1854 by a Law enacted by the House of Assembly of United Canada.

VARIOUS SEIGNORIES: L'ISLET⁽¹⁾ ST-JEAN & BONSECOURS

The two Seigneuries most often referred to in the various deeds studied are: **L'Islet-St-Jean** and **Notre-Dame-de-Bonsecours**.

However, these two names are often mixed up and spelled in diverse ways.

Notaries at the time often got confused when it came to properly indicating the place of residence of the parties involved in a contract. For example, sometimes it is written: living in *Lilette St-Jean, Seigneurie and parish of Notre-Dame Bonsecours*. At the time there was only one parish for the two Seigneuries and it was called: Notre-Dame-de-Bonsecours-de-L'Islet. Said parish was canonically erected in 1679.

Today's description of the parish reads as follows: "It is a rectangular area situated along the St. Lawrence River; for the Lower-Laurentian inhabitants, the river between *Saint-Jean-Port-Joli* and *Cap-Saint-Ignace* is so wide it is known as the "sea". Nowadays, it comprises the old village and most of the parish formed by the *Seigneuries of L'Islet and of L'Islet-de-Bonsecours*⁽²⁾. It seems that, today, the actual dividing line between the two Seigneuries of *Islet-Saint-Jean* and *Bonsecours*, would be between the church and the presbytery. The *Notre-Dame-de-Bonsecours church* being located in the *Bonsecours Seigneurie*, and the presbytery being situated in the *L'Islet-Saint-Jean Seigneurie*.⁽³⁾

L'ISLET-SAINT-JEAN SEIGNEURIE

On 17 May 1677, the *L'Islet-Saint-Jean Seigneurie* was granted to Geneviève Couillard [...] who was the daughter of Sieur Louis Couillard de l'Espinay and Geneviève

(1) *Islet* means a small isle, it seems that the word comes from the presence of a rocky island in the St. Lawrence, 233 meters long by 45 meters wide and completely surrounded by water. (French source: **Noms et lieux du Québec**. Commission de Toponymie, Les publications du Québec, 1994, p. 389. i.e. a book on Quebec place names, published by the Quebec Toponymy Commission in 1994.

(2) *Idem*

(3) *L'Islet*, History of the Municipality. http://www.lislet.com/historique_seigneurie.asp

(4) *Idem*

Després; she was the granddaughter of Guillaume Couillard and Marie-Guillemette Hébert. [...] The Seigneurie measured one league along the St. Lawrence River by two leagues in depth.⁽⁴⁾

BONSECOURS SEIGNEURIE

The Bonsecours Seigneurie was granted on first July 1677 to François Bélanger (Bellanger). [...] He had arrived in New France at the age of 23 and married Marie Guyon, also born in France. [...] At first he was a censitaire, e.g. a tenant on the Côte-de-Beaupré (Beaupré promontory), later he was a Captain of the Militia in Château-Richer. He arrived in Bonsecours in 1678, but called the place Notre-Dame Bonsecours. [...] His land's frontage was one and half league on the St. Lawrence River by two leagues in depth.⁽⁵⁾

LAND PARCEL WITHIN A SEIGNEURIE

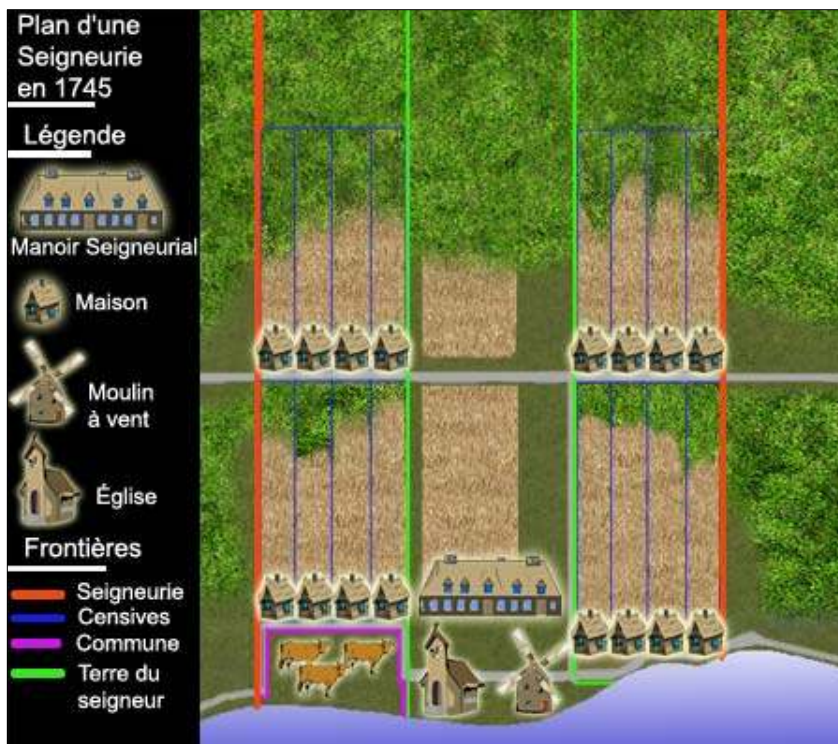
The attached plan shows how a Seigneurie was divided by two concessions separated by a rural road: one concession fronted on the river and the other was behind it. A road crossed the Seigneurie at the centre so all the inhabitants could reach the waterway, the manor house, the seigniorial mill as well as the church. On the south shore called Côte-du-Sud, as the name indicates, the land was on the south shore of the St. Lawrence River. (French Source: Service national du RÉCIT de l'univers social: <http://www.recitus.qc.ca/>)

AGE OF MAJORITY

This is very important information because it was the clue to determine whether some land was bought by Simon Alexandre 01276 and not by his son, Simon Alexandre 01278. In Quebec it is only since 1971 that the age of majority is eighteen. This is very recent. It had been twenty-one since 1782, and before that it was twenty-five.

EDUCATION IN CÔTE-DU-SUD

When our Ancestor died, his sons were very young, so they could not have learned to read or write from him, nor did they learn from their mother born in the Côte-du-Sud area. Boys' colleges and boarding schools for girls were only found in some towns, none in villages. In the Côte-du-Sud area



Translation of identification - National Dept. providing accounts of the social world; social world photo data bank, plan of land division of a *seigneurie* in New-France, land allotment, showing limits, manor house, ordinary houses, windmill, common, workers plots, Seigneur's land, church, Agriculture, etc. (Source: http://images.recitus.qc.ca/main.php?g2_itemId=8646)

the first girls' boarding school opened in 1763 when the nuns of the Congregation of Notre-Dame settled in Saint-François-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud. As for boys, it is worth noting that the first boys' college opened in 1806 in Saint-Pierre-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud.⁽⁶⁾

LAND MEASURES IN NEW FRANCE AS USED IN THE PRESENT ARTICLE

According to various sources consulted, land measurements used in New France during the 18th century seemed to have been less than precise. Whether in notaries' deeds, in local registers, historical texts, etc., it is important to remember the period when the transactions took place in order to know the true meaning of the terms used.

When considering **land sales and purchases**, which are of particular interest to us, they take place before and after the conquest (1760), therefore it is important to remember that we may be looking at French or English measures and that both systems may well have been in use at the same time and for quite a number of years too. So taking all this into account, here are some definitions of measures of length corresponding to those in use then.

Arpent: measure of length equal to ten perches⁽⁷⁾

League: measure of length equal to 84 arpents or 3.05 miles or 4.91 km⁽⁸⁾

Perche: variable measure of length, for the purpose of this study we have used 18 feet⁽⁹⁾

(5) Idem

(6) *Histoire de la Côte-du-Sud*, Institut québécois de la recherche sur la culture, 1993, p. 148 et 149.. (i.e. History of the South Shore Area called: Côte-du-Sud, published in French by the Quebec Cultural Research Institute)

(7) *La mémoire du Québec (Quebec's Memory)*

(8) Idem

(9) Ancient measuring units, France. (Wikipedia)

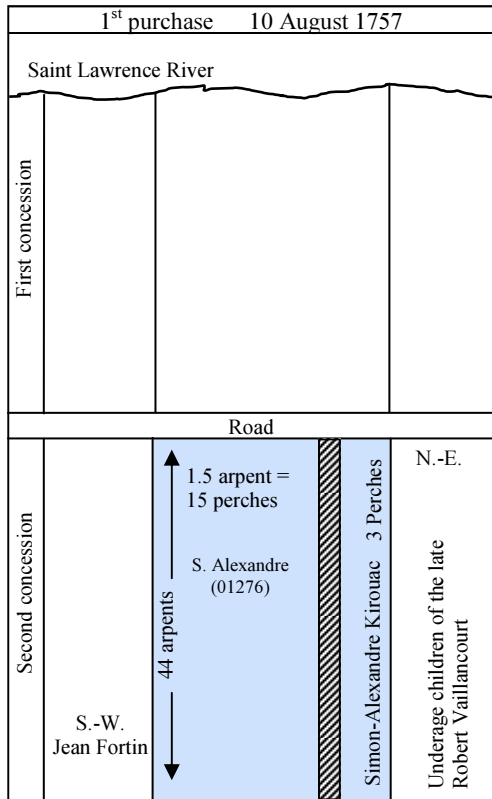
The seigneuries of Côte-du-Sud



Map printed in Jacques Mathieu & Alain Laberge's book: *L'Occupation des terres dans la vallée du Saint-Laurent*, Québec, Septentrion, 1991, 418 pages. (Land occupation in the St. Lawrence Valley)

LAND PURCHASED BY SIMON-ALEXANDRE (GFK 01276) BETWEEN 1757 AND 1781

We believe that these legal transactions were made by Simon Alexandre (01276), the father, because his son, Simon Alexandre (01278), born in 1760, would only attain his majority in 1782, when the age of majority was lowered from twenty-five to twenty-one; therefore, only then he would have been allowed to carry out legal transactions.



1. - 10 August 1757 – Notary Noël Dupont Land purchased from Barthélémy Jolet

A property measuring 18 perches, e.g. one and 1/2 arpent on the river front and another three perches on the river front, with a total depth of forty-four arpents situated on the second concession in the Bonsecours Seigneurie, bordered on the north-east by a 'property belonging' to the late Robert Vaillancourt's under-age children and on the south-west, a property belonging to Sieur Jean Fortin, Captain in the Militia; all forested land.

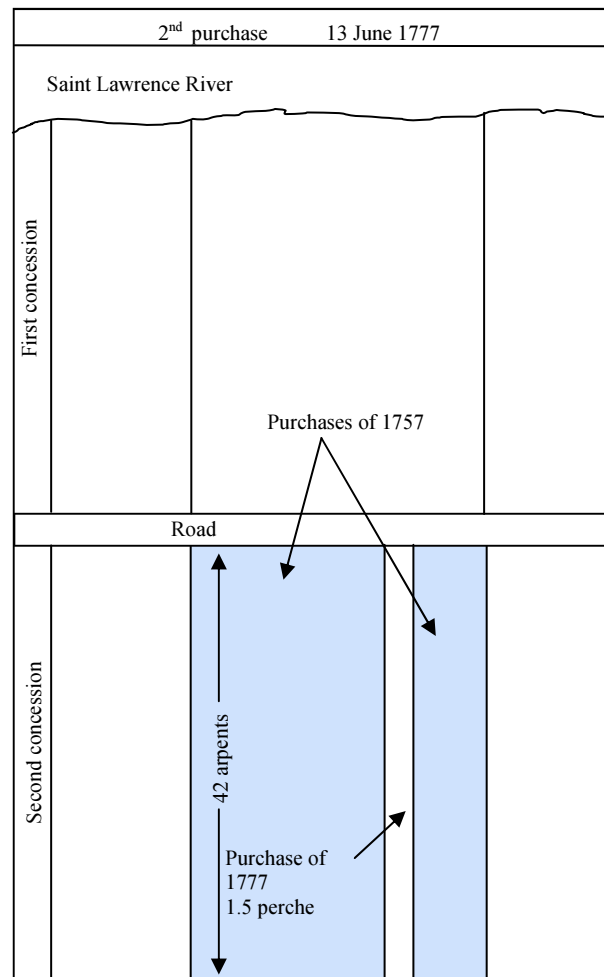
(Barthélémy Jolet owned this lot because of an exchange made with Jean Méthot).

Simon-Alexandre just turned twenty-five (the age of majority) when he bought this property. Born in the Vincelotte Seigneurie, he bought some land in the Bonsecours Seigneurie. As noted, this property is in two parts.

2. - 15 August 1777 – Notary Charles-Louis St-Aubin Land purchased from Sieur Benjamin Dupont and Dame Marie-Anne Girouard,

....to the Sieur Alexandre Kerrois dit Le Breton, inhabitant, living at the same place in Lilette St-Jean (is sold) a property measuring one & 1/2 perche of river front by forty-two perches in depth situated in the second concession in said Parish of Lilette St-Jean, Co-Seigneur Pierre Bélanger, enclosed in the property of said buyer from Louis Bernier by a deed prepared by Sieur Maître Pierre Larouche, notary.

This contract does not mention that this parcel of land is enclosed in the land that he bought in 1757. We went through the archives of deeds of seven notaries who worked in the Côte-du-Sud area and we did not find any other land purchase contract for Simon Alexandre during those twenty years.



| 3 rd purchase 11 July 1779 | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Saint Lawrence River | | | |
| First concession | | | |
| Road | | | |
| Second concession | | | |
| Road | | | |
| Third concession | S.-W. Jean-Baptiste Bouchet | 1.5 arpent S. Alexandre (01276) | N.-E. S. Alex. (01276) No contract found |

3. - 11 July 1779 - Charles Louis-Constant St-Aubin Land purchased from Sieur Bonaventure Caron and Dame Marie-Claire Langelier

... to the Sieur Alexandre Kerrois dit Lebreton, inhabitant, living in the St-Jean Seigneurie

.... is sold one & ½ arpent of river front mature wooded lot the depth of the concession, located and situated in the third concession, from the Seigneurie of Sieur Pierre Bélanger, Co-Seigneur of said Bonsecours Seigneurie, bordered on the south-west by the property of Jean-Baptiste Bouchet and on the north-east by a property belonging to the buyer, previously acquired by the sellers from Athanase Cloutier through a deed prepared by Notary Dupont, but date and year unknown to them. (The sellers kept a hold on this lot.)

4. - 14 May 1781 – Notary Charles-Louis St-Aubin Purchase of a property from the Lemieux legacy.

....to the Sieur Alexandre Kerrouac dit Le Breton, inhabitant, living in Lilette St-Jean, Seigneurie and Parish of Notre Dame de Bonsecours. Hold.

A lot of one arpent & ½, and if it comprises a few more feet, will remain in the possession of the purchaser, by forty-two in depth, including all the buildings erected on this parcel of land as it was on the adjudication date, located and situated in the first concession of said Seigneurie de N.-D. de Bonsecours, bordered on the north-east by the property of Pierre Cloutier and on the south-west by the property of Adrien Ménard dit (known as) Le Cadieu, with a front on the St. Lawrence River “#... all the way to the end of the mentioned depth”, thus and the said land and its outbuildings are also included and used as usual and in total....

| 4 th purchase 14 May 1781 | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Saint Lawrence River | | | |
| First concession | S.-W. Adrien Ménard dit le Cadieu | 1.5 arpents and more 42 arpents | N.-E. Pierre Cloutier |
| Road | | | |
| Second concession | | | |
| Road | | | |
| Third concession | | | |

Philippe's Papers constitute a very rich family heritage but as usual, working with such historical documents brings up many questions and, consequently, entails more research. Therefore, we have been going to the Quebec National Archives to find the missing documents; but that is only the beginning as so many more questions need elucidation. In our previous articles, we mentioned that we were interested in situating in today's L'Islet area the various properties described in the deeds. This is still our goal, but so far none of our research produced any new clues and it looks as though we still have a very long way to go, difficult and uncertain. Consequently, we invite all persons who might have even a shred of information, to please, pass it on to us. So to you all we say: *So long!*

President Annual Report

presented in the name of the Board Members

at the Annual General Meeting of the KFA, Saint-Constant, 9 July 2011

MEETINGS

Since the last Annual General Meeting held in Sherbrooke on 13 August 2010, the Board members met on three occasions, first in Warwick on 11 September 2010 and twice in Ste-Foy on 29 January and 7 May 2011.

VISIBILITY OF OUR ASSOCIATION

Although we did not take part in the annual gathering of the founding families held at the *Laurier Québec* Shopping Mall (**Salon des familles souches** at **Laurier Québec**), our Association was given good visibility as Michel Bornais, the KFA's former secretary and now responsible of the KFA communications, was invited to be the Emcee at the opening ceremonies. Thank you very much, Michel!

As in the past few years, Lucie Jasmin, author and KFA board member, was instrumental in giving the KFA excellent visibility when giving her talk on Brother Marie-Victorin, entitled *The Odyssey of the Laurentian Flora*. Last year she was invited by three associations to present her fascinating lecture. I take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude for the publicity she generously affords our Association.

This past year, we also try to give our Association more visibility by contacting a number of libraries and historical societies in the Province of Quebec by offering them a subscription to *Le Trésor*. Unfortunately the results were negative. So far, none showed any interest.

Finally, by holding its annual gathering in Illinois this year, our Association was given a significant boost in visibility. Over 120 new people now know about the KFA; and for our American cousins, as well as finally discovering their own common Breton ancestor and their various family links, it was the occasion of meeting for the first time and getting to know each other.

ACHIEVEMENTS OR PROJECTS ON THE TABLE

Last year, I announced the production of a DVD comprising all the past issues of *Le Trésor*, number 0 to 100, also including the index of all subjects published. The project may not turn out exactly as first planned but we do intend to make available to our members digital copies of the past issues of *Le Trésor* before the end of this year.

Concerning the up-dating of our Web Site, things are not moving as fast as planned; we are running late but we hope to start working on it in

the spring of 2012.

As you have most likely read about it, the KFA has postponed to a later date the project of an autumn 2011 trip to France. Indeed given the minimum number of participants required and the prices given by two travel agencies to Marie and Jacques Kirouac, responsible for this venture, the Board Members felt it was best to postpone the project for the time being.

To underline the 35th Anniversary of the KFA in 2013, we are planning on publishing two special issues of *Le Trésor*. The first one would comprise all the texts published since 1978 by the Association about the genealogical research carried out on our Ancestor, his wife, and his sons. The second one would comprise all the biographies published in *Le Trésor* since 1983. Altogether, both special issues would be the Association's official reference tools readily available for consultation and also ensuring the perpetuity of the work achieved by the Association.

The work has begun on these two special issues in order to enable us to publish them early in 2013.

SECRETARY'S POSITION

Unfortunately, the KFA secretary's position is still

vacant. Since Michel Bornais has declined the invitation, Céline K/ has been holding two positions within the KFA Board, she is the first Vice-President and also secretary for the meetings. I take this opportunity during our Annual General Meeting to express my heartfelt thanks to Céline for her precious contribution. However, I certainly hope that today someone will take on this position, thus enabling us to fulfill the legal requirements of our Association.

MUCH GRATITUDE

Again I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the members of the KFA Board for putting their trust in me during my mandate as President which comes to an end today and for all the

work achieved by every one of them as they fulfilled their respective mandates.

Much gratitude also goes to the KFA Regional Representatives and to all those who contribute regularly or occasionally to the publication of *Le Trésor*, our family encyclopedia, particularly Jacques Kirouac, Lucille Kirouac, and Gregory Kyrouac.

Again this year, I wish to underline the special contribution of Michel Bornais. He may no longer be the KFA secretary but he still carries on a number of important responsibilities: all emails addressed to the KFA and all Google Alerts concerning the name K/rouac area received by him; he also prepares, writes and

forwards all the **Trésor-Express** by Internet. During this past year he also accepted to be responsible for all the audiovisual archives of the Association. In addition, after being unofficially responsible for all KFA communications and for quite a long time, now he is officially doing so. So Michel, from the bottom of my heart, a million thanks for your exemplary contribution.

Finally, I wish to thank all those, who regularly or very occasionally contribute to the life of our Association, and, there are many who do. If you are one of them, please accept my heartfelt gratitude.

Have a good meeting!

François Kirouac
For the KFA Board
9 July 2011

2012 - KIROUAC ANNUAL GATHERING

Write the dates on your agenda and calendar

Saturday, 30 June, and Sunday, 01 July 2012

IN WARWICK / KINGSEY FALLS in the Bois Francs Region, near Victoriaville, between Montreal and Quebec City

Nearly all the ancestors of the Kirouacs from Michigan and New England came from that beautiful rural region of the Province of Quebec and particularly from Warwick. They would not recognize the area now but you will enjoy visiting it and learning about it.

Saturday will be spent discovering Warwick and surroundings; generations of Kirouacs have been involved in the development of the town and area and still are today.

Kingsey Falls is the birthplace of **CONRAD KIROUAC**, the famous botanist, educator, writer better known as Brother Marie-Victorin. With such an important member in our family tree, you can take great pride in being a K/rouac no matter how you write your name and even if you are very distantly related and bear another surname.

Sunday will be spent in Kingsey Falls at the **PARC MARIE-VICTORIN** which was inaugurated in 1985 to commemorate the Centennial of the birth of Conrad Kirouac. It has grown from three to twenty-nine acres thanks to the generosity of corporate investors and ordinary citizens. It is a non-profitable organization. It is also a provincial leader in the field of ecological horticultural techniques and famous for its permanent three-dimensional (3D) green-sculptures, including some giant ones. Marie-Victorin must be rejoicing to see what the people of his birthplace are doing to carry on his mission as an educator. The place attracts visitors of all ages.

To find out more and for a virtual visit of the area, please surf the web using any of the words in capital letters in the notice. Included in the programme will be a guided tour of one of the **CASCADES** paper factories. Please visit their web site at www.cascades.com and click on English.

FRENCH AS SPOKEN HERE AND ELSEWHERE

By Marie Lussier Timperley

Lecture given by Mrs. Nicole Ricalens-Pourchot, Doctor of Linguistic
Professor of linguistic and French Literature
at Marianopolis College and McGill University in Montreal, Canada

Since the publication of her fifth book, entitled, **Les facéties de la francophonie*** in January 2010, Nicole Ricalens-Pourchot has been invited to give lectures. What a privilege to listen to all she has to say about the French language, not only is it her mother tongue but also that of her adopted country as she immigrated to Montreal in 1958. After teaching French to English speaking people during thirty years, she decided to write about the language she loves above all others. She is now preparing her sixth book*.

Further to the article published in the previous *Trésor* 103, winter 2011, page 19, about multiple spelling of family names, I think that the following extract from her talk is particularly relevant.

There are some forty French speaking countries in the world; however, the spoken and written French varies greatly not only from one country to the next but also in each region within the same country! So, in order to write her book, Mrs. Ricalens-Pourchot had to find all these variations, differences and particularities. That took her four years of intensive work; first it meant to copy by hand thousands of bits of information, enter everything into her computer, sort, classify, and analyse. Then she drew some conclusions about the French used in New France and Canada and it will no doubt astonish you as much as it did surprise me. In order to answer the question: what happens to a language abandoned to itself, the author regaled us with many colourful transformations of words and expressions used here and elsewhere, in many countries in Europe, Asia and Africa where French is either the first or second language. Her book: *Les facéties de la francophonie**, is

available in bookstores and, if you read French, I strongly recommend it. But here is a translation of part of her fascinating talk:

“Creativity also depends on **the history of a language**. According to my research and findings, it seems that the greatest creativity has been demonstrated in Quebec, as those entries in my book amount to 30% of all entries; this, I believe is not the result of chance. Of all the francophone countries, here (in Quebec) is where it has been most troubled (tormented) as well as being the most heroic. This is the only francophone country where the language has survived so much trouble and strife. Allow me to remind you some of the key events which should help you better understand its evolution.”

“The population of French speaking Canada came from all the provinces of France. Of course the provinces along the Channel and the Atlantic coast supplied the largest number of immigrants. When the pioneers arrived here, basically they only spoke their native dialect, i.e. *Picard, Normand, Saintongeais, Poitevin, Breton, etc., etc.* Therefore, it was necessary to find a common language for all of them.”

The only people actually speaking French at the time were those from *Isle de France*, which is Paris and area. “So, the question was : which dialect should be chosen? The Normans made up the largest group, therefore choosing their language could have been justified by their number; however, there were many dialects or jargons spoken among them: high Norman, middle Norman, lower Norman. As French was the language used by the administrators, the army officers, the missionaries and the clergy, hence by the better educated

classes, added that it was also a prestigious language, it was preferred **although** it was spoken only by a quarter of the Canadian population. In addition, it was also the language spoken by the King's wards (*filles du roi*) who spoke, e.g. taught, Paris French to their children. **Surprisingly enough, none of the spoken dialects survived.**”

“As for education, it is interesting to note that at the time, in France, education was a privilege reserved for the sons of noble families and of higher classes (*grande bourgeoisie*) where as in New France, elementary schooling was open to all inhabitants whatever their social classes.”

“At a time when in France, French was spoken only by three million people out of a total population of twenty-five million, in New France all the inhabitants spoke regular French.”

“This means that, at least one century before it happened in France, linguistic unification was a fact here. Testimonies were unanimous then about the quality of the French spoken in New France by the settlers under the French Regime. Evidence of

*Nicole Ricalens-Pourchot – Bibliography – all books are published in French only:

1- *Lexique des figures de style, Collection Synthèse, Édition Armand Collin, 1998*

2- *Dictionnaire thématique des figures de style, Édition Armand Collin, Nov. 2003*

3- *Les facéties du français, Édition Armand Collin, Nov. 2005; out of print; ISBN - 2200269188*

4- *L'orthographe est un jeu, 2010, Librio-Flammation*

5- *Les facéties de la francophonie, Bayard Canada, Jan. 2010; ISBN – 9782895792925*

Marie's note as translator: *Francophonie* comprises all French speaking countries in the world and *facéties* means mischief, tomfoolery, so perhaps I would translate the title by: 'French's zillion funny bones'.

this specifically came from the Maritime Supervisor for Canada, Sieur de Bacqueville & de la Potherie, esquire, who said: *People here speak perfectly well without any accent. Even if all the French provinces are represented here, one cannot distinguish the particular way of speaking of either of any of them . . .* and the Marquis of Montcalm (1756) acknowledged the fact that Canadian peasants spoke French very well and added: *"of course given that they travel more often on waterways than by road, people gladly use marine expressions"* (*Biographie linguistique du Canada français* = French-Canadian linguistic biographies). Based on notaries' archives, it seems that at the time 80% of the population could at

least read French and write it in various degrees of accuracy).

"What did the schools teach? As well as religion, history, mathematics, and sciences, they taught French which was not yet taught in France."

"However, in 1763 after the Treaty of Paris and the departure of the elites, everything changed. Then the French language was forced to live in 'closed circuit', too often deprived of teachers. Hence certain regional features reappeared, particularly Norman. No longer given any outside or inside impetus, the French spoken in Canada took a turn quite different from the French spoken in France and, in

comparison, soon became archaic as to phonetic and terminology; in addition, popular and regional features became more emphasized. Thus both languages progressed but in quite different directions. French here, cut off from the *mother house* during more than a hundred years, was clearly isolated, consequently altered from that of France . . . and the first cause was not the presence of English but the actual political and social break that lead to a linguistic rupture."

ON THE ROAD WITH GEORGES SIMENON

Comments by Marie Lussier Timperley

By chance I found a French booklet about Belgian contemporary novels*. Not knowing the Flemish-speaking Belgian contemporary authors, I quickly leafed through that section; however, I was really attracted to the French-speaking Belgian contemporary authors when I spotted the name **Georges Simenon**. He was born in Liège, Belgium, in 1903, and died in Lausanne, Switzerland, in 1989. He was one of the most prolific writers of the twentieth century whose novels (over 200) were translated in many languages. In addition, his works were widely adapted to cinema and television.

In the late sixties, twenty years before Simenon's death, someone wrote about him: "...He has already conquered the world with his *Commissaire Maigret*; Simenon not only created the fictional sleuth but also a new type of detective story... Simenon creates atmosphere, ambience, that shows the psychology of the characters whom he knows very well indeed..." Besides all the *Maigret* novels, Simenon also produced other deeper detective novels "in order to apply a new kind of investigation, this time concentrating more on feelings, emotions and heart, rather than facts and situations."

At the end of this very short and fascinating study, I particularly noted a quote from Anne Richter's essay on Simenon: **"Simenon's characters are all driven by a similar instinct, eventually they all obey that instinct: that of the road. They are all migrants and future pilgrims. They only feel alive when they are about to leave! ... What ever they find at the end of their trip leaves them unsatisfied. They do not like the idea that a human being is limited; has boundaries. And if man has limits, does he ever reach them? Frontiers always remain unclear and vague. Do we know where man begins or ends? Simenon does not answer that question. He never tires of searching. He is for ever on the road. Further and further. Always trying to live."**

Does this last comment struck you as befitting Jack Kerouac? It seems to me that it explains Jack's own personal need, as well as that of his generation, to go on the road, any road; and, wherever the road leads does not matter. Is it not also typical of all teenagers? And, what about each one of us? Deep down inside us, isn't there this desire, yearning, even need, to take to the road, any road, wherever it may lead?

**Le roman contemporain en Belgique*, published in French in Brussels, Belgium, in the series *Cahiers de Belgique*, by the *Institut Belge d'Information & de Documentation*, December 1968.) pp. 68-69.



IN MEMORIAM



BÉGIN KÉROUACK, DONALDA

At Hôtel-Dieu Hospital in Quebec City, on 28 May 2011, passed away Donalda Bégin, widow of Donat Kérouack (**GFK 01849**). She was the daughter of the late Mary Jean Lessard and the late Odias Bégin. Funeral was on 11 June 2011 in St-Charles-de-Limoilou Church in Quebec City. She leaves to mourn two daughters and a son-in-law: Louise (William Day), Danielle; her grandchildren: William & James Day; her sister, Mériilda (Dominique Goulet).

CURWICK, BERNARD FRANCIS "BUD" (1928-2011)

"Bud" Curwick of Waunakee/Westport, Wisconsin, passed away peacefully at his home, surrounded by family, aged 82, on 21 August 2011. Bernard Francis, 'Bud' was born Sept. 12, 1928, to Leo and Mary (née Baert) Curwick in Ghent. He was the grandson of Joseph Napoléon Curwick & Caroline Patenaude and the great-grandson of **Paul (Hypolithe GFK 00178)** & Élisabeth (née Liber Beaudoin) **Kirouac**. He enlisted in the armed forces and served his country during the Korean War. He married Joan (Stassen) on Aug. 25, 1951. After she passed away, Bud married Patricia Stalpes of Marshall Jan. 3, 2004. He was predeceased by his parents and his sisters Eileen (Curwick) Thanghe and Elizabeth (Curwick) Berckes and by his brother Larry Curwick. Bud is survived by his loving wife, Pat; sons, Bob (and Diane), Doug (and Judy), Phil (and Jan), Tom (and Mary), Chuck (and Mardel); daughter, Susan (and Brad) Madigan; stepchildren, Deb (and Tom) MacDonald, and Mike (and Pam) Stalpes; grandchildren, Scott, Craig (and Hillary), Megan, Jeff (and Laura),

Kim, Kristin, Tara, Brandon, Jenny (and Lawrence) Mersch, John, Ryan, Lauren Curwick, and Trevor, (and Alicia), Tera, Tyler, Tony, and Taylor Madigan; siblings, Alverna DeRoode, Marie Sullivan, Edward (and Joyce), Kathleen Drown, Le Roy (and Kay) Curwick, Virginis Steinfadt, Valerie (and Tom) Jakob; and more than fifty nieces and nephews. Bud was preceded in death by his first wife, Joan; his parents; sisters, Eileen Thanghe and Elizabeth Berckes; and one brother, Larry.

KEROACK, REGINALD A., (1920- 2011)

Reginald A. KEROACK (12 March 1920 - 28 May 2011) - Of Hamburg, NY, May 28, 2011, beloved husband of the late Thelma J. (Walser) Keroack; loving father of Clyde (Debbie), Lynn Olson and Gary (Maureen) Keroack; dear grandfather of Tracy (Ira) Endres, Keith (Renee) Keroack, Randi Olson, Kelley and Chris Keroack; cherished great-grandfather of Payton and Elizabeth; brother of Arthur (Teresa) Keroack and the late Mary (late Henry) Kranick; dear friend of Gloria Szeeglowski. Funeral at the Hamburg Chapel, of John J. Kaczor Funeral Home Inc., on June first followed by Interment at Lakeside Memorial Cemetery.

KIROUAC, ANDRÉ (1937-2011)

At the Enfant-Jésus Hospital on 16 September 2011, at the age of 74, passed away André Kirouac (**GFK 00625**), husband of Yolande Tremblay. Besides his wife, he leaves to mourn his daughter: Manon (Patrick Usereau); his granddaughter: Emma; his brothers: Jean-Paul (Jacqueline Allaire), Gérard (the late Louise Poulin) and Gilles (Nicole Milhomme); his brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: Ludger (Hélène

Beaudoin), the late Gérard (Réjeanne Gasseau), Marie-Paule (Jean-Jacques Fortier), the late Clément (Germaine Sylvain), Thérèse and Gilles (Nicole Bisson); he was predeceased by his brother: Jacques; his brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: Charles, Germaine, Rita, Jeannine (Marcel Chayer) and Paul. Funeral was on 24 September in Notre-Dame-de-l'Annonciation Church in L'Ancienne-Lorette (Quebec).

KIROUAC, HERVÉ (1923-2011)

At home on 3 September 2011, aged 88, passed away **Hervé Kirouac (GFK 00923)**, son of the late Joseph and Victoria (née Martel) Kirouac husband of Jacqueline St-Louis Kirouac. Funeral was on 12 September 2011 in Immaculée-Conception Church in Sherbrooke, Quebec. Ashes will be buried in St. Antoine Cemetery at a later date. Besides his wife he leaves to mourn his children Hervé Jr (Dominique Roy and her children Kassandra & Marc-Olivier) and Marc (Lise Beaudoin and her children Elisabeth & Vincent); his two granddaughters Victoria and Sandrine and their mother Lucie Couture. He was the brother of Estelle (the late Fernand Girouard). He was predeceased by his siblings: Simone, Roméo, Jeannette, Claire, Conrad, Jacqueline & Réal. He also leaves his brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law of the St-Louis Family.

KIROUAC, MAURICE, (1927-2011)

Maurice G. Kirouac Sr., 83 years old, a U.S. Navy veteran, formerly of Easthampton, died Thursday, Feb. 10, 2011, in Riverview, Fla. He was born on March 15, 1927, the son of the late Donald (also known as **Auguste GFK 0403**) and Jeanne (Théberge) Kirouac.

Maurice leaves behind his wife, Elaine, of 62 years; a sister, Ruth Rogers of Northampton; five children, Darlene Caswell of Northampton, Jeffrey Kirouac of Riverview, Fla., Maurice Kirouac Jr. of Hatfield, Douglas Kirouac of Chicopee and Laurie Rodriguez of Riverview, Fla.; 11 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

**KIROUAC, NORMAND ELOI,
(1931-2011)**

Normand Éloi Kirouac (**GFK 02307**) passed away on May 13, 2011. He was born in Lewiston on July 22, 1931 the third son of Joseph and Valeda (Pomerleau) Kirouac. He served with the U.S. Army and the Korean War as Tech Sergeant with Company G of the 35th Infantry Regiment receiving numerous awards including the Bronze Star Medal. Upon discharge from the military he married the love of his life and best friend Anna Freve on May 7, 1955 recently celebrating their 56th wedding anniversary. He leaves to mourn his beloved Anna; three daughters Rena Saucier and her husband Steve, Elaine Caouette and Diane Buzzell and her husband Curtis; also survived by his two brothers Lorenzo and Laurien Kirouac; seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his son-in-law Thomas Caouette. Committal service with military honors was held on May 31, 2011 at the Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Augusta, Maine. (**See *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 76, June 2004, pp. 18-20.**)

**LUSSIER, BOWEN,
FLORENCE MARIE PLEUS
(1928-2011)**

Florence Marie (née Pleus) passed away on 31 August 2011 at Mission Memoria Hospital in Asheville, NC. Florence was born in Orlando, Florida on 28 September 1928. She married Albert Bernard Lussier on 22 June 1949 in St. James Church in Orlando. In 1985 she married, David Bowen. Florence was predeceased by her parents, Judge

Robert J. & Virginia (née Sleeper) Pleus; her sister, Joan Therese Pleus-Laughlin; her two husbands: Albert Bernard Lussier (**grandson of Marie LeBrice de Keroack (Mrs. Camille Lussier) GFK 01257**) & David Bowen; her daughter Marie Therese Lussier and two granddaughters: Denise & Nicole Lussier. She leaves to mourn: her brother Judge Robert Pleus (Terry); her sister Dr Virginia Pleus-Bergin-MacKenzie (Robert); her eight children: Christopher Lussier CDR, USN (Ret) (Bobbie), James Lussier Esq. (Nancy Jacobson), Mary Lussier COL, USAFR (Robert Recker), Albert Lussier (Renee), Angela Lussier (Ben Tanner), John-Paul Lussier CAPT, USN (Katie), William Lussier CAPT, USNR (Liane) and Charles Lussier; her grandchildren: Michael Recker, CAPT, USAF & Caroline Recker, Sara & Rachel Tanner, Brian Lussier, Jacquie, Michelle & Joey Lussier, Erin & Dana Lussier, as well as Anna & Sabrina Lussier. Funeral was on 10 September in the Catholic Church in Orlando, FL. Followed by burial in Woodlawn Memorial Park.

**SHOEMAKE, BONNIE
VERNEAL NÉE DAVIS
(1926-2011)**

Bonnie V. Shoemake, née Davis, aged 85, passed away on July 3rd, 2011, in Freeburg, IL. She was born February 13, 1926, to the late Thomas Davis and Georgia Curwack Davis, at Piedmont, MO. She was the granddaughter of Joseph Curwack and Nancy Maria Heath and the great granddaughter of Paul (Hypolithe GFK 00178) Kirouac and Élisabeth Liber Beaudoin. She married Carl Leon Shoemake on August 1, 1945. Bonnie is survived by four grandchildren, Todd Shoemake, Kelly Chitty, Brian Shoemake and Adam Shoemake. Bonnie was preceded in death by her parents, her husband and their two sons, Terry Shoemake and Ritchie Shoemake. Graveside service was held Tuesday, July 5th, 2011, at Masonic Cemetery, in Piedmont, MO. Bonnie

was the last surviving member of her generation in the Curwack branch.

**SIMARD KIROUAC,
JEANNINE
(1926-2011)**

At the Heart & Lung Hospital in Quebec City, on 27 June 2011, passed away at the age of 84 years and eight months, Mrs. Gabriel Kirouac (**GFK 00541**) born Jeannine Simard. Funeral was on 4 July in Ste-Catherine-de-la-Jacques-Cartier Church. She leaves to mourn her husband, Gabriel Kirouac, her children and their spouses: Julie (Mario Simard), Lyne (Normand Laplante), Lucie (Marco Pelletier), Rachel (Guy Couture), Yves (Lucie Paré) and Rémi (Édith Fontaine); her grandchildren: Sarah, Elsie, Naomie, Hugo, Karel, Maxime, Anne-Marie, Élie, David, Patricia-Christine, Vincent-Gabriel, Simon-William, Alexandra & Élisabeth; her great-grandchildren: Gabrielle, Suny, Leatitia, Victor, Léo, Laurianne, Marc-Olivier & Lucas; her brothers and sisters: Robert (late Lucienne Pelletier), Lorraine (Guy Goulet) and Pierre (Charlotte Pelletier; her brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law o the Kirouac family: Sominne (Laurent Masson, Jean-Marie (Aline Montminy) and Thérèse as well as many nephews and nieces. She was the sister of the late Maurice Simard and the sister-in-law of the late: Roland, Raymond and Henri Kirouac.

**Our Deepest
Condolences
to the
Bereaved Families**

GENEALOGY / THE READERS' PAGE

The Association's genealogical data base contains a certain number of individuals for whom names of spouse and/or parents are unknown or incomplete. Your answers to the following questions should enable us to complete the records. You can also send your questions relevant to genealogy and we will do our very best to return to you with an answer.

With many thanks

François Kirouac

Question 353

What are the names of the parents of Gilberte Lamoureux, spouse of René Brouillard (married on 30 August 1941 in Très-Saint-Nom-de-Jésus Parish in Montreal), son of Agénard Brouillard and Claudia Kirouac?

Question 354

What are the names of the parents of Paul Comeau, spouse of Colette Martin, daughter of Oneil Martin and Rose-Alma Kirouac?

Question 355

What are the names of the parents of Jacques Dion, spouse of Carole Marquis (married on 12 August 1978 in Mariville, QC), daughter of Valère Marquis and Léona Kirouac?

Question 356

What are the names of the parents of Valmore Gauthier, spouse of Louiselle Kirouac, daughter of Florentin Kirouac and Jeanne-Emma Pelletier?

Question 357

What are the names of the parents of Gaston Pagé, spouse of Denise Dussault, daughter of Alfred Dussault and Malvina Kirouac?

Question 358

What are the names of the parents of Rosaire Lampron, spouse of

Jeannine Dussault, daughter of Alfred Dussault and Malvina Kirouac?

Question 359

What is the Christian name of Mr. Gaudet, the spouse of Irène Kérouac, daughter of Joseph Napoléon Kérouac and Léontine Rouleau?

Question 360

What are the names of the parents of Nathalie Gauthier, spouse of Denis Kirouac, son of Georges Kirouac and Malvina Dubé?

Question 361

What are the names of the parents of Walter Rossignol, spouse of Diane Kirouac, son of Georges Kirouac and Malvina Dubé?

Question 362

What are the names of the parents of Robert Brest, husband of Jacqueline Gaillant (married on 8 November 1952 at La Citadelle de Québec), daughter of Louis Gaillant and Bernadette Kirouac?

Question 363

What are the names of the parents of Yves Delamarre, spouse of Claudette Fortin (married in Quebec City on 2 December 1960), daughter of Wilfrid Fortin and Loretta Kirouac?

Question 364

What are the names of the parents of Paul Dawson, husband of Louiselle Leblanc (married on 14 January 1958 in Notre-Dame-de-la-Paix Parish in Vanier, QC), daughter of Louis Leblanc and Alice Kirouac?

Question 365

What are the names of the parents of Robert Bédard, spouse of Berthe Fournier, daughter of Charles-Eugène Fournier and Alice Kirouac?

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 366

What are the names of the parents of Roberta E. Maker, spouse of Arthur G. Béland (married on 31 May 1962 in Pepperell, Mass., USA), son of Arthur Béland and Olivette Kirouac?

Question 367

What are the names of the parents of Paul Marquis, spouse of Sylvia A. Béland (married on 4 January 1961 in Nashua, NH, USA), daughter of Arthur Béland and Olivette Kirouac?

Question 368

What are the names of the parents of Joyce Landry, wife of Richard Auclair (married on 19 September 1964 in Nashua, NH, USA) son of Aimé Roméo Auclair and Laura Kirouac?

Question 369

What is the Christian name of Mr Lemieux, spouse of Yvonne Leroux, daughter of Edmond Leroux and Clara Kirouac?

Question 370

What are the names of the parents of Virginia Charkis, wife of Adrien Kérouac (married on 23 November 1963 in Saint-Stanislas Parish in Nashua, NH, USA) son of Arthur Kérouac and Emma Beaudoin?

Question 371

What are the names of the parents of Marguerite Dubé, wife of Jean-Baptiste Kérouac (married on 13 February 1912 in Manchester, NH, USA) son of Jean-Baptiste Kérouac and Clémentine Bernier?

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