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Number 109

Le Trésor des Kirouac

Bulletin of the descendants of Alexandre de K/voach



The organizing team for our 2012 KFA annual gathering, Mercédès (Bolduc) and Marc Villeneuve, with their hosts, Denise (Pépin) and Renaud Kirouac, as well as our oldest KFA member, Gabrielle Lafrenière Hurtubise. (Photo: Marie Kirouac)



Kirouac
Kirouack



Kérouac
Kérouack



Keroac
Keroack



Kéroack
Kyrouac



Breton
Burton



Curwack
Curwick



Le Trésor des Kirouac

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THE PRESIDENT'S WORD

As indicated in the previous issue of *Le Trésor*, you will read in the present bulletin, the interview of 25 January 2011 with Mrs. Marie-Ginette Guay, the Quebec City actress who plays the part of Gabrielle Lévesque, in the film *On the Road* directed by Walter Salles. During this interview, Mrs. Guay told us how she perceived her part, how she understood Jack's mother as a person and how she tried to portray this on-screen.

Céline Kirouac presents our recent KFA annual gathering held this year in Warwick and Kingsey Falls. Added to that, you will certainly enjoy Hélène Kirouac's wonderful anecdotes as she told them after dinner, on 30 June, at the Salle du Canton in Warwick. There is also the usual annual president's comments on the year's events which I presented in the name of the Board at the AGM on July first.

Autumn is KFA membership renewal time. Thus, included with this issue of *Le Trésor*, you will find the membership form which we invite you to fill and mail back with your payment ASAP. Please let others around you know about our family association and encourage other members of your families to join the KFA.

Allow me to take advantage of the President's Word to pass on a special request to you all: help is needed for the production of our bulletin *Le Trésor*, particularly with editing texts in both language. Sharing the load between more people would help secure the future of our bulletin. As more English-speaking cousins join the KFA, we want to ensure that you receive our

bulletin in English, hence the need for translations from French into English. Also, as more texts are sent in from our American cousins, these need to be translated into French. At the moment, the load is resting on two shoulders, those of Marie Lussier Timperley. Of course Michel Bornais, our former secretary, and his wife, Yolande, greatly help by revising articles; however, Michel being responsible for the KFA communications, is carrying a nearly full-time job.

On the one hand, sharing the load would make it lighter, but on the other hand, ensuring the future of our bulletin is even more important. So, I invite you to join our team to ensure that each and every issue of *Le Trésor* meets the highest standard of quality which, we believe every KFA member and every K/ descendant has a right to expect. If you are tempted by the experience, why not give it a try? We would love to hear from you.

Along the same line, there are now two other vacant positions on our Board because, due to their heavy workload, Nathalie Kirouac could not renew her term (a KFA board term is two years) and Mercédès Bolduc-Villeneuve is not able to complete hers. In addition, during this past year, Johanne Kerouac from Laval, elected to the Board in 2011, had to abandon ship because of her workload. Lucille Kirouac, from Saint-François-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud, accepted to come back to the KFA Board to fill this position but only for the rest of the year. Much gratitude to you, Lucille! As we did not manage to fill these vacancies at our last AGM, on July first 2012, we will have to do so at our next AGM in 2013, as well as fill the other posts which will be



François Kirouac Collection

François Kirouac

coming up for election then. We still need to fill the Secretary's position.

When faced with too many vacancies, the Board is allowed to name administrators, so this is an invitation to you to join our team NOW. The Board meets three times per year and each Board member chooses the mandate he/she is interested in fulfilling. I believe it is very important that there be nine administrators sitting on our Board, as indicated in our By-Laws and I feel that it is much better for our Association if more people are looking after its destinies as well as fulfilling the expectations of its members. If you have ideas about what your Association should do and be, please let us know what you feel and why not take part in the life of the KFA.

The members of the KFA Board and of *Le Trésor* would be most happy to announce, before the end of 2012, that the call has been heard and that many have expressed their desire to join our team in order to enable the KFA to keep working towards its objectives of "better sharing and broadening our family heritage by increasing our knowledge of people and their achievements."

JANET MICHELE KEROUAC



Translation of the above notice published on page 66 of **Le Soleil**

15th ANNIVERSARY
Jan Kerouac 1952-1996

An anniversary Mass will be celebrated on Sunday, 3 June 2012, in Saint-Mathieu Church, 3155, Chemin des Quatre Bourgeois (Road), Quebec City, at 11 a.m. to mark the 15th anniversary of the burial of the ashes of Jan-Michele* Kerouac in the St. Louis Cemetery, in Nashua. N.H.

She was the one and only daughter of the famous Franco-American writer, Jack Kerouac who so greatly influenced 20th Century American literature".

Jan, herself, was a writer, but never completed her third novel because health problems and her resolute battle to save her father's literary heritage burned up all her energy. Now she rests in the same grave next to her paternal grandparents, Leo-Alcide Kerouac and Gabrielle Lévesque, a distant cousin of René Lévesque, former Premier of the Province of Quebec.

This message is written by a distant cousin who was near Jan when she was looking for her Quebec and Breton roots; she was so proud of both.

Hoping that now she has found peace; after all the suffering she endured during her too short life.

Jacques K/.

* On her birth certificate, Michele is clearly written with one "L".

On 3 June 2012, in Quebec City, a Mass was said to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the burial of Janet Michele Kerouac's ashes in Nashua's Cemetery. Some KFA members attended that ceremony held on 3 June 1997. (see **Le Trésor** number 49, pages 19-22).

On the eve of the Anniversary Mass, an announcement was published in the Quebec daily **Le Soleil**. A few days later, the KFA received an unexpected e-mail underlining a surprising combination of coincidences. Here is the translation of the message:

"Dear Sir!

*I found your e-mail address in the Saturday edition, 2 June 2012, of **Le Soleil**, in the obituary column in the article mentioning the 15th anniversary of Mrs. Jan Kerouac, Jack's daughter.*

*I wrote to Mrs. Fleury, who signed the Saturday Editorial, to bring to her attention the unexpected and wonderful turn of events surrounding the fact that **Le Soleil** published something about Mrs. Jan Kerouac. Is it by chance that the article appeared on page 66 and that the number was right above her name. 66 like Route 66 in **On the road** . . . My wife Gisèle noticed this.*

It gave me goosebumps.

*Just wanted to tell you that my father was born in Nashua in 1917 and also, that his father, Longval, my grandfather, most likely worked in the **factory** on Canal Street in Nashua with Jack's father between 1915 and 1917. . . that would have been before Jack's father moved to Lowell, Massachusetts, where Jack was born.*

Looking forward to talk to you again Mr. Kirouac,

Pierre Longval"



On 3 June 2012 in Quebec City, Jacques Kirouac with Father Claude Préfontaine, O.S.M., officiating at the Mass on the 15th Anniversary of the burial of Janet Kerouac's ashes. (Photo: Michel Bornais)

ANNUAL GATHERING

29-30 June & 1 July 2012 Warwick & Kingsey Falls, Quebec

by Céline Kirouac

Our annual reunion started with a picnic on the lawn on Friday evening between the all-white parish church in Sainte-Elizabeth-de-Warwick and the former presbytery now housing the local cheese plant and shop! Our hosts, Mercédès and Marc Villeneuve, and Denise and Renaud Kirouac were there to welcome us in this lovely village surrounded by rich agricultural land; what a lovely setting for a pleasant family get-together. As the participants arrived, we sat at the tables, set on the lawn, ready to sample the famous cheeses made literally next door with freshly baked bread from the local baker. It was a happy time as we exchanged news from the past year, since our last gathering. I was so pleased to talk with Cathy Kirouac Robinson who came all the way from Detroit, Michigan, and to discover how much the Kirouac family is important to her. She was very keen to attend our gathering and distribute the invitation to next year's gathering in Michigan, 19-21 July 2013. The weather was so nice



Photo: Michel Bornaïs

Happy Hour and picnic, enjoying delicious local cheeses and regional wine: Pia Karrer O'Leary from London (Ontario) and Cathy Kirouac Robinson from Detroit, Michigan, USA.

that we stayed until after dark savouring cheeses, bread and local wine. The perfect setting and start for our family week-end.



Photo: Michel Bornaïs

From left to right: Hélène K/ & Luc Pelletier, Marie Kirouac, Mercédès (Bolduc) & Marc Villeneuve, responsible for our 2012 gathering, (standing) René Kirouac, (from behind) Jean Kirouac, Marie-Andrée Lavigne-Kirouac and Marie-Thérèse Girard-Kirouac (Jean's wife).



(Photo: Pierre Kirouac)



Each Kirouac family gathering is always a wonderful occasion to meet K/ cousins from far away, like Nicole who drove 600 miles from Abitibi (Quebec) to be in Warwick. Here she is with Denise (Pépin) & Renaud Kirouac; others came from Montreal, Quebec City, Jonquière (Saguenay-Lac St-Jean), London, Ontario, and Detroit, Michigan.

(Photo : Pierre Kirouac)



Why not three generations together? From left to right: Denise Pépin-Kirouac, Simon and his brother, Philippe, with their mother, Isabelle Loranger-(Guy-Renaud) Kirouac, Renaud K/, Denise's husband, Guy-Renaud K/ (Isabelle's husband) and his brother, Jean-François Kirouac.

Saturday morning, our first activity was a guided tour of the *Cascades* plant in Kingsey Falls. Our guide gave us a streamlined history of the company. In 1957, Antonio Lemaire owned a small recycling business, essentially collecting from trash everything he felt could be reused, wholly or partly; little did he know what a great adventure laid ahead. In 1964, with his three sons, the family enterprise was transformed into a company aiming at becoming expert in recycling and making paper from recycled fibers. The family business grew rapidly and, within a few years, became a giant in the recycling field and a multinational firm.

We were supplied with goggles and closed safety shoes before starting our visit. We saw how bales of used papers were transformed into household tissue papers. Fascinating process: paper plus water, mixed into a paste, eventually pressed between giant rollers to become rolls of paper to be cut into the right size, then wrapped up and boxed for delivery. There are many steps, lots of heavy machinery but very few employees as the whole process is highly automated and computerized. Safety is capital as we could see by the numerous posters all over the plant during our visit. At the end, everyone left with some *Cascades* paper products, a gift from the company that is the pride of Kingsey



The historical Kirouac guided tour in and around Warwick included a visit to Louis-Grégoire Kirouac's former home. Here Lise Carrier-Pépin, Claude Pépin's wife, and present owners of this ancestral house, explaining the house's 160-year history. (Photo: Michel Bornais)

Falls. (For a virtual tour: see *Cascades* Web Site).

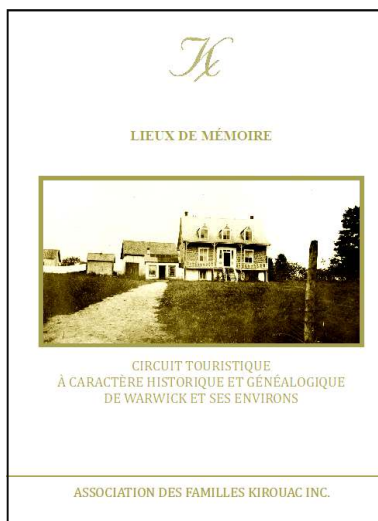
In the afternoon, we boarded a Kirouac Bus, (this K/ Bus Company is located in the neighbouring village of Saint-Albert-de-Warwick) for a visit of Warwick and surroundings to discover the part the Kirouacs played in transforming the area over the last two hundred years. Renaud and François were our guides as we drove through the streets of Warwick and the roads around the town. They pointed the houses where Kirouacs lived and still live today. We were surprised to learn that so many lived in the area: farmers, merchants, businessmen, etc., who largely contributed to the development of the town in so many ways. Large residences, smaller homes, and a number of large farms, saw many generations of Kirouacs grow up, starting with the first one, Louis-Grégoire Kérouack, who settled in the area in 1858 with his family. His house still stands today and we were privileged to be invited in by its current owner, Lise (née Carrier)

and Claude Pépin (brother of Denise Pépin-Kirouac). Lise and Claude restaured this ancestral home so beautifully that the Arthabaska Regional District awarded them the Heritage Prize in 2010 (see article in *Le Trésor*, no 66).

The French edition of a twenty-three page brochure entitled *Up & Down Memory Lane, a self-guided historical & genealogical tour of Warwick & surroundings*, prepared by some KFA members, was given to each person as a souvenir of the tour. It is a precious source of new and never before published historical information, a document to be cherished.*

Our last stop was at one of the most remarkable K/ residences; Lionel Kirouac lived in it for twenty years before selling it to the Town of

* A digital colour version of this document - in either French or English - is available by email; email your request to the KFA secretarial office, at the address listed on the last page of the current *Trésor*.





Left, Mr. Claude Desrochers, Warwick's Mayor, being thanked by Renaud K/, at the City's reception during our 31st annual K/ gathering. In 1985 and 1999, the municipality had also generously and graciously welcomed the KFA participants. (Photo: Michel Bornais)

Warwick. Well, you guessed right, it is now the City Hall where the Mayor, Claude Desrochers welcomed us with a glass of wine. He also gave each one a lapel pin with the crest of the Town and, ever so generous, he gave the KFA eight souvenir books published for the 150th Anniversary of the Town: *150e Warwick 1860-2010* and also eight copies of *La petite histoire rurale de Warwick*, i.e. Warwick Rural Anecdotes. After dinner in the evening, these books were raffled and I was lucky to win both of them.

At the *Salle du Canton*, where we gathered for our Saturday dinner, more 'cousins' joined us and René Kirouac from St-Constant, our MC, welcomed one and all to a delicious meal and a great evening. Bertrand Fréchette on the accordion and Pierre Savard at the piano provided the perfect and happy musical background.



The 2012 official souvenir photo of the K/ cousins proudly standing in front of Lionel Kirouac's former home, now the Warwick City Hall. (Photo: H  l  ne Kirouac collection)



During the Saturday dinner at the Salle du Canton: from left to right: Cécile Ferland Laurin, Jean-Yves Laurin, Lucille Kirouac & husband, Jacques Boulet, Jacques Raiche, Denys Kirouac, his son, Philippe, and Ginette Gagnon-Kirouac, Denys' wife and Philippe's mother. (Photo: Michel Bornais)

Hélène Kirouac, from Warwick, with her amazing memory and talent as a storyteller, added to the dessert her numerous anecdotes, souvenirs, adventures, and funny tales. She is such a gift to us all; to her own souvenirs she added the results of hours of research to make sure all her facts were right. A standing ovation and a warm round of applause accompanied the presentation of beautiful roses to thank Hélène.



Another table of happy K/ cousins enjoying the weekend get-together: René Kirouac, Martine Rinfret, Estelle Kirouack, Monique Raiche, Esther Kirouack, Édith Kirouac and Dominic Blackburn. (Photo: Michel Bornais)



Saturday dinner at the Salle du Canton in Warwick: Luc Mainville and Ghislaine Lapointe. (Photo: Michel Bornais)



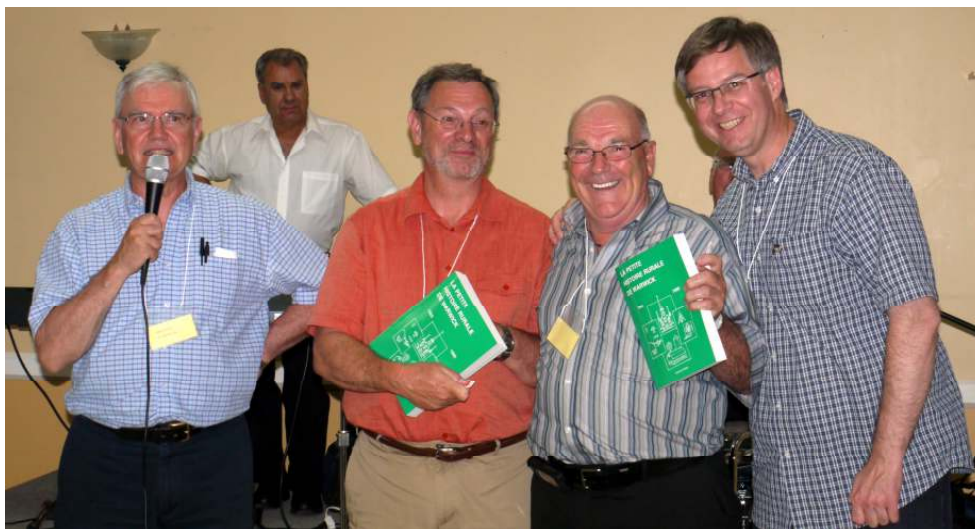
(Photo: Michel Bornais)

On Saturday evening, Cathy Kirouac Robinson, responsible for our next Annual KFA Gathering, came to Warwick especially to invite all K/ descendants to the 2013 K/ gathering to be held on 19-20-21 July 2013 in Detroit, Michigan. Count yourself invited and write it on your calendar!



On the left, Lise Carrier-Pépin, offered a copy of the book (published last year) **L'Histoire de la maison Kirouac-Pépin** (History of the Kirouac-Pépin House) on Saturday evening; the very happy winner was Pia Karrer O'Leary, from London, Ontario. (Photo: Michel Bornais)

To mark the Kirouac gathering in Warwick, the Mayor gave eight copies of the 2010 book published for the 150th Anniversary of the founding of Warwick, as well as eight copies of *La petite histoire rurale de Warwick* (Warwick Rural Anecdotes), written by local author, Roland Chabot. The books were raffled after dinner on Saturday evening. On the photo (at right), (L. to R.): René Kirouac, Master of Ceremony, François Kirouac, current KFA President, Jacques Raiche, happy winner of a copy of Mr. Chabot's book, and Jean-François Kirouac, son of Renaud & Denise (Pépin) Kirouac.



(Photo: Michel Bornais)



Last but not least, a wonderful basket of Michigan specialties, a generous gift from Cathy Kirouac Robinson was raffled to raise funds for our Association. Bruno and Gisèle (Bergeron) Kirouac were the happy winners.

Many thanks to Cathy K/ Robinson for this generous gift and congratulations to the winners, Bruno and Gisèle, who have been faithfully taking part in almost every annual KFA gatherings since 1980. Of course you know that Bruno was one of the KFA founding members and one of its administrators. (Photo: Michel Bornais)

After a good night sleep, we all gathered in the reception hall at *Parc Marie-Victorin* in Kingsey Falls, on Sunday morning, July First, for our Annual General Meeting presided by François who made sure we ended the proceedings early enough to be on time at the local Parish Church of St-Aimé-de-Kingsey Falls for our traditional Sunday Mass. It was a special privilege granted to the KFA by the Parish Priest, Father Pierre Janelle, who welcomed us in his church and celebrated Mass assisted by Mercédès and Marc, as servants. The Parish Choir sang a special musical programme for us ending with the hymn, *Notre-Dame-du-Canada*, a tradition very dear to Gaby Lafrenière-Hurtubise's heart. We thank the Choir for this very pertinent choice for a closing hymn. Father Janelle very generously agreed to bring out the Parish Register to show all the K/ cousins present the page in the register for the year 1885, where one can read the Christening data for Conrad Kirouac, later to become Brother Marie-Victorin. It was a very moving moment and particularly so for Jean-Yves Laurin, a nephew of Conrad Kirouac. Then Father Janelle agreed to another very special request to see another entry

for the year 1887, that of the Christening of Agésilas Kirouac, enabling his four children see it for the very first time.

We went back to the *Parc Marie-Victorin* for lunch and, surprise, twelve more 'cousins' joined us for lunch and the afternoon. Jacques Kirouac, our founding president, introduced his special guests, Mr.

Guy Le Bourdais and his wife, Suzanne, reminding us that there were a few weddings between members of the Kirouac and Le Bourdais families, and that our respective ancestors were both from Brittany. (See article in *Le Trésor*, no 107, p. 13).

After lunch, we visited the park with a very enthusiastic young



Father Pierre Janelle, Parish Priest of Saint-Aimé in Kingsey Falls, proudly showing the page where the Christening of Conrad Kirouac in April 1885 is entered in the Parish Register.

Photo: Michel Bornais



Agésilas Kirouac's four children proudly holding the register of Saint-Aimé Parish opened at the page where their father's Christening is entered in April 1887.

guide who loves to show all the beauties and achievements to be discovered within the grounds. She took us along the many paths, introducing the various gardens dedicated to the memory of Brother Marie-Victorin and his works in natural sciences. In the aviary we admired some very colourful exotic birds. In the wet-land section there are some *sarracenia purpurea* (commonly known as the purple pitcher plant), Marie-Victorin's favourite flower and also Newfoundland's floral emblem; then we walked along the banks of the Nicolet River to admire the cascading garden.

On the 29-acre site we were all quite impressed by the many giant floral sculptures, resting on recycled metal parts shaped like familiar insects, birds, amphibians and animals. The enormous *mosaïcures* were also awe inspiring with their thousands of plants entangled on a metal structure and then nurtured, cut and shaped over the years. Among these horticultural creations one stands out very distinctly: Brother Marie-Victorin! There he is as a super-tall green giant towering over all the other sculptures along the Path of the Giants. Then we also followed the path of unusual plants and visited the kitchen garden. One really gets the impression that Marie-Victorin is overlooking all these plants, well aware that he spent his life teaching others about them. Eventually we arrived at the tropical greenhouse where, once more, we were impressed by enormous plants looking so healthy because the warmer climes where they come from have been so well recreated here. Under the pergola, we took a moment to rest as Gustave the gardener gave us to taste some edible flowers he grows there.

And our 2012 Kirouac gathering came too quickly to its end, closing a programme extremely well planned

and executed, mostly from Saguenay by Mercédès, helped by Denise, Renaud and Hélène from Warwick. A great many thanks to you from all of us. Bravo Mercédès for one more great achievement to be included on your honours list and many thanks too to your wonderful husband, Marc. We said **GOODBYE** but really it was an **AUREVOIR** until next year. It has been a great weekend in a picture-perfect area blessed with a very warm-hearted and welcoming population.



Photo: Pierre Kirouac

During Sunday lunch, at the Marie-Victorin Park, Jacques Kirouac, introducing Guy Le Bourdais, grandson of Auguste Le Bourdais, whose extraordinary story appeared in the previous issue of *Le Trésor*. Mr. Le Bourdais and his wife were very happy to attend our family reunion. Let's not forget that the very first Le Bourdais in New France, on 15 June 1758 in L'Islet, attended the marriage of Alexandre Kervoach (the K/ Ancestor's eldest son) to Élisabeth Chalifour; the ancestor of Jacques Kirouac's branch of the family.



Photo: Michel Bornaïs

Pierre Kirouac, KFA President from 2002 to 2005, at right of the photo, with his brothers and sisters and one cousin. Front row, (L. to R.): Hélène, Ghislaine Lapointe, Suzanne and Pierre; back row, (L. to R.): Claude, Jules and Louis.

The social and economic role of Kirouac families in Warwick since 1858

Anecdotes told by Hélène Kirouac during the KFA annual gathering at the Warwick Township Hall on 30 June 2012

Good evening,

The programme says that I am to narrate some **ANECDOTES**.

Well, first, let us see the definition of the word **ANECDOTE**. In my (French) **Multi-Dictionnaire**, I read that an *anecdote* is a short story about a particular fact. The **Larousse** Dictionary adds that the origin of the word is Greek: **Anekdotia**. (the translator adds: the **Webster** says it best: "short entertaining accounts of some happening, usually personal or biographical"). Therefore I will not talk about the achievements of various important K/s which you can read in Raymonde Kerouac-Harvey's **L'Album** (1980) or in our **Genealogical Dictionary** (1991), or in our bulletins (published since 1980) but I will entertain you with a number of so far unpublished stories: **ANECDOTES**.

I have been digging into the treasure-trove of the Kirouacs of Warwick and I also search through our oral tradition to find anecdotes which, I hope, will make you laugh, or at least smile, either happenings that should kindle emotions, or unusual adventures, but not the kind often experienced and certainly not on a regular basis. All in all, stories from our family history that have not yet been preserved in writing.

First, I will talk about those who enriched the Warwick area through their knowledge and leadership, having chosen to fulfill their dreams and hopes in this wonderful area. Then I will talk about some relatives who left the region to settle away, but always living by our family values as chosen by Robert K/ of L'Islet, to go with the KFA crest: **Pride, Dignity, Integrity**.

Of course I will begin by talking about the first Kirouac to settle in Warwick: Pierre. In the Kirouac genealogical tree, he is of the third generation, the

youngest son of Louis, the youngest son of our ancestor. In a Notary's deed, dated 18 January 1831, it says that this Pierre then lived in Saint-Pierre-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud. But since when? Where did he come from? These answers are yet to be found.

The deed is entitled: Marriage of Édouard Kirouac, esquire, to Miss Rosalie Fournier, who brings a dowry from Pierre Kirouac to Édouard Kirouac, esquire and future husband. This document was read in the presence of many witnesses including Louis-Grégoire, Pierre's brother and one of the witnesses who signed the deed.

Louis-Grégoire had married Catherine Des Trois Maisons dit Picard in 1825; so by 1831 they had been married six years and they were living in Saint-Pierre-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud. We know that they left between 1845 and 1848 to settle in Sainte-Croix-de-Lotbinière, not in Warwick. Nonetheless, he would have been familiar with the Warwick area because, in 1852, one of his daughters, Marie-Onésime had married Edouard Bergeron, esquire and farmer in the Warwick area. It is possible, and likely, that while visiting his daughter, he would have bought a parcel of land located along the first rural road in the Warwick Township possibly thinking of eventually moving there. Nonetheless, it is only on 8 January 1858, that Louis-Grégoire definitely settled in Warwick when he bought a large farm that would remain the family property for four generations.

By the autumn of 1858, Louis-Grégoire gave his son, Louis, married to Adélaïde Gingras, that parcel of land with all its buildings. Nevertheless, Louis-Grégoire and Catherine would live in their house until their death because this was a *donation inter vivos*



Photo: Marie Kirouac

Hélène Kirouac narrating some anecdotes on the social role of the Kirouacs in Warwick since 1858.

that is between living parents and their son, by which the son, Louis, agreed to house, feed, and properly look after his father and mother for as long as they lived and as long as the contract existed between them; this agreement included heating, clothing, and all sundry. Through the act of donation, Louis also agreed to provide proper funeral and burial to his parents in the Warwick Cemetery.

How come then that Louis-Grégoire was buried under the Warwick Church? If that happened, it is because this Kirouac esquire was a very important man in the area. During the 19th century *this privilege was reserved only for one who resided in the Parish, was a good Christian of impeccable morals, who had paid all his debts, his dues, his church pew and parish tithes. Then, and only then, there would be a first class funeral. It was a must and included all traditional rites and rituals.*

Added to that, a stone-work burial vault had to be built (under the church) at the expense of the family before the coffin could be deposited into it.⁽¹⁾

Now Louis, Louis-Grégoire's son, was indeed a very prosperous farmer. He cultivated the inherited land and expanded the family holding so much that it won him the 1892 Silver Medal from the Province of Quebec's Department of Agriculture. The medal was presented to him by the then Minister of Agriculture. Four of Louis and Adélaïde's sons remained in Warwick: Joseph, Pierre-François de Salle, Napoléon and Louis the youngest (third of the name), Renaud's grandfather.

Joseph, eldest son of Louis and Adélaïde, inherited the family property in 1902. Unfortunately, he died three years later at the young age of forty-eight, and already a widower. Their children were thence orphaned and Émile, who was only seventeen, automatically became the head of a family of six, whose youngest sibling was an eight-year old little girl. So, the grandmother, Adélaïde moved in to help out. But remember that Émile was not yet of age and that women, even a grandmother, were also then treated as 'underage', like a minor; hence it was Joseph's younger brother and Emile's uncle, Louis, who was called upon to look after all the "family business until Émile became of age".⁽²⁾

In February 1904, Louis, Joseph's younger brother and the third bearing the name, married Exilia Dumas. Before Louis and Exilia eventually bought their own farm in 1911, they rented a farm in Kingsey Falls, that is the land of their cousin Jean L'Heureux, husband of Marie-Julie-Anna K/, who had gone to live in the States for a few years. And this explains why Robert, Louis and Exilia's son, and Renaud's father, was born in the States.

Many years later, when Mr. Robert, Renaud's father, was living at the *Villa*

du Parc (a Warwick retirement residence) I would sometimes pay him a visit. First I would call him before crossing the street. He just could not wait for me in his room. I can still see him with both hands on the glass pane of the Villa's door, watching me coming. As he opened the door, he would take my hand, give me a kiss on the cheek and say: "Come along." And when we got to his room, even before sitting down, he would take out from his cupboard a small dish of candies. After that he would talk about his numerous involvements in the life of Warwick: City Councillor, School Commissioner, board member of the Golden Agers Club, etc. He would also talk about the 'good old days'. One day, he told me that when the time came to choose the site for the present parish church, his grandfather, Louis, Adélaïde's husband, walked all the way to the village and having reached a slightly higher spot, he would have said: "This is where the new church should be built." And his idea prevailed.

Some years before, a first chapel had been built on the ninth lot in the first Rural Road, about one mile from the present church; it seems that it would have been where stood the farm bought in 1911 by Louis and Exilia Dumas-Kirouac. Of course, when mentioning a church, that implies a nearby cemetery, thus a legend to be proven or disproved, whereby for a while, even after the first chapel was gone, when ploughing the land, pieces of coffins turned up. This legend is most likely true because the soil was such that it was not possible to properly bury the dead. On part of that parcel of land, only a thin layer of soil rested on shingles, so the coffins could not all be interred at the same safe depth; rain soaked the ground and it became uneven, and so much water would accumulate in the lower parts that corpses or coffins were sometimes seen floating.⁽³⁾

Napoléon, another of Louis and Adélaïde's four sons, lived in Warwick. He and his wife, Julia Rousseau-

Kirouac, were a rather *odd couple*. Well, let's say that they stood out. He still sported a beard when no one else did, so people nicknamed him Saint Joseph. As for Julia, she still wore long skirts when they were no longer in fashion. And she was also always dressed so modestly that it earned her the nickname: *Holy Virgin*. When attending Holy Mass on Sunday, she wore a black hat with a rather heavy black veil as well as fingerless black gloves. When they entered church, you could not but notice them; they walked all the way to their pew, the second behind that of the Church Wardens which is at the very front of the church.

Was Julia more sensitive to cold than most people? In winter she dressed like an onion, wearing layers over layers. As Napoléon, her husband, was my father's first cousin, the two families paid each other visits. Every year, on Epiphany, Napoléon and Julia would come to our home for dinner. Perhaps we children were a little naughty at times but certainly a little curious. Julia went to the bedroom to take off some *layers* before going to the parlour and dining room, and the door being ajar, we would try to see how many petticoats she took off before joining the party.

My parents also visited Napoléon and Julia particularly at apple harvesting time. On a certain Sunday afternoon in the autumn, Julia as a good hostess, offered us some apples to eat but a young neighbour who happened to be there, did not think they were fresh enough. So she and my two sisters,

(1) Excerpt from an article by Paul Racine published in *Actualités Histoire Québec*, winter-spring 2004

(2) Émile was Bruno's father. Bruno is one of the KFA founding members. The 7th generation of this branch of the Kirouacs is now living in Warwick. Other branches are only at the 5th and 6th generations.

(3) *And they built Saint-Médard-de-Warwick, History of the Catholic Community of Warwick*, translation of the title of the book published in 1999, to mark the 125th Anniversary of the foundation of the Parish.

three little girls, aged eight to ten, pretending they wanted to play outside, quickly walked out and ran straight to the orchard to pick their own 'fresh' apples.

But how to know if an apple is really good unless you try it? So pulling a branch down, they grabbed an apple and took a bite. If not satisfied, the apple would be discarded and another branch pulled down and another apple bitten. How many times did they do that? No one will ever know but imagine the look on poor Julia's face when she went to pick apples! (And can you hear me ask my sisters: "Did you ever apologize to Julia?")

Exploring my treasure chest, I found two letters signed by Reinette Kirouac, Arthur's daughter. I will talk about him later. The letters are dated 16 January 1968 and 25 November 1968. In one of them, Reinette reminds me that we had met during a trip in 1967. Something I had forgotten. But what I do remember is that once she came to my house to talk to me about a project in Mexico, the foundation of an hermitage in the desert, and I was strongly urged to visit that hermitage; but it never happened. After that, I never heard from Reinette again.

At my request, Denise Pépin-Kirouac asked members of Reinette's family what had happened to her. It seems that she died in Mexico and that her brother-in-law, Marcel Beaudet, went to Mexico and brought back Reinette's body to bury her in the Warwick Cemetery. So what really happened to her? This as yet to be discovered.

Arthur had another daughter, Lorraine, a great musician who is well remembered in Warwick. While pursuing her musical studies, she also taught piano at the Warwick Convent during four or five years. She was very demanding with her pupils including her sister, Louise. Special events at the Convent automatically included a musical programme. One young man was always particularly eager to help with the sound system. Obviously

Marcel Beaudet, the 'technician', liked Lorraine very much. I can assure you that the curious young students were closely watching to catch any eye twinkling between the two love-birds. Of course you can picture what followed . . . wedding bells and the nuns in search of another piano teacher.

After the children had left the nest, Lorraine started teaching piano again from her home. Many pupils benefited from her expertise and talent, and some obtained their Bachelor of Music. She also started a choir: *The Michaëls*. According to the choir master, Lorraine was an expert accompanist, available, efficient and discrete, making sure the singers shone at their best. Her piano accompaniments were always well prepared.

Lorraine was also the Church organist from 1967 to 1974. At the time, she was really concerned about the young people absent at the religious celebrations but being an innovator, she started to introduce some popular tunes into the Mass musical programme to attract the younger generation. And Sunday after Sunday, people were surprised to hear tunes from Brel, Mouskouri and Ferland and even more so to see young people filling the organ loft and religiously listening. In 1974, for the centennial of Warwick Parish Church, Lorraine wrote the music for the souvenir-anthem. Eventually Lorraine discovered that she was very seriously ill but she did not want anyone to pity her, so she left this heartfelt message: "When you think about me, put on a smile; if you cannot refrain from crying when thinking about me, then forget me for ever."

Let us stop for a moment. I will come back later with more anecdotes about a great lady and two of my idols.

This great lady was Mrs. Alvina Kirouac. She was outstanding in so many ways. In Raymonde Kérouac-Harvey's (1980) *L'Album*, and in our (1991) *Genealogical Dictionary*, her achievements are listed: teaching career, Post Mistress, founder of the

Convent's Alumni and the local branch of the 'Daughters of Isabella' (women's branch of the Knights of Columbus); the Sanctuary to Our Lady of Fatima is also one of her achievements among many others.

Alvina was a builder with character and temperament but also very warmhearted and generous woman. Maurice's children know about that, every time she visited her brother's home, she always arrived with an armful of gifts. If not for her generosity, many young people in Warwick would never have been able to complete their studies.

Alvina, the warm-hearted woman in her twenties, like all girls her age dreamt of love and marriage. There was one young man she particularly fancied, a distant cousin called Arthur Kirouac. However, her parents, Calixte and Céline Kirouac, did not encourage her getting married because of her small handicap; she was born without a right forearm. "If you have children, you will not be able to care for them. You will need servants and it will be very expensive"; her mother would remind her, so Alvina renounced her dream and kept on teaching.

In 1921, her uncle Onésime's wife died. Following the tradition at the time, the teacher brought the school children to the funeral parlour to recite the Rosary. So, being the teacher, she did. The funeral home happened to be across the street from the railway station. And luck would have it that the train arrived just at that moment, and she noticed Arthur climbing on board; but he was not alone, he was going on his honeymoon. Alvina cried a great deal beside her aunt Orise's coffin. Why did she cry so much? I wonder.

Many years later she would marry her uncle Onésime and would enjoy eleven happy years with him. After he passed away, she lived at *La Chaumière*, a small inn in Warwick where Arthur would sometimes go for a drink.

In 1959, coming back from a trip to Fatima, in Portugal, she felt that her health was deteriorating. Her doctor warned her that she had only a few months to live. Feeling ready to die, she put all her affairs in order. But towards the end of the year, Arthur's wife died. The love of her youth for Arthur was freshly aroused and pushed away all desire to die. Unfortunately, the Great Reaper was not far away and on 16 August 1960, Alvina went back into hospital for the last time. Well, as the ambulance drove past Arthur's house, she asked the driver to stop in order to say her last goodbye. I know this wonderful story is true because I heard it from Mrs. Monique Pelletier-Kirouac, mother of René Kirouac, our Master of Ceremony.

Now, let me introduce you to one of my idols, Mr. Agésilas (Kirouac). Although he was my father's first cousin, my father always referred to him as Mr. Agésilas. Now what can a poor little country girl have in common with such a gentleman as Mr. Agésilas? Well, we were not rich but my father was a man with an open mind and keen to read the newspapers to keep up with current events. So he struck a deal with Mr. Agésilas. For a dollar per year, on Sunday morning after Mass, every week, we would stop by the *Caisse populaire* (the local bank) attached to Mr. Kirouac's house. It was opened on Sundays then. We would pick up the week's copies of the local paper **L'Action catholique**. The newspapers were graciously handed to my father either by Julie, the (adopted) daughter of the family, or by Miss Joséphine Arsenault, the employee, who later became Mr. Agésilas' wife and the mother of Pierre, Jean, Hélène and Marie. And what do you think my father did on Sunday afternoon? Of course he read the paper and I was told that I learned to read thanks to Mickey Mouse, the French version of Walt Disney's cartoons appearing weekly in the paper.

As I grew up, I noticed that Mr. Agésilas was a very good man who loved children. He was a true educator. No matter how much anyone, adult or child, wanted to deposit whether a penny or a nickel, a warm smile always welcomed one and all.

Mr. Agésilas also belonged to *L'Ordre de Jacques-Cartier*, an association created to defend the interest of the French-speaking Canadians, particularly language and industries. According to historians, that movement's work was instrumental in saving the French language in Québec. As part of the educating activities in line with the Order's mission, Mr. Kirouac organized a contest in the schools to encourage people to buy locally produced goods. During a whole year, we had to collect the labels from local products, like bread for example. Then we had to compose a text in French, as well as one could, explaining why it was important to buy locally.

I was in grade six, elementary school, when I took part in the contest. At the end of June, accompanied by my older brother, who for the occasion was wearing new white trousers, I took part in the contest's final event. If I remember well, I did not win the first prize which was five dollars (a large sum in those days), but I won a lovely horn bracelet made by the Warwick firm *Dominium Comb & Novelty*; decades later, after the language law, Bill 101, was passed, the name was changed to *Plastiques DCN inc.*

Bravo, Mr. Agésilas, for implementing in me as well as in many other young people the wish and will to give everybody the chance to eat fresh local produce rather than manufactured products imported from the other ends of the world, sold cheaply here, yes, but so often of mediocre quality.

My second idol is Onésime. Once more I ask: 'what does a poor little country girl have in common with one, Mr. Onésime, the rich industrialist from Warwick?' Well, this is how it

happened. In June 1938, after successfully finishing grade six in the one-room country school-house, I stayed home for a whole year because my parents felt that I was a bit too young to be a boarder at the village Convent (to do high school). I think the true reason was the lack of money at home. Once that sabbatical year was over, we were not any richer but my mother so badly wanted me to keep studying that she made a deal with the nuns. At the time, room and board was six dollars per month but, if I agreed to wash the dishes after every meal, that would cover half the fee. Done deal!

The experience turned out more strenuous than expected. The size of the pot used to make enough porridge for fifty boarders plus twenty nuns, turned out to be a lot heavier than my mother's pots and pans at home. Nevertheless, I respected my contract until the end of the school year but I was not willing to renew it.

My parents were not any richer than the previous year and the six-dollar monthly fee was still too much. So studying was now out of the question! If nothing new turned up, I would have to do like my sisters, work as a servant for fifty cents per day. On September first an occasion came knocking at the door; a neighbour needed help because his wife was ill. As my sisters were not free, I accepted the job.

Now, the nuns, my teachers, looked at this situation from a very different angle. My teachers could not accept that my studies were thus interrupted. They asked me to come to the convent and told me "Go, see the Parish Priest". I did so and walked to the Presbytery which was close to the convent. I saw the Parish Priest, the Reverend Canon Arthur Leblanc, a man as impressive as his title! "Too bad, my child, but I cannot do anything for you. I already pay for some boys who attend the small seminary."

It was pouring as I came out of the Presbytery. I got soaked and my heart was drowned too. I walked down Saint-

Louis Street but, before crossing the railway tracks, I noticed Mr. Onésime Kirouac in his rocking chair on his balcony. I had heard that Mr. Kirouac⁽⁴⁾ who owned the woollen mills, paid the school fees for the daughters of his workers who attended the Convent as day students . . . **Would he help me?**

I was tired out from walking three kilometers from the house I had started working at to the Convent after my day's chore which included a heavy load of washing done with arm-power only; and was very upset by the Parish Priest's refusal. Shy as I was, I still wonder what pushed me up those three steps onto the balcony where Mr. Kirouac was sitting? Exhausted, distressed and in tears, I dropped into the other rocking-chair, next to his. Compassionate as he was, he put his big soft warm hand on my arm, a very reassuring hand too. He asked for my name and why I was crying. He listened to my explanation and said: "I am not the sole owner of the company but tomorrow, I will speak to my board of directors. Give me the telephone number where I can reach you and I will call you with our answer." Buoyed by such hope, I did not sleep much that night.

The following morning, while I was ironing, the telephone rang. I was certain it was for me. And, YES, the answer was positive. The company owners accepted to pay half the cost of the Convent fee. In less time than it takes to say it, I completed the task at hand, packed my bags and ran home to tell my parents what I had been doing behind their back. They must have been so happy with the results that they forgot to scold me but, perhaps their pride was a little bruised. That same evening, I was back in my small bed in the Convent's dormitory and I was so happy. It was my fifteenth birthday. What a great birthday gift this was!

Dear Mr. Onésime. I am forever grateful to you. If I have become what I am today it is mainly thanks to you. So many Warwick citizens could say

the same thing. Mr. Onésime, you have all our deepest gratitude. On top of contributing to the well-being of so many families by providing them with work, you also understood the need and value of a good education to build a working society and so very generously contributed to it.

Let us have a second short break here and I will come back in a few minutes to talk about my favourite star.

Amongst the Kirouacs, did you guess who my favourite star is? Yes, it is my father, Joseph-Jean, son of Noé, grandson of Édouard who was Louis-Grégoire's brother.

After spending seven years in the *Brothers of the Sacred-Heart* order, my father decided to come back home in Saint-Pierre-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud. By then the family property had been promised to his younger brother, Henri. But by chance, a Warwick cousin, Évariste Boutin, wanted to sell his farm. So, at the beginning of May 1917, Joseph-Jean jumped on that opportunity and came to live in Warwick. Lady Luck stayed around and in January 1918 he found his life companion.

While searching for anecdotes about my father, I noticed three main points: my father was an excellent teacher; he shared with us his enthusiasm for learning, he was ingenious and left us the best inheritance in the world. My father was a very good educator. He instilled in us, his children, the respect and love of the French language, the desire to learn, showed us the pleasure to be gained in discovering things and an enthusiasm for nature and life.

My mother had been a teacher too, so when it came to school homework we were lucky to get help from both our parents. As a result, we all did really well in school and when the inspector came around for his (annual) visit, we usually took home the prize for best results in writing and mathematics.

The prizes were usually Canadian literature books like *Légendes*

*gaspésiennes, La jongleuse, L'enfant perdu et retrouvé**. (*Translator's note: popular books written by French-Canadian authors) We made the most of these treasures. In the evening after supper, my father would have us sit around the table where each one would read in turn. After reading one or two paragraphs, he made us stop and asked us: "What did you understand in that passage? Please explain in your own words what you just read?" That was his way of teaching us how to express ourselves, and very clearly too. He never tolerated bad language or vulgar terms. My father did not use fancy language but it was proper and always respectful. He never swore.

Our house was built on a rather rocky parcel of land. You know how rocks and pebbles spring up from the ground with the spring thaw! I loved to walk in the fields with my father to pick up stones. It usually was a good occasion to learn something new. For example when inadvertently we lifted the roof of the house of an ant colony, we could spend quite a lot of time observing the ants running in all directions in the roads of their miniature towns, carrying on their back loads often heavier than themselves.

One evening at sunset, my father saw a bat flying about. He was quick enough to catch it in his straw hat, and he called us to come and see it. We observed this tiny shivering creature very closely before my father released it saying: "Never harm the bats, they are the farmer's best friends because they eat lots of pesty bugs."

One Sunday afternoon, I went up the knoll with him to better see if the oat growing in the next field was in bloom. As he marveled at the sight, he made me share his enthusiasm: "Look, how

(4) Mr. Onésime Kirouac owned the **Warwick Woollen Mills Ltd.**, where wool blankets were made as well as felts for the paper mills and many other woollen goods.

beautiful it is! Feel how soft the awns are."

My father was ever so ingenious and available. Someone needed help to dig a well? "Get Mr. Kirouac. He will find water using his 'small hazel branch'." An alarm-clock was no longer working? "Jos will fix it." A sap bucket was leaking? "Jean will weld it." Someone had an important letter to write? "Ask Joseph-Jean."

At the top of his ingenious achievements is . . . Here, I will let my sister, Françoise tell you that story. She wrote this text when taking part in a workshop on water, given to the residents of the *Villa du Parc* by Catherine Kirouac, Jean's daughter*.

"As everyone remembers, at the beginning of the 20th century, especially in the countryside, home comfort was rather limited; to say the least. For most families, water came from an outdoor ground well that was connected to an indoor water pump operated by hand, usually located in the kitchen above a sink. And to relieve oneself, well that meant going outside in the garden to the *bécosse*, e.g. *backhouse*. (Translator's note: in Quebec French it was called *bécosse*, the result of mispronouncing 'backhouse').

In our home, some good fairies must have watched over us, because we were blessed with a most ingenious father. Our farm was on a very gentle slope at the bottom of a knoll where there was a natural spring where water flowed from some rocky parcel of lands situated on higher ground. So our ingenious father, without any university degree but a great deal of logic, concluded that by digging a hole, solidifying the sides with stones and cement, it would make an efficient reservoir to store this god-given gift. Then the water would simply have to be directed towards the house located slightly lower. Gravity did the trick; pure

fresh water flowed to the house and poured out of the kitchen tap.

My father's other bright idea was to bring indoor the '**backhouse**' facilities particularly because tramping in the snow at minus 20 degrees in winter is, to say the least, not very pleasant. Hence the front sitting room lost a few square feet to provide the minimum needed space to install what we used to call: *le petit coin!* (TN: in English let us call it: *the wee corner*.) A wooden box, with a tightly welded metal lining was fixed to the wall, at a certain height. It was filled with water and a chain was attached to it. There was a pipe linking this reservoir to the 'throne' as we used to say. At the right moment, one pulled the chain which moved a kind of valve, and cleansing water would take away to the outside what was not intended to be kept inside nor indoor! But there was a slight problem with this system as efficient as it was. When my eldest sister's beau came calling, they would sit in the parlour. The thin wall of the 'wee corner' blocked sight but not indiscreet sounds! It was rather embarrassing, particularly when some indecorous noises accompanied essential body-functions.

"Water is life. Let us value it properly and protect it for our children's children."

One thing my sister does not describe in her text is the making of the '**throne**'. One of our neighbours was a known 'patenteux' (TN: in spite of the name he did not hold any 'patent') but his nickname meant that he could invent just about anything. He was an amateur metalworker who put together some kind of large funnel made of heavy galvanized metal, solidly welded; with a wooden seat on top, it was almost perfect. I say almost because my mother did not like it too much as it was rather difficult to clean. One day, my father came back from the village with ... you guessed it? A beautiful new white porcelain toilet. I can still see the smile on my mother's face!

There are so many more anecdotes I

could tell about my father, but I will conclude with the next one.

During his last stay at the hospital, not long before he died, I visited him one afternoon but found him rather sad and, grieving about the past, he said: "I was poor all my life. I was unable to give you all I wanted to and wished for you. And I remained poor. I have nothing to leave you." For a long moment I did not say anything. How do you answer such sadness? Was there an answer to be given anyway...? So I spoke from my heart: "It is true daddy, that we did not always have what we would have like. But was it needed? You are leaving us a precious heritage, the most important in life: you gave us your love and so much love?"

Conclusion

As time goes by, the name Kirouac is less and less heard in Warwick, however the Breton sap is still flowing strongly through the descendants by the women born Kirouac. Let's just mention: Odile, ancestor of the Desrochers and Moreau; Joséphine, ancestor of the Boutin and Marchand; Marie-Julie-Anna, ancestor of the L'Heureux; Mathilda, ancestor of the Ling; Christine, ancestor of the Gauthier. I am sure I am forgetting others.

I wish to thank the KFA Board who trusted me enough to ask me to collect and pass on to you those *anecdotes*, moments from the lives of our Warwick pioneers. It was with great pleasure and with real emotion that I went to work on this project. Sometimes I felt that the people whose life I was prodding were very close to me, smiling over me and encouraging me in my work. Thank you so much for your welcome and attention. Enjoy the rest of the evening.

**On page 21, in the present Trésor, there is a photo of Catherine with her parents, Jean & Marie-Thérèse and her two sisters, Amélie and Virginie.*

ANNUAL KIROUAC FAMILY GATHERING

WARWICK & KINGSEY FALLS, 29 JUNE TO 1ST JULY 2012

FINANCIAL RESULTS

REVENUE

Registration	\$ 4,488.00
Raffle	\$ 187.00

TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 4,675.00
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EXPENSES

Salle du Canton (for lunch & dinner)	\$ 1,788.00
Parc Marie-Victorin (Guided Tour & Meal)	\$ 1,205.81
<i>Cascades</i> Guided Tour in Kingsey Falls	\$ 320.09
Musicians (including meal)	\$ 230.00
Kirouac Bus Rental for Warwick Tour	\$ 200.00
US money exchange	\$ 1.12

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 3,745.02
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SURPLUS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	\$ 929.98
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President's Annual Report presented in the name of the Board Members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in Kingsey Falls, July 1, 2012

MEETINGS

Since the last Annual General Meeting held in Saint-Constant, Quebec, on 9 July 2011, three Board meetings were held at Sainte-Foy, Quebec City, on 24 September 2011, 4 February and 21 April 2012.

VISIBILITY OF OUR ASSOCIATION

On 17 September 2011, Marie Lussier Timperley as well as Pia and Paul O'Leary represented the KFA at the *Michigan Kirouacs Annual Picnic*. While there they learned first hand about the project of **hosting – for the first time ever - in Michigan the Annual Kirouac Family Gathering during the summer 2013**; a dream-come-true for Cathy Kirouac Robinson who is heading the organizing committee. Gerald Nicosia invited the KFA to attend the launching of his latest

book, entitled *One and Only: The Untold Story of On the Road* held in Lowell, Massachusetts, on 8 October 2011. Marie and Brian Timperley, as well as Colette Kerouac and her husband, Robert Deschênes, represented our Association in Lowell. In my name and in the name of all KFA members, I take this opportunity to thank Marie and Brian, Colette and Robert, as well as Pia and Paul for generously attending these two special events.

After a three-year absence, the KFA Board decided that our Association again should take part in the *annual genealogy fair* held at *Laurier Québec*. So, the KFA had a stand at the *Salon des familles souches* (Founding Families Fair) held on 24 -26 February 2012 in the vast *Laurier Québec Shopping Mall*, located on Laurier Boulevard (close

to the Pierre-Laporte/Quebec bridges). It certainly was great to meet a number of KFA members and many others who, discovering our family Association, decided to join it. It was also a wonderful occasion to make important contacts that should prove most useful in the future. I believe we should repeat the venture again next year. Much gratitude to those who "held the fort" at the KFA stand, answering the visitors' many questions: Jacques Kirouac, Marie Lussier Timperley, Michel Bornais, Jean-Yves Laurin, Céline Kirouac and Marie Kirouac.

Just a year ago, on 24 June 2011, our Association accepted the invitation of *Sainte-Justine Heritage Society* to celebrate the

150th Anniversary of the arrival of the Trappist Monks in their village. You may also remember that we held our 17th KFA annual gathering in that lovely village in the County of Bellechasse (South-east of Lévis, near the US Maine border) in 1998. It was an opportunity to highlight the work of Canon Jules Adrien Kirouac, former Ste-Justine Parish Priest. Much gratitude to those who joined me to attend this special event: Marie Kirouac, Céline Kirouac, Jacques Kirouac and Michel Bornais.

During the last year, while waiting to revamp our current Web site, because time and means are scarce, our Association made efforts to be more visible on the Web. A web page was created in the name of the KFA on a Web Site entitled: *Québec une histoire de famille* (for a French-speaking TV program, Quebec's family history) and on *Facebook*. However, at the moment, on the first site mentioned there is not much action but we are present. On the other hand, the *Facebook* page in our ancestor's name *Maurice Louis Le Brice de Keroack* has been garnering more and more interest and many fans. We owe this wonderful visibility to Vincent-Gabriel Kirouac who created the page. In addition, J. A. Michel Bornais, responsible for KFA communications, created a special page on *Facebook* under the name: *Groupe Facebook Association des Familles Kirouac*, where one can find all the most recent information concerning our Association. To our golden PR man, I take great pleasure in expressing our deep gratitude for his generous and most reliable work to broaden the KFA's outreach.

As in the past, the KFA benefited from the promotion given by Lucie

Jasmin, author and KFA Board member, and responsible for the *Marie-Victorin Observatory*, through her fascinating talk entitled *The Odyssey to the Laurentian Flora*, which she gives regularly. On everybody's behalf, thank you very much for the publicity you afford the KFA, but more so for your constant and precious work ensuring that the works of Brother Marie-Victorin, born Conrad Kirouac, is more widely known. We have so many reasons to be extremely proud of our famous cousin.

PROJECTS— COMPLETED OR IN PROCESS

Last February, during the *Salon des familles souches* (Founding families fair) at *Laurier Québec*, we were finally able to offer for sale a product two years in the making; that is all the past issues of our bulletins published over the past thirty years, in English as well as in French, are available on one DVD. We are now considering updating this DVD yearly. This was made possible thanks to the dedicated work of Michel Bornais from Beauport (Quebec suburb) and Pierre Kirouac from Boucherville. Both deserve our deep gratitude for their outstanding contribution.

Last year, and again today, I mentioned that we were running late revamping our Web site. We intended on starting this spring; however, unfortunately, it did not happen. If we are to do it before the end of this year, we seriously need help. In fact, we are looking for one person to take it on. As you surely know, nowadays it is essential for any association to have a Web site. We need help to improve it now and up date it regularly, and this, on a long term basis. Please let us know if you think you can help.

As we announced this spring, the KFA has been invited to take part

in the celebration marking the 25th Anniversary of the first and only French speaking *Jack Kerouac International Gathering* held in Quebec City in 1987. Last May, the Board of Directors formed a special committee to offer to the 2012 organizing committee a project consisting in an historical and genealogical exhibition presenting Jack Kerouac's Quebec and Breton origins and showing his deep attachment to his double roots. This committee comprises Marie Kirouac, Jacques Kirouac, Michel Bornais and I. Michel Bornais is responsible for the project. The exhibition will take place next November in Quebec City. Many thanks to each one of you for your matchless contribution.

As you may well have noticed over the last two years in *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, we have provided you with a number of articles presenting historical and genealogical studies about our ancestor's sons. Part of this study includes the analysis of *Philippe's Papers*. Until the end of 2013, a few more articles will appear in *Le Trésor*. We are most grateful to Céline K/ and Lucille K/ who spend days and weeks scrutinizing the notaries' deeds, carefully analyzing each document which have been in our safekeeping since 1979.

Finally, I would like to say a few words about the scanning of the KFA's important collection of photos. Thanks to the patient work of Marc Villeneuve, Mercédès' husband, we now have some 11,800 digital photos. Scanning photos enables us to preserve them but it is also the first step towards eventually making them available for research now and for future generations. Our heartfelt gratitude goes to Marc for his significant contribution. Those of you, who have scanned, identified and stored photos, know what it represents in

terms of time. If you do not know, to get an idea, just multiply 11,800 photos by approximately 5 minutes each!

SECRETARY'S POST

Last year, Johanne Kirouac from Laval was elected to the KFA Board and accepted to be meeting-secretary. However, due to her work load and other commitments it was with regret that she resigned. The position of KFA secretary is still vacant; therefore in the mean time, Céline Kirouac, who is already first Vice-President, accepted to be our meeting's secretary. This AGM is the right occasion to thank Céline for her generosity. However, I really hope that today the secretary's post will

be filled. It would be nice to normalize our situation and we would be most grateful for someone to partake in our fascinating venture. As they say: the more the merrier.

REMERCIEMENTS

To conclude I can only add thanks and many thanks again to our various regional representatives as well as to all those who contribute to the publication of *Le Trésor*. I also wish to thank the members of the KFA permanent committees: *Le Trésor des Kirouac*: Marie Kirouac, Marie Lussier Timperley, J. A. Michel Bornais, Jacques Kirouac and Greg Kyrourac; *History and Genealogy*: Céline Kirouac, Lucille Kirouac and Greg Kyrourac; *Communications*: Michel Bornais;

Products and audio-visual archives: Michel Bornais; *Web Site*: Pierre Kirouac; *Marie-Victorin Observatory*: Lucie Jasmin; *Jack Kerouac Observatory*: Éric Waddell. Thank you to Mercédès Bolduc-Villeneuve for coordinating our KFA gatherings; thank you to our steadfast treasurer: René Kirouac. I am very happy to work with this exceptionally dedicated team. And, many thanks to each and every one of you who, from near and far, contribute to the life of our Association; please accept my deepest gratitude.

HAVE A GREAT AGM!

François Kirouac, for the KFA Board, July 1st 2012.

45th Wedding Anniversary of Marie-Thérèse Girard and Jean Kirouac



Photo: Pierre Kirouac

On 23 July 2012, Jean Kirouac (GFK 00835) and Marie-Thérèse Girard celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary. In this photo, with their three daughters (L. to R.): Catherine, Jean, Amélie, Virginie and Marie-Thérèse. **Congratulations to Marie-Thérèse and Jean!**

MANY THANKS TO MERCÈDÈS!

Mercédès recently told us that as of today, she is cutting short her mandate as a KFA Board Member. So I am sure that you will let me express our gratitude and briefly tell you about her many accomplishments during the years she devoted so much time and energy to the benefit of our Association.

In September 2005, Mercédès mentioned to us that she was interested to take on the position of Regional Representative for the Saguenay-Lake-Saint-Jean Area, as Guy-Claude Kirouack had just resigned. The following year in Kamouraska at the 2006 AGM, she accepted to sit on the KFA Board.

Mercédès is a very dynamic person, only a few months after joining the Board, in February 2007, she was one of the volunteers manning the KFA stand of the Genealogical Fair at Laurier Shopping Mall in Quebec City, and again in 2008. She also volunteered to man the Kirouac stand in the Cuba Pavillon at *Expo-Québec*, Quebec's annual agricultural summer fair in 2009.

Attending the board meetings (three per year) and representing her area as well as volunteering at various events, made her want to do even more. So she took on to plan the 2009 KFA annual reunion in Chicoutimi where, in spite of a

(Photo: Michel Bornais)



Marc and Mercédès (Bolduc) Villeneuve,
Kingsey Falls, 1st July 2012

extremely small committee, she managed to pull off an extraordinary three-day event. The following year, she offered to coordinate our annual KFA gatherings. So, not only did she organize the 2011 AGM in Saint-Constant, including the fascinating guided tour of the Canadian Railway Museum, but also this weekend. Just look at the distances she had to cover: Saint-Constant is 470 km (300 miles) from her home and Kingsey Falls, 350 km (220 miles)!

Since 2010, Mercédès and Michel Bornais were responsible to audit the KFA accounting books. During last winter, she also prepared the KFA members' consultation concerning our gatherings, an undertaking she successfully carried out with Marie Kirouac and Michel Bornais.

Mercédès ends her mandate on the KFA Board with the present

gathering. It is obvious to all how much she accomplished in the last six years and her contribution is more than appreciated. I am sure I can speak on behalf of every Board member when saying that she shall be greatly missed.

I also wish to thank Mercédès' husband, Marc, and their two sons, François and David, for 'lending us' Mercédès during the past six years.

Dear Mercédès, in the name of the Board members and all KFA members, please accept our deepest gratitude for these years of dedicated work towards the building and safekeeping of the Kirouac family heritage. Rest assured that we will greatly miss your presence and efficient cooperation.

Again, a thousand THANKS!

François Kirouac
President, for the KFA Board

MANY THANKS TO NATHALIE !

After four years on the KFA Board, Nathalie Kirouac's second mandate came to an end on July First, at the time of our Annual General Meeting in Kingsey Falls, having decided not to take on another mandate. So, please allow me to quickly go over her achievements while we had the pleasure to work with her.

Nathalie joined the KFA Board in August 2008 at the AGM in Quebec City. She loves challenges and this one was up her alley. The first thing she suggested taking on was reaching the younger generation and get them interested in their roots and family association. Thus what better way to do so than getting in touch with achievers, to talk to them and about them.

Soon afterwards, she contacted Caroline Kirouac who had just taken part in the famous and extremely difficult desert race in Morocco known as *Rose des sables*, or *DESERT ROSE*. With Lucille Kirouac, she wrote an article entitled: *Meeting Caroline Kirouac*, published in *Le Trésor* number 94, in 2008.

Later she introduced us to Vincent-Gabriel Kirouac, a young student at the Quebec Agricultural Institute in La Pocatière and told us about his incredible dream of riding across Canada on horseback wearing a Middle-Age suit of armour. After meeting him, an article appeared in *Le Trésor* number 100, in 2010, entitled: *Kirouac ...On The Road Again ...as the song goes*.

Nathalie was also the first one to suggest that the KFA be present on *Facebook* and convinced us that it is the best means of reaching young people. She explained the

advantages for the KFA of using the latest modern technologies. Thanks to her contacts with Vincent-Gabriel Kirouac, she put our Association onto *Facebook*. Since then the KFA has indeed been on *Facebook*, with Michel Bornais, responsible for communications, promoting the KFA both in French and English to all K/s in North America and the world, through the page dedicated to *Maurice Louis Alexandre de Kervoach*.

In 2010, Nathalie took on the preliminary steps towards up-dating our KFA Website. This project is still pending but should be reactivated soon. As part of this undertaking, she had also accepted to be the link between the KFA and the Webmaster for the day to day up-dating of the KFA sites. She also did some PR work for the KFA. In the Autumn of 2008, Céline K/, Lucille K/ and Nathalie K/ represented the KFA at the *Largo Resto-Club* where our Association had been invited to attend a special evening dedicated to Jack Kerouac.

These were four busy years for Nathalie. In addition, she was very concerned about the safe-keeping of the KFA archives, however, given that she is unable to renew her KFA mandate due to increased professional responsibilities, she cannot do anything more about it. One other project was to let us know more about her famous father, Gonzague Kirouac, the strongman of the Lower-Saint-Lawrence. Her dream is to write his biography. We sincerely hope and certainly count on her to write her father's life for posterity.

Dear Nathalie, in the name of the Board Members and of all the KFA members, please allow me to express our deep gratitude for the many hours you spent building and promoting the history of the K/s. Rest assured that we will miss you and that we are looking forward to reading your father's biography.

François Kirouac, President,
For the KFA Board Members



Nathalie and Lucille Kirouac interviewing Caroline Kirouac on 8 December 2008.
(Photo: François Kirouac)

INTERVIEW WITH MRS. MARIE-GINETTE GUAY, PLAYING THE ROLE OF GABRIELLE LEVESQUE, THE MOTHER OF JACK KEROUAC, IN THE FILM *ON THE ROAD* BY WALTER SALLES

During the autumn 2010, Mrs. Marie-Ginette Guay granted us an interview at *Le Périscope*, a Quebec City theatre. Four members of the editorial board of *Le Trésor des Kirouac* were very warmly received by Mrs. Guay who was then the Artistic Director of *Le Périscope*. She is presently a professor of elocution at the Quebec City Conservatory of Theatre and Music.

Mrs. Guay plays the part of Gabrielle Lévesque, Jack Kerouac's mother in the film *On the Road* directed by Walter Salles. In the previous issue of our bulletin, we talked at length the film and its world première in Cannes on 23 May 2012. The launching of the film in North America has been rumored to take place this autumn, for this reason we publish the interview as far as possible verbatim (in French)*. Our conversation was very friendly and Mrs. Guay's answers were spontaneous and colourful. She explained to us how she understood the personality of Jack's mother, and how she felt she should play the part, what she wanted to put across with all the nuances needed in order to truthfully portray Gabrielle Lévesque. (*translated by Marie Lussier Tlmpierley for *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 109).

For our team, it was a delightful experience that we wish to share with you, our readers.

Enjoy reading!

The Editors

Marie-Ginette Guay = MGG

Jacques Kirouac = JK

François Kirouac = FK

Michel Bornais = MB

JK: I am delighted that you accepted to meet with us for an interview for our family bulletin, *Le Trésor des Kirouac*.

MGG: It is my pleasure.

JK: How much did you know about Jack Kerouac and his works before you were hired to play in the film?

MGG: Well, I think I knew about as much as many people of my generation, that is to say I had read a few novels by Jack Kerouac, I saw the TV interview *Le sel de la semaine*, a famous interview if there was one. Not more than that, I knew he was a French Canadian but nothing more. When I was asked to audition for the part of Jack's mother, I went on the Internet to find out a bit more – one can find everything on the Internet.



Marie-Ginette Guay

Photo : Collection Marie Ginette Guay

I wanted to find out Gabrielle Lévesque's background, where she used to live, also wanting to understand the family context in which Jack grew, and how it was during the time-frame of the movie, that is when Jack was in his twenties and going to Columbia University where he was a great sportsman. After that he started travelling through the States. That was right after the WWII, soon after 1945. Well... So I looked for some info, then later I received the answer that I was chosen and I was very happy.

It was a really nice large team. I also read Victor-Lévy Beaulieu's book about Jack Kerouac, called *Essai-poulet* (1972), a strange title. I found it very helpful. He went beyond the Kerouac family and Jack's works but there was a lot about the French-Canadian exodus to the States; he explained this phenomenon very well and how so many from Quebec went there. I found it an inspiring book as I wanted to understand how Gabrielle Lévesque was as a person. What were her aspirations, drawbacks, values; how were people living at that time. Why was she living in the States then, what dreams did she have for her children. I tried to absorb all this, as I did not know her personally, nor her

family; I tried to understand it in a human and global way. What would someone like her in that particular situation, within her culture, hope for and dream for the children.

JK: This is very interesting. ...

MGG: As you can see, you ask one question and I take off.

JK: Do you remember which books you had read before being hired to play in the film?

MGG: I read *Sur la route* (*On the Road*) and of course *Le vagabond solitaire* (*Lonesome Traveler*)... I think these are the only two books I had read (in French). I really did not know much. I did not know that Jack Kerouac had written poetry. Later eventually, I read some.

JK: From the books you read, had you ever noticed Gabrielle Lévesque's role in Jack's life, or for example, how she reacted / intervened when he was going 'on the road'?

MGG: I could see that she was a mother-hen type, a rather overpowering person, but, let's say that as far as I am concerned I did not stop at judging her. Of course I heard that a lot of people said that she was very much controlling her son's life, but I just brushed that idea aside, I was not interested. I was more concerned with her values and what really mattered to her and I did what was written in the scenario. For me, this woman's leitmotiv was her love, unbridled love possibly, but a great love for her children. It is known that losing her son Gérard was very hard, and she transferred that love on the other child. I studied the character in general instead of just reading about some anecdotes about Gabrielle Lévesque.

JK: That is an interesting point, particularly because it is the first

time someone mentions this about Gabrielle: that she would have transferred her love lost from her dead child to the next one. It is the first time I think about this... that someone mentions it. True enough.

MGG: It is human, isn't it? To lose a child is not normal. It is not the logical thing to happen, normally the parents are supposed to go first. So for me, who does not have any children, but I can imagine that it is an incredible pain. And then ... there would be a vacuum ... a gap to be filled. I think that the children who are next in line inherit that sense of void (in the parents).

JK: We will come back to this theme. I would like to ask you something else. How were you recruited to play in the film?

MGG: I auditioned, the normal and usual way; casting agencies offer certain 'faces' to the film producers, so they chose and we are asked to go for audition. So I went for a first audition...the director was absent, but I take for granted that he saw the film of the audition. Later, I was invited for a second audition; this time the director was present. A few days later, I had the answer... I was chosen.

JK: Where did you go for the auditions?

MGG: At the casting agency's office in Montreal.

JK: For both auditions?

MGG: Yes.

JK: Are interviews carried out in front of many people?

MGG: Well, it depends. Sometimes, ... yes, there were a few people, the cameraman, the casting agent (a lady) and a few other people whose responsibility I

ignore. The second time around, the director was present as well as the casting agent and the director of photography... and the producer. Many people are interested to be there.

JK: We heard that two films were shot simultaneously: one on Jack Kerouac, the other about Jack Kerouac looking for his roots. Was that the case?

FK: *In Search of the road.... À la recherche de la route.*

MGG: I did not know that.

JK: So for you, in the film, it was strictly Jack's life?

MGG: Yes, as it is in the novel *On the Road*.

FK: So *On the Road* was the scenario?

MGG: It is really the period after the war, when he was studying at (Columbia University), in New York State. After that his parents moved to New York. The film covers a rather short period.

JK: A short period?

MGG: Oh, yes...

JK: It is not his whole life?

MGG: No, not at all.

JK: Even if the story is based on the book *On the Road*, the original version?

MGG: Yes, that's it.

JK: But once you were chosen to play the part of Gabrielle Lévesque, how did they prepare you for it?

MGG: Costume and make up were done. Nothing special; trying out costumes, change my hair colour... I had brown hair for six months. This was discussed with the director and it was decided what it should be.

JK: Tell us about the information supplied to you in order to play the part? A description? A biography?

MGG: No, not necessarily, there was the scenario. Everything was in the scenario.

FK: Were you allowed to add your personal touch to the character?

MGG: Of course. Even if it is someone who existed in the past, the basic material is there, the dialogues, the scenes in the scenario. However, it is not my neighbour playing the part; it is me, so I have some liberty to add my own understanding and colour to the part. I am the tool when I play a part. So I play it as I perceive it. I wanted to show her as a very loving person – she must have had some shortcomings, like any human being – but I did not want her to come across as an authoritarian character. Perhaps the final result looks like someone controlling, but that is not the way I played the part. I tried to live in her shoes, the woman who has lost a very young child...who lived in an environment that was not her own, in an English sea when she was a francophone. And I am sure that she must have had some personal dreams for her children. I wanted to put across a profoundly human woman, someone wanting the best for his children.

JK: Did you enjoy playing the part?

MGG: Oh, yes, very much so! Particularly because with Walter Salles, the director, it is easy to

have a close work-relation; he likes to see the actors give their best. He gave us some very useful instructions. He paid a great deal of attention to the actors' interpretation. The emphasis was all on the depth of the sentiments and the sometimes rather complex relationship between the various characters. It was fascinating. Sometimes, while filming, it seems that technique is all that matters. Lights! Cuts! . . . Then scenes are shot again for technical reasons instead of acting quality. I felt that this director was concerned with the links between the human beings, the depth of the feelings.

FK: The way the characters were portrayed?

MGG: Concerned with the truth of the matter, the simplicity of things... It is fascinating. It is our job!

FK: You mentioned feeling that great care was taken to be authentic.

MGG: Oh, Yes... I would say there was a real concern with historical authenticity; many people looked after the costumes for historical details. Also human authenticity: feelings, relationships. Making sure a situation was correctly portrayed. When you have good material that does not reek of literature – for example, in a scenario, characters do not speak like in a book; it is very important to have genuine spoken dialogues.

JK: Who wrote the scenario?

MGG: José Rivera.

JK: In your part, did you have to stick to the dialogue in the scenario?

MGG: Of course!

JK: Word for word?

MGG: Not necessarily word for

word; the scenario was written in English, but my part was in French and some of my phrases were in French, especially when speaking to Jack. Those were translated. So it was not always word for word. I had to make it sound French-Canadian. We had some coaches to help us make it sound right. We shall see if it comes out correctly in the film.

JK: This is an interesting point because the production was in both languages. Did you have to shoot twice, once in French and once in English, or just once?

MGG: Just once. There is very little French in the film, it is mainly in English. Perhaps there will be subtitles for the French version. Anyway the dialogue is not complex.

JK: Did Gabrielle speak mostly in French?

MGG: Yes, she speaks English too but only on rare occasions.

JK: What kind of English does she use?

MGG: English with my French accent. That is the way she would have spoken. She was French speaking, so that is the reason why they looked for a French speaking actress. They were looking for the right accent and the right attitude.

FK: For the French version do you know where the post-synchronization will be done?

MGG: I am sorry, but I do not know the answer to that question. Perhaps, it will be presented in English. I do not know. Certainly translated; or with sub-title.

JK: I have heard that there would be two versions, a French one and an English one.

MGG: It is possible. You seem to know more than I do.

MB: Mrs. Lenardon mentioned that. Did you talk with Julia Lenardon, the speech coach?

MGG: There was one lady for English and one for French.

MB: She called the KFA, to have some DVDs about the family, to get an idea about the way people spoke at the time. She had already seen Herménégilde Chiasson's documentary (*Le grand Jack*), which was helpful. However, the Radio-Canada (French CBC) interview made in 1967 (a TV programme called: *Le sel de la semaine*) was not what she needed because that was quite close to the end of Jack's life who died in 1969. She was working with some interviews done in the States when Jack read some poetry on a TV show after becoming famous.

MGG: That would have been at the end of the fifties.

MB: Yes, that was the period she was really interested in. I certainly felt that she wanted authenticity. There are still many people living today who remember that period.

MGG: While travelling in the States, they were trying to recreate the various accents from Denver, the American West, Brooklyn, and many others.

FK: These accents will all be lost in a French translation.

MGG: It is better to see the film in English, in the original version, as for any film. Especially in this film, so much effort was put into getting in all the details, and the United States is such a large country. Each state where they went is so colourful and so different.

JK: But Jack must have spoken French with his mother?

MGG: Oh, yes.

JK: In the film?

MGG: In the film I spoke French with Jack.

JK: But did the actor who played Jack speak any French?

MGG: A little ... very little and he needed help with the French text. He is British, and speaks with a British accent. Just like Jack spoke with an accent too. Even when he spoke French he had an accent. Like an English speaking person has an accent. I do not think that he



spoke then as he did in the programme *Le Sel de la semaine*, which was aired in 1967; it is not at all the same thing... And alcohol had not yet done its ravages. At least not as much (as at the end of his life).

JK: Contrary to what a lot of people think, Jack read voraciously all his life and literature held little secret for him. He quoted Rimbaud by heart.

MGG: In the film, he is often seen with his copy of *À la recherche du temps perdu* (Marcel Proust's famous novel: SWANN'S WAY, In Search of Lost Time). ... That type of French was rather archaic and dated from the beginning of the twentieth century, with a lot of English words blended in, a strange mixture!

JK: A few years ago, we interviewed someone living in Sainte-Croix-de-Lotbinière, a man who had met Jack Kerouac in 1952, they were tavern buddies for a while (*Passe-Temps Club* in Lowell) ... and he gave us some interesting personal information about Jack Kerouac. . .

JK: You say that the film was partly shot in Montreal and partly in Argentina? What was shot in Montreal?

MGG: As far as I was concerned, the scenes taking place in the apartment located above a drugstore when they were living in New York, those scenes were shot in Montreal. Some scenes taking place in North Carolina where Gabrielle's daughter lived were also shot in Montreal; as well as outdoor scenes while they were travelling between North Carolina and New York. Massachusetts scenes were not shot in Montreal; only

scenes of his life in New York... and of her trip to North Carolina to visit her daughter. The winter scenes were shot in Argentina, that was for one trip between New York and North Carolina taking place in winter.

FK: You were in Patagonia then?

MGG: Yes. It is really beautiful. Although it was August, there was real snow everywhere.

JK: Are there many actors and actresses in the film?

MGG: I think so... yes, but I did not see them all.

FK: In the film, who do you play with in your scenes?

MGG: With Jack, his friend, Dean Moriarty, with Marylou, the girl who is with them a great deal of the time during the trip – played by Kristen Stewart. With my daughter, her husband... An aunt, other members of the family. I do not remember everyone.

FK: Were there some Quebec actors?

MGG: Yes, from Montreal.

FK: Some known people? Do you remember any of their names?

MGG: No, I do not remember... they were mainly English speaking, people not as well known to me. That part of the action was all in English. I know very few English speaking actors.

FK: Is it more difficult to work with actors whom you do not know?

MGG: Of course it is more difficult, particularly for me, not being Anglophone, I do not speak English

well so it was not always easy... it is normal. It adds to the difficulty but I took that as a plus in playing the part of Gabrielle, because she was not an Anglophone either, so she would not have understood everything in her days. One is a bit of a pirate in life, picking experiences whenever it is available and using it.

FK: Who played the part of Caroline?

MGG: A young English-speaking actress from Montreal. She was very nice. But I do not recall her name.

JK: Was she bilingual?

MGG: Yes, but she spoke better in English.

FK: Nin is buried in St. Petersburg, Florida, and three years ago a plaque was put on her tomb with the mention « Je me souviens ». (The Province of Quebec's motto meaning: "I remember")

MGG: Gabrielle's daughter buried there? You know more than I do.

JK: And Gabrielle is buried in Nashua, New Hampshire.

MGG: Where the family lived for many years?

JK: Also where Gabrielle and Léo-Alcide were married, in Nashua, both are buried in the family plot as well as Gérard and Jack's daughter Janet Michele. Her ashes were buried there (in 1997).

FK: Has anyone ever told you that it was by accident that Gabrielle Lévesque was born in Quebec?

MGG: By accident?

FK: She should have been born in the States because her mother

already lived there; but her mother came to Quebec for a holiday and gave birth to twin girls in Saint-Pacôme. One of the twins died*.

JK: Did you ever see the house where Gabrielle was born in St. Pacôme?

MGG: No.

JK: Do you know the area at all? When you leave Ste-Anne-de-la-Pocatière, instead of taking the highway, take the old road through the village, drive towards St. Pacôme. About four or five kilometres, just after crossing the railroad tracks, turn left onto a rural road. About a quarter of a kilometer further there is a house on the right. It is still there.

MGG: Are there Lévesque still living in it?

JK: No, it is another family now. (Editor's note: When visiting in June 2012, we learned that a Lévesque family still owns the Lévesque house and lives in it, but Gabrielle may have been born in the next house to the east.)

JK: What impression remains with you from filming *On the Road*, which is all about one of the greatest Franco-American writers and especially about Gabrielle Lévesque-Kirouac, who played such a significant and vital role in Jack's life? So much so that some psychological studies are being done now asking lots of questions about the nature of the relationship between Jack and his mother? What

*Recent discoveries shed some doubts on this story. On the Christening certificate of Gabrielle Lévesque, dated 4 February 1895, it is indicated that her parents are living in Saint-Pacôme at the time of her birth. However, her parents' marriage, Louis Lévesque to Joséphine Jean, is registered in the Catholic parish in Nashua, NH, USA, on 7 May 1894. (F.K.)

are now your thoughts after the filming?

MGG: Well, let me put your question into perspective. The film is not about the mother-son relationship but about Jack's travelling across the country. Of course the mother-son relationship is present but it is not at the centre of the film; although, it remains an interesting side-story. It could probably be studied in another film; in the present film, the whole story is about Jack and his friends.

For me, it was a wonderful experience because the relationship is complex and rich, as rich as human beings are. As for myself, I looked at it as a human being to be discovered, her motivations, her love. I concentrated on what she wanted out of life. In playing the part, I underlined the great love for her son. One feels that things were not all well between her and her husband Léo, so I let that inspire me too. In the end, one lives many lives by proxy. It increases my understanding of people.

FK: When we heard that you were given the part, we were very happy because it meant that the person chosen was someone who knows the local culture.

MGG: I think they really searched. They could have taken a French woman as they have French partners, but they chose someone here (in Quebec).

FK: Did you ever feel that there were certain things added or improper comments?

MGG: No, never.

FK: Obviously, efforts were made to stay close to the context, the ambiance of the time.

MGG: Oh, yes, the apartment in New York, all things found in the

forties. Even things I had in my shed at home, trademarks we no longer see. Old kitchen appliances from my grandma's time.

JK: Approximately how long will the film be?

MGG: I do not know. I have no idea how long it will be after it is edited.

JK: Does Gabrielle often intervene in the film?

MGG: I do not know. I do not know what will be in the film after the editing is done; sometimes there are surprises.

JK: Were your scenes rather long?

MGG: Some yes... particularly when we shot the Christmas scene, otherwise they were usually short.

JK: Were some of your scenes more difficult to play for emotional reasons, or other reasons?

MGG: With all the tensions between Jack and his mother; she did not like his friends very much!

JK: She kept warning him against his friends, particularly against Ginsberg; does Ginsberg appear in the film?

MGG: Yes, but I am not in those scenes, those took place in Louisiana, but I am not involved in those scenes.

JK: She used to say that she did not like his friends.

MGG: No, she did not like them. There are scenes with Dean Moriarty whom Gabrielle did not like much either; same with Marylou. I do not think that actors or actresses could answer that question. Neither easy, nor difficult.

FK: No, I think Jacques meant

periods of tensions towards his friends.

MGG: Yes, as soon as his friends are present, there is always some tension.

JK: In your dialogue with Jack, are there any questions concerning his sexual life?

MGG: No.

JK: That never came up? His amorous relationships with women or men?

MGG: No.

JK: So, there is no mention of it in the film?

MGG: In the film, yes; but not with me.

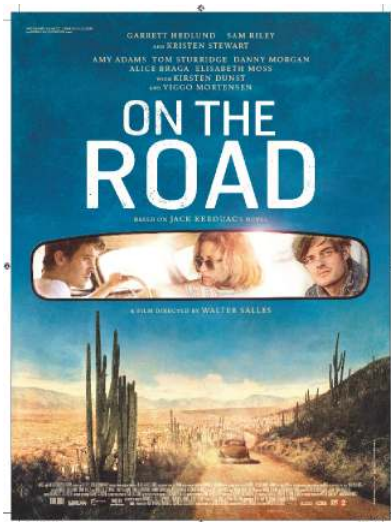
JK: Gabrielle was not involved in that?

MGG: No. In the film there is a lot about Jack and his sexual adventures. They talk a lot about it but not with his mother. During the whole trip through the States, with Marylou, and Dean, yes, but not with his mother.

FK: Does it mean that his mother was not aware of this aspect?

MGG: It is not there. The film is not about the mother-son relationship. What appears is her loving relationship towards her son. The tension only arises because she does not like Dean much, nor does she like Marylou either. When Jack is with me, there is no question about his *manly* life.

FK: Of course it is well known that in *On the Road*, Jack exaggerated a lot. We know it, there are lots of testimonies to that effect. A great



deal it fictitious.

MGG: He is the witness telling what he saw his friends doing. He is the narrator.

JK: In the film, Gabrielle's role, would be at the beginning of Jack's life?

MGG: Yes, that's it, during the forties.

JK: I thought you were a bit too young to play a grandmother. You mention that it happens in her forties...

MGG: She is in her fifties at the time.

JK: At the beginning of Jack's life.

MGG: He discovers the road. He is 27 or 28. That is really the period of the novel. That is what the film shows, when the novel was written. The period after the WWII... when youth reacted and how they reacted: those who had gone to war and those, like Jack, who had not been. He could envisage another America looming: the America of consumerism, materialism, individualistic. He wanted

something else out of life. To me it looks like the story of contradictory dreams meeting head-on. The dream of this French-Canadian family living in the States, wanting the best and the dream of this young American also wanting the best, and contesting the materialist and individualist values, corrupting human beings.

JK: That is a theme close to your heart. You talk a lot about it. Once you talked about a French-Canadian in the States, in another context, the confrontation of different value system regarding culture, language, religion.

MGG: I think we all have family members who settled in the USA, parents, grandparents, great-grandparents who settled there. There was a break in the Quebec society. At one point people were so poor, dirt poor.

MB: I remember talking about this with Father Lévesque in Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pocatière; about the lack of interest among our American Kirouac cousins for their source. And he said to me: "You want people to go back to a tough period when they were poor and miserable. It is normal that they react negatively."

MGG: Not just poor, but dirt poor. It is difficult to imagine what it was like. In winter it is damn cold.

JK : Mrs. Guay, you have just been playing in a film about Jack Kerouac. At first you knew what you had read. Now that the film is done, what has this experience added to your life?

MGG: I learned a lot of things, about the author for one, and I also saw another side of a human soul, the love – affection - for another person, I met many new and great people.

JK: Thank you very much indeed for your time and answers. Now we are looking forward to seeing you playing Jack's mother, Gabrielle.

Below is the translation by Marie Lussier Timperley of the letter on the next page

Sainte Justine, 26 July 2012

Good morning Marie,

As discussed, please find attached some photos I recently managed to obtain from the journalist from La Voix du Sud. One of those appears in the copy of the article published in this newspaper which I also include.

In the name of the Heritage Society, I wish to thank the Kirouac Family Association for the gift of these treasures and for taking such good care of them during all those years. I will personally ensure that they are looked after in the best possible way in the future. In addition, with the help and counsel of our partners from the **Etchemins CLD**, we will see how the documents and other artefacts can be best safely publicly exhibited.

It was really wonderful to meet the three of you again and I am so glad I stopped at the KFA stand during the Genealogical Fair (in Quebec City, February 2012) where we were able to renew our acquaintance. I sincerely hope we meet again in the near future.

Ghislain Royer

GIFT FROM OUR ASSOCIATION TO THE SAINTE-JUSTINE HERITAGE SOCIETY

On 24 June 2012, our Association made a donation to the *Sainte-Justine Heritage Society* that included some documents and objects that had belonged to Mr. Jules Adrien Kirouac, priest. These various artifacts had been ceded to the KFA by Mrs. Marie Leclerc, Mr. J.A. Kirouac's last housekeeper in her will. Among these documents and objects were:

- one poster advertising a concert of sacred music given at the occasion of the Pastoral Jubilee of Mr. J. A. Kirouac, priest, by Marius Cayouette, organist, Léonidas Tanguay, baritone with the St-Joseph-de-Bauce Choral Society, under the direction of J.J.O. Lachance, on Sunday 25 August 1935 at 7:30 p.m.;
- one programme of a recital given in the Parish Church of Sainte-Justine;
- various religious and priest vestments given to Mr. J.A. Kirouac, priest, by Ste-Justine parishioners or made by Mrs. Marie Leclerc;
- the text of one public address made in honour of Mr. J. A. Kirouac, Ste-Justine's Parish



Letter of thanks from Ghislain Royer, who was President of the Sainte-Justine Heritage Society in 1998 when the KFA held its annual meeting in that city. Translation of this letter is on the preceding page (page 30) in the lower right corner.

Priest, on the occasion of his Silver Jubilee as Parish Priest.

For the presentation last June, the KFA was represented by Jacques Kirouac, KFA founding President, and two other founding members, Marie Kirouac, KFA Board

Member, and the current President, François Kirouac. The precious artifacts, documents and religious vestments that had been in the care of the KFA since Mrs. Marie Leclerc's death on 6 December 2005, were handed over to Mr. Jean-Pierre Tanguay, President of the *Société du Patrimoine de Sainte-Justine*. This gift was presented on the occasion of the celebrations marking 150th Anniversary of the arriving of the Trappist monks in Sainte-Justine which coincided with the foundation of the Parish.

The Editors

From left to right: Jean-Pierre Tanguay, Pierre Tanguay, Jacques Kirouac, Marie Kirouac, François Kirouac and Ghislain Royer.



GOOD MANNERS AT A BRETON FARM

by Pierre-Jacques Hélias ⁽¹⁾

The following text by Pierre-Jacques Hélias (1), a Breton author, was sent to us by our 'cousin' Alain Olmi from Paris, who is a descendant of Huelgoat's Le Bihan family. You may remember meeting Mr. and Mrs. Olmi in 2008, in Quebec City when they came to our K/ annual gathering, and Mr. Olmi took us on a journey back in time all the way to Saint Louis, King Louis 9th of France (1214-1270). He also mentioned a hypothetical presence of a Le Bihan at the disastrous defeat in Egypt, of the seventh Crusade led by the King's brother.

Mr. Olmi always keeps up with the KFA's activities by regularly reading *Le Trésor des Kirouac*. The following text, his contribution to the present Trésor, shows a very Breton trait: the habit of 'beating about the bush, in order to avoid a direct explanation or answer'.

We are very grateful to Mr. Olmi for sending us this entertaining page about *good manners* in Brittany and we take this opportunity to invite you to check his Web Site at: <http://dakerscocode.blogspot.com>. He tells us that it is now being read in forty-one countries and that as of November 2011, it had been visited 12,000 times. But unfortunately, as our translator writes: *the flavour of the local language is 'lost in translation'*.

The Editor

This is the tale of one called Corentin, for the purpose of this story. He is coming to the farm of one called François, probably on a Sunday afternoon, with the intention of borrowing some baskets that he needs to gather potatoes in the coming days. As the farm dog makes his voice heard, the visitor makes a point to cross the courtyard in a straight line but looking both nonchalant and thoughtful; his eyes looking beyond the windows of the farmhouse. The reason he acts like that is to give the farm inhabitants time to identify him, as they watch his approach

through the windows and prepare themselves to welcome him. Perhaps the house is not in perfect order or the Mistress is busy somewhere else. If that is the case, then the Master goes outside, meets the visitor under the lean-to and takes him around to see the mangers, the stable or the orchard while the main room is being prepared. If the door were to be closed, then Corentin immediately exits the courtyard through the gate without looking closely at anything, as he certainly does not want to seem nose-y. If the door is open, he stops on the threshold, clears his throat two or three times and calls:

- *Anybody home?*

Silence at first; then a woman's voice answers:

- *Somebody is home.*

- *I would not want to disturb.*

- *You are not disturbing. Do come in!*

- *Well, you know...*

Corentin steps inside, but only just, and stops again, standing on

the hard-earth floor. Through the kitchen door, he can see the Mistress of the house leaning against the china cupboard, she smiles at him. Sometimes the Master will appear at the door but most of the time he remains seated at the head of the table, the Master's place. His voice is heard:

- *Do come in. Don't be afraid.*

- *Ho, I am not afraid.*

- *Why bother coming all the way here and stand in the doorway like a beggar.*

- *Well!*

He enters into the kitchen but stops again. Only then, François pretending to recognize him, says:

(1) Pierre-Jakez Hélias, in Breton Per-Jakez Hélias; however, in the government register, his official name is: Pierre-Jacques Hélias (17 February 1914—13 August 1995) He was a journalist, writer, and poet in both French and Breton. He collected Breton stories and folk tales, and was also involved in theatre and radio, His most famous work, *Le Cheval d'orgueil*, was made into a film by Claude Chabrol in 1980. Source: Wikipedia



A mid-nineteenth century well-equipped kitchen in a bourgeois home, that of the Kerbriand-Postic family near Brest. As Alain Olmi says: *similar to what the Le Bihan notaries would have enjoyed!*

- Hey! But it's Coirentin.
 - Yes, it's me. Nice day! Isn't it !
 - At the moment, yes. However, the wind is coming down on Penmarc'h. I'd say the weather is taking a turn for the worse.

Some comments on the weather conditions follow; after which the second subject is tackled: harvest.

- Have you started picking up potatoes around here?
 - We just finished. Why don't you put your weight on the bench? (i.e. = please sit down).

The visitor snaps:

- I am not tired.

He remains standing; and farming is discussed for a short while. Then François said to his wife:

- The man refuses to sit down. He still hopes to grow taller.

The Mistress comes to the rescue:

- Come on, Coirentin! Sit down, it is a sturdy bench. It will not break under your weight.

But Coirentin gets red in the face with anger:

- I told you, I am not tired!

Only on the third appeal, does Coirentin consent but only after seeing the wife wiping the bench with a cloth. On both sides the honour is safe. He gingerly half sits on the bench and, only later, will he sit properly.

Then the conversation covers all the latest local news in order: burials, marriages, christenings. But soon, there is another attack:

- Coirentin, would you like a glass of cider!

And another verbal match ensues:

- Nothing. I am not thirsty.

- The weather is heavy and one gets really warm walking.

- You know very well that I live nearby.

- Then have some lambig⁽²⁾. Just a drop?

- Nothing at all. I did not come here to drink.

The Mistress comments to the

effect that he is well known for moderation. Quietly she opens the door of the cupboard, grabs a napkin and puts the bottle on the table. Coirentin jumps up and standing straight, with a tragic look, says:

- Please, Marie-Jeanne, do not open this bottle or I am leaving!

They calm him down and he sits again. François diverts his attention while Marie-Jeanne fills a glass for him. And Coirentin feels free to pretend to be annoyed and he puts up a hell of a fight claiming that they are trying to make him drunk. However, in the end, he accepts to raise his glass with François. He drinks and makes a terrible grimace:

- It's damn strong, but it's really good stuff.

Within a few minutes he will have emptied his glass pretending to throw the last drop under the table but there will not be any last drop.

And all the subjects rapidly covered earlier in the conversation are taken up again. Nevertheless, all the while, on the table, one by one appear a bottle of white wine, then a bottle of red wine, some home-made pâté, lard, bread, butter and the ever essential coffee. Coirentin, again faking annoyance, protests with each delicacy appearing on the table. A solid hour goes by. Only then does Coirentin mention the reason for his visit unless, of course, François already said something because he knew very well why the other man came to see him:

- Perhaps you would like some of my baskets to pick up your potatoes?

- Well, ... really I should have woven some during the winter, but, you know...

- Marie-Jeanne, could you prepare four or five baskets for Coirentin?

- They are ready.

- Now Coirentin, have one for the road before leaving!

Once more, Coirentin refuses, again pretending to be annoyed. But, when it is time to say goodbye



Mr. Alain Olmi during his visit to Québec in 2008. (Photo: Pierre Kirouac)

they are all very happy. The Master of the house walks his visitor all the way to the limit of his domain. This is what is known as *proper manners*, that is *good manners*. Coirentin must refuse every offer if he does not want look rude and possibly one looking for free drinks.

The host must offer and re-offer, invite over and over until Coirentin accepts. Otherwise, Coirentin would not go in, would not drink, would not eat, and would go back home unhappy and upset and mutter: they did not insist! And the good reputation of Marie-Jeanne and her husband would take a down-turn. One has to be consistent! If one does not have the time to do things properly, according to good-manners, then simply send a kid to fetch the baskets. Children do not have to go through the whole ceremonial. They race back home with the baskets on their head and half-a-dozen beautiful apples under their shirt.

(2) *Lambig* is the name of some Breton schnapps with 40% alcohol content. In Brittany, it is also known as *Fine Bretagne*, *gwinardant*, *odivi* or *lagout*. It is called the 'drop' in the rest of western France, AOC in Calvados and *calva* in Normandy. It is used in cooking and as a digestive, rarely as an aperitif. *Fine Bretagne* is *lambig* aged in oak cask during four years; since 1999, it is an AOR = *Appellation d'origine réglementée* meaning Registered Original Name. Source: Wikipedia

GOOD MANNERS AT A BRETON FARM

First reaction from a reader

LeRoy Roger Curwick, from Minneota, Minnesota, read the text earlier as he proofread the English translation, about '*Good manners at a Breton Farm*'. He loved it and immediately emailed us his comments.

"I see our Minnesota "Nice" culture in many aspects of this story, especially in what we call "the long Curwick goodbye" wherein we follow our guest out to their car, have another half-hour of conversation beside the car in the driveway and follow their car out to the road and watch and wave as they drive away. It is also seen in my wife Kay's Icelandic & Norwegian family traditions wherein refreshments are offered and refused at least twice before we deign to accept. I just loved it!"

Does this text which you just read on the previous pages, bring back to your memory similar habits or "rituals" in your family? Why not let us know and, if you agree, we could publish your anecdotes in a future *Trésor*.

The Editors

KIROUAC FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHIC HERITAGE

In the summer of 2007, we printed this photo hoping someone would know who was on it and where it came from. Michel Bornais finally elucidated the mystery.

It was among Léona Kirouac's papers and found after her death. This is the family of Louis Joseph Kirouac, son of Marcel (GFK 00269) and his wife Françoise Gagné-Kirouac. If you look up *Le Trésor*, number 106, on page 10, you will see the links between this family and the Kyrouacs, Burtons and Curwicks whom we met at our Annual K/ Gathering in Kankakee in June 2011.

First row (L. to R.): Auguste Kirouac, Azélie Blanchette-Kirouac holding her baby-son, Charles K/, Delphine K/, Louis-Joseph K/ holding his son, Léon K/, and



Alphonse K/; standing behind (L. to R.): Marie K/, Emma K/, Arthur K/, Joseph K/, Éva K/, Pierre K/, Auxilia K/ and Azélie K/. (Photo: AFK, archive number: X4330-0008)

Many thanks to Michel Bornais for supplying this precious data, a great addition to our collection *Kirouac Family Photo Heritage*. If you have old photos, please forward them to us because by publishing them in *Le Trésor* they could be identified and it would enrich our family treasure.

Ode to our old homes

*Inanimate objects, do you have a soul
that attaches itself to our soul and forces it to love?
Lamartine*

*Dear old houses of ours,
Do you still have a soul?*

*Your attics decorated with heavy blond wooden beams,
Your parlours and their undefined scents,
Your large kitchens full of sunshine,
Are your walls still impregnated
With the laughs and cries of the children,
With the adults' lively conversations,
With the secrets whispered behind closed doors,
With the sick's moaning and the dying's anguish?*

*Dear old houses,
Simply seeing you,
Simply passing in front of you,
Brings out sheafs of memories.*

*Dear old houses,
No one can erase from your walls
All our dreams, all our secrets, all our joys
Which you have discretely witnessed!*

*Dear old Houses of ours,
You always keep your soul!*

© Hélène Kirouac



Hélène Kirouac is from Warwick. She is the youngest of the five children of Joseph-Jean and Amanda (née Ouellette) Kirouac. Teacher by training, she is now a full-time volunteer.

Hélène was a KFA Board member from 1997 to 2002. Hélène designed the KFA crest and wrote a number of texts that were published in many issues of the *Trésor des Kirouac*. Besides the present anecdotes you read in this issue, let us remind you of another text entitled *Homage to our valourous women pioneers* published in 1999 (see *Le Trésor*, number 58, pp 28-39) in which she wrote about the first Kirouac pioneering women in Warwick.

The Editors



IN MEMORIAM



BÉLANGER, GERMAINE née VERMETTE (1918 – 2012)

At the St-Augustin Long Term Care Residence in Quebec City, on 8 August, aged 93 years and eleven months, died Germaine Vermette, widow of Paul Bélanger (1913-2003). Born in St-Agapit (Lotbinière County), on 7 September 1918, she was the daughter of Marie-Anne (née Fontaine) and Alphonse Vermette. Funeral was on 11 August 2012 at Notre-Dame de l'Espérance Church in Quebec City. She leaves to mourn her children: Gaston (late Pierrette Guay) (Lisette Grégoire), Colette (André Lafrenière), Louise (Jacques Létourneau); her grandchildren: Diane, Nicole and François Bélanger, Daniel and Chantal Lafrenière, Nathalie, Anne, Annie and Manon Jourdain and their spouses; her twenty great-grandchildren, brothers, sisters and their spouses: Lucienne (the late Arthur Olivier), Raymond, Marie-Claire (**the late Robert Kirouac GFK 01873**), Jeanne d'Arc (the late Anatole Paradis), Maurice (the late Pauline Normand), Jean-Marie (Denise Lacroix), Paul-Émile (Pauline Soucy), Jeannine (Louis-Philippe Gagné), Lucien, Denise (Gérard Bédard), Marguerite Caux (the late Alfred Bélanger).

BILODEAU, ANDRÉ (1928 – 2012)

On 30 July 2012 at the Hôtel-Dieu Hospital in Lévis, aged 84 years and two months, died André Bilodeau, widower of Denise Vachon-Bilodeau. Funeral on 3 August 2012 in St-Sylvestre Church followed by burial in the Parish Cemetery. He leaves to mourn his children: Francine (Martin Fontaine), Germain, Martin, Maryse (Gaétan Roy), Rémi, **Myrienne (Jacques Kirouac)**; his grandchildren: Jean Fontaine (Annie Labonté), Louis Fontaine (Caroline Caux), Pierre Fontaine (Mylène Deguisse), Alain Fontaine (Marilyn Lefebvre), Témingka Plante, Nathaniel P. Bilodeau, the late Jolyane P. Bilodeau, Donovan P. Bilodeau, Kassandra P. Bilodeau, Adam Roy (Gabrielle Sohier), Benjamin Roy (Myriam Lachance), Elisé Roy, **Bythia Kirouac, Audrey Kirouac, Maïly Kirouac**; his great-grandchildren: Charlotte, Edouard and Xavier Fontaine, Miguel and William Fontaine, Élie Fontaine, William Plante and Zachary Roy; and his brothers and sisters, and their spouses, nephews, nieces and other relatives.

CARON, LOUISELLE née RAYMOND (1935 – 2012)

At Notre-Dame-du-Lac Long Term Care Residence, on 9 August 2012, aged 77 years and four months, died Louiselle née Raymond, wife of Simon Caron. She was predeceased by her parents, Simone (née Pelletier) and J. Antoine Raymond. Funeral on 18 August 2012 in St-Louis-du-Ha! Ha! Parish Church followed by burial in the Parish Cemetery. Besides her husband, Simon Caron, she leaves to mourn her children: Pierre (Lucie Rioux), Jean (Brigitte Chartrand); her grandchildren: Marie-Pier (Éric Galland), Jean-Philip (Janie Madgin), Simon, Samuel (Marie-Christine Roy), Laurent, Camille (James Tremblay); her great-grandson Mathis; also her brothers and sisters and their spouses: Louis-Georges (the late Madeleine Bélair), Ghislaine (the late Réjean Nadeau), Marius, Paul-André (Raymonde Beaupré), the late Huguette, the late Jean-Marc (Desneiges Morin), Marcel (Margot Pelletier), Gilles (Andrée Dubé), Aline (Laurier Desbiens), Guy (Ruth Morin). She was the sister-in-law of: Annette (the late Henri-Paul Morin), the late Bertrand (Jacqueline De Grandmont), **Carmelle Caron (the late Conrad Kirouac GFK 02250)**.

DION, FERNAND (1920 – 2012)

At Maison Triquet (long term care residence), on 9 May 2012, aged 91 years, died Fernand Dion; predeceased by his wife Pierrette Bégin-Dion. His parents, Germaine (née Proulx) and Eugène Dion. He leaves to mourn his children: Danielle (**André Kirouac GFK 00520**), Pierre-Jean (Diane Beaulé), Bernard (Céline Nystrom); his grandchildren: Marc-André, the late Andréanne, Frédéric, Vincent; his brothers and sisters and their spouses: the late Rolande (the late Adrien Demers), Marcel (the late Thérèse Bilodeau), the late André (Michelle Fournier), Marie-Marthe (Gilles Bourdeau), Denise (the late Philippe Girard), Jean-Marc (Simone Couture), the late George-Édouard (Micheline Jolicoeur); the late Benoit (Lise Brouillard); his friend Louise Alford from Florida. He was a veteran of WWII and past owner of Sillery Sports & Cycle, later known as Hobby Dion in Ste-Foy. Burial of ashes in St-David Cemetery at a later date.

DUMAS, JEANNINE née KIROUAC (1932 – 2012)

On 29 July 2012, aged eighty years, died Janine Kirouac Dumas (**GFK 01306**), widow of Jean-Marc Dumas. She was the daughter of Albert and Yvonne (née Laroche) Kirouac. She leaves to mourn her mother-in-law, Irène Auger-Dumas, her children, Luc in Edmonton, Alberta, Josée in Brampton, Ontario, Manon (Gérard Di Biase) from Ottawa, Ontario; her grandchildren: Rochelle and Alexandre. She was the sister of the late Gérard (the late Thérèse Gervais), Gisèle (the late Paul-André Caron), **Lucille*** (Jacques Boulet), Roland, Fernand (Michelle Charest), Thérèse (Réjean Brassard), Raymonde (François Dumulon), Cécile (Marc Roger), Suzanne (Jean-Marc Piette), Jocelyne, Jean (Odette Caron), Lucie (Denis Laverdière), Michel and Richard. Sister-in-law of Pauline Dumas (Laurier Morin), Marguerite, the late Thérèse (the late Henri Morneau), Yolande (the late Gaston Bergeron), the late Pierre, Paul and Jacqueline. Funeral in Ste-Bernadette Chapel in Rouyn-Noranda on 31 July 2012. (***Member of the KFA Board.**)

GAGNON, PÂQUERETTE née MORNEAU (1932 – 2012)

At the long term care residence in St-Augustin, on 22 June 2012, aged 80 years, died Pâquerette Morneau-Gagnon, wife of Clément Gagnon. Predeceased by her parents: Yvonne (née St-Gelais) and Georges Morneau. She leaves to mourn her children and their spouses: Julien (Jeanette Gagnon), Jasmine (Max Pelletier), **Ginette (Denys Kirouac GFK 00994)**, Michel (Audrey Gravel) and Étienne (Annie Lemay); her grandchildren: Jessica, Ayden, Nolan, Nicolas, Jérôme, Philippe, Jennifer, Michaël, Stacy and Jean-Daniel; her great-granddaughter Eleanore; her brothers and sisters, brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, as well as many nephews and nieces, and other relatives. Funeral on 30 June 2012 in Notre-Dame-de-l'Annonciation Church in L'Ancienne-Lorette.

GUÉRETTE, CLAIRE (1949 – 2012)

At Maison Albatros, long term care residence in Trois-Rivières, on 6 August 2012, died Claire Guérette, daughter of **Jeannette Kirouac (daughter of Alphonse Kirouac GFK 01586)** and the late Armand Guérette. Funeral on 11 August 2012 in Ste-Thérèse Church in Trois-Rivières. Burial at a

later date. She was preceded in death by her brothers and sister: Fernand, Jean-Paul and Mélita. She leaves to mourn two daughters, Mélanie Guérette Morrisette (Sébastien Lefebvre), Kristel Guérette Morrisette and her grandson, Marius; her brothers, sisters and their spouses: Raymond (the late Carmella), Roger (Émerise), Léandre (Lauraine), Claude (Nancy), Daniel, Michel (Solange), Lucille (Renald), Gisèle (Clifford), Denise, Claudine (Cyrille), Annette (Martin), Rose-Marie (Ronnie), Linda (Raymond), Nicole (Maurice), Murielle (Gilles).

KEROACK, THERESE (1917 – 2011)

On 16 October 2011, at Maison Youville in St-Albert, Alberta, aged 93 years, died **Therese Keroack (GFK 01219)**. She leaves to mourn her sisters: Jeanne (the late Tharcis Forestier), Simone (Charles-Émile Joly), Marguerite (the late Antoine Deschênes); her brothers: Richard (Lynne Mercereau) and Bernard (Annette Lemay). She was preceded in death by her parents: Albert Keroack and Emma Baril, her sisters: Marie (Patrick Romero), Cecile (Paul Deschênes), Annette; her brothers: Albert (Mickey) (Marion), Aimé (Gemma Morin), Joseph (Florence Vallée), Antonio (Lynn Palleshi) and Paul (Marie-Claire Hurtubise). Funeral at St-Joachim Church in St-Albert, Alberta, on 29 October 2011.

KIROUAC, ALINE née MONTMIGNY (1927 – 2012)

On 3 August 2012, at St-Jean Eudes Long Term Care Residence in Quebec City, died Aline Montminy-Kirouac, wife of Jean-Marie Kirouac (**GFK 00542**). Funeral on 8 August 2012 in St-Rodrigue Church in Charlesbourg (Quebec). Besides her husband, she leaves to mourn, her children: Charles (Winnifred Pitcher), John (Johanne Delisle), Louise (Bertrand Germain), Paul (Anny Jeffrey); her grandchildren: Catherine, Richard, Philippe, Simon, Martin and Jean-François; her brother, sisters, and their spouses: Yvette (the late Maurice Ross), Louise (Thomas J. Baribault), Mabel (Brian A Doherty), Denyse (Alphone Breau), Simone (Laurent Masson), Gabriel (the late Janine Simard), Thérèse, Lilian Heckett (the late Marcel) as well as nephews and nieces, and other relatives and friends.

KIROUAC, ANTOINE (1922 – 2012)

Art Maison Paul-Triquet, long term care residence, on 6 August 2012, aged ninety, died **Antoine Kirouac (GFK 02312)**, originally from L'Islet-sur-Mer; he was the son of Philippe and Alma (née Boucher) Kirouac. He leaves to mourn his children:

Philippe, Sylvie, Joanne and Nancy; his grandchildren, nephews and nieces. Burial of ashes will be in the Parish Cemetery at a later date. The precious archives, known as **Philippe's Papers**, are a gift to our family association from his son, Philippe.

LALIBERTÉ, JACQUELINE DESCHÊNES (1931 – 2012)

At St-Joseph de Lévis long term care residence, on 14 June 2012, aged eighty years and eight months, died Jacqueline Deschênes-Laliberté, widow of Marcel Laliberté; her parents were Marie-Anna (née Tremblay) and Wilfrid Deschênes. She leaves to mourn her children: Doris (**Rino Kirouac GFK 01484**) and Gilles (**Lyne Kirouac GFK 01488**); her grandchildren: François (Stéphanie St-Louis), David, Vincent, Nancy (Jean-François Goulet) and Katy (David Breton); her great-grandchildren: Alycia, Alexis and Wesley; her sisters: the late Rita, the late Georgette (the late Thomas Dufour), the late Carmélia (the late Émilien Couture), Florence (Arthur Bilodeau), Jeanne-D'Arc (Robert Couture); her brothers: the late Fernand (the late Jeanne Paré) and the late Gérard (the late Jeanne-D'Arc Laberge); her sisters-in-law: Jeanne Guérard (the late Cyrille Laliberté), Thérèse Laliberté (the late Gérard Aubé), Margot Morin (the late Charles Laliberté), as well as other relatives and friends. Funeral on 23 June 2012 in St-Anselme Church.

LAZZARA, Dolores B. née FRITZ (1913 – 2012)

Barling, Ark., formerly of Kankakee, died Friday (Sept. 7, 2012) at Ashton Place in Barling. She was born May 14, 1913, in Herscher, the daughter of Theodore and **Blanche Burton Fritz***. Her husband, Joseph C. Lazzara, whom she married April 1, 1934, at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, Kankakee, died Dec. 10, 1993. A funeral Mass was celebrated on Thursday at Maternity BVM Catholic Church, Bourbonnais. The Rev. Jason Nesbit officiated. Burial in Mount Calvary Cemetery, Kankakee. Mrs. Lazzara retired from JC Penney after many years of service. She owned the Friendly Tavern in Kankakee. She was a volunteer at Seconds To Go for many years. She enjoyed reading, crocheting and sewing. Surviving are one daughter, Linda Reed, of Bradley; nine grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and six great-great-grandchildren; and one sister, Gretchen Roberts, of Arizona. She was preceded in death by her parents; two daughters, Judith Karns and Carol Kemnitz; one sister, Faye Guenette; and two brothers,

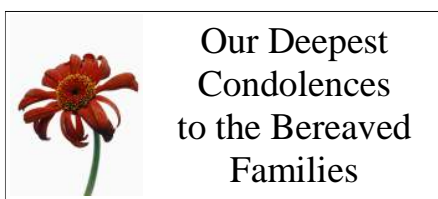
Merle and Everette Fritz. (***Dolores' mother was Blanche Burton (GFK 00209), daughter of Louis Alfred, the last K/ from the branch born in Henryville to Joseph (GFK 00200) & Marie Honorine Thuot Kyrouac.**)

MICHAUD, CECILE née DUBÉ (1928 – 2012)

At the Long Term Care Residence in St-Fabien-de-Panet, on 25 June 2012, aged 83 years, died Cécile Dubé-Michaud, widow of Paul Michaud. She was from St-Eugène de l'Islet. She leaves to mourn her children and their spouses: Ghislain (Jacqueline Gosselin), Martin (Sylvie Caron), Hervé (Manon Roy), Eddy (Céline Dureau), Langis (Michèle Lecours), Johanne (Enrico Dubé); her grandchildren: Karina; Cynthia (Mathieu), Jason and Caroline; Alexandre, Maxime Claudine and Pascale; Audrey and Julien; Sébastien and Catherine, as well as Étienne Dubé, Mathieu and Marie-Ève Roussin; Jessica, David and Antoine Plourde, Frédéric, Yannick and Dominique Duclos, and her great-grandchildren. She was the sister and sister-in-law of: Yvon (Aline Gamache), Donat (Thérèse Labranche), Berthe (the late Marcel Côté), the late Luc, Thérèse (Gérard «Gerry» Couture), the late Hervé (Bertha Cormier); from the Michaud family: Maurice (the late Isabelle Cloutier), **the late Rita (the late Roger Kirouac GFK 02175)**, the late Guy (the late Colette Caron), the late Thérèse (the late Lucien Careau), Jeannine (Guy Brisson), the late Claude (Monique Ouellet), Carmelle (Michel), Suzanne (Raymond Cloutier). Funeral on 30 June 2012 in Saint-Eugène de L'Islet Parish Church. Burial of ashes in the Parish Cemetery.

PLOURDE, MURIELLE (1961 – 2012)

At Sacré-Cœur Hospital in Montréal, on 28 July 2012, aged fifty years, died Murielle Plourde; her parents were Gemma (née Moreau) and Rémi Plourde. She leaves to mourn her brother, **Normand (Sylvie Kirouac)**, her nephews, Rémy and Guillaume, as well as Lucie Gosselin, her family and team, Johanne, Gaétan and André, parents and friends. Funeral on 3 August 2012 in St-Maurice Church in Duvernay, in Laval.



GENEALOGY / THE READERS' PAGE

The KFA's computerized genealogical database includes a number of persons for whom we are missing names of spouse and/or parents. Answers to the following questions would enable us to complete our data. Feel free to consult previous issues of *Le Trésor* and forward us relevant info.

With many thanks

François Kirouac

Many thanks to Greg Kyrouac from Illinois for answering questions 394 to 399.

Question 394

What are the names of the parents of Arthur Dubois, spouse of Bessie Elisabeth Burton, daughter of Philippe Kerouac (GFK 02732) and Anna Theolinda Olson?

First, for François' records, according to the Maternity BVM Church records: 13 November 1892 baptism of Marie Virginie Elisabeth Kerrouac by Father Beaudoin 7 November 1892 born to Philippe Kerrouac and Lindy Olson. Godparents: Pierre Pelletier and Cordelie Kerrouac. Second, his parents were Louis DUBOIS, born in Canada, and Caroline DEMARTEAU, born in Illinois.

Question 395

What are the names of the parents of Anna Theolinda Olson, spouse of Philippe Kerouac (GFK 02732)?

Her parents were Peter August OLSON & Louisa Albertina ANDERSON, both born in Sweden, as was Anna Theolinda.

Question 396

What are the names of the parents of Rosella Jetté, spouse of Viateur

Burton, son of Philippe Kerouac (GFK 02732) and Anna Theolinda Olson?

Her parents were Joseph JETTE & Mary LORD.

Question 397

What are the names of the parents of Anna Weber, spouse of Meddie Kerouac, son of Philippe Kerouac (GFK 02732) and Anna Theolinda Olson?

First, for François' records, according to the Maternity BVM Church records: 28 June 1891 baptism of Joseph Francois Kerrauock by Father Beaudoin. 24 June 1891 born to Philippe Kerrauock and Lendy Olson. Godparents: Francois Mailloux and Delia Kerrauock. Second, her parents were George WEBER & Auguste PRIES.

Question 398

What are the names of the parents of Bertha Perkins, second spouse of Philip Burton, son of Philippe Kerouac (GFK 02732) and Anna Theolinda Olson?

Her parents were John PERKINS & Cecilia GARNER.

Question 399

What are the names of the parents of Anna Clark, first spouse of Philip Burton, son of Philippe Kerouac (GFK 02732) and Anna Theolinda Olson?

Her parents were Francis CLARK & Carrie LACOSTE.

NEW QUESTIONS

Question 400

What are the names of the parents of Aimé Lamontagne, husband of Marie-Anne Kirouac (GFK 01749),

daughter of Damase Kirouac and Marie Rocan-Kirouac?

Question 401

What are the names of the parents of Marcelle Zafaroni, wife of Alcide Kirouac (GFK 01743) whose wedding took place in Vermillon Bay, Ontario, in 1959?

Question 402

What are the names of the parents of Luce Boivin, spouse of René Kirouac (GFK 01332)?

Question 403

What are the names of the parents of Lise Lambert, spouse of André Côté, son of Albert Côté and Thérèse Kirouac-Côté (GFK 01945)?

Question 404

What are the names of the parents of John Zaramba, spouse of Lisette Côté, daughter of Albert Côté and Thérèse Kirouac-Côté (GFK 01945)?

Question 405

What are the names of the parents of Jacques Kirouac, spouse of Myrienne Bilodeau, daughter of André Bilodeau and Denise Vachon-Bilodeau?

Question 406

What are the names of the parents of Sylvie Kirouac, spouse of Normand Plourde, son of Rémi Plourde and Gemma Moreau-Plourde?

We welcome your genealogical questions and we will do our very best to answer them.

Results will be published in future issues of *Le Trésor*.

The Editor

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