

Spring 2015

Number 117

# Le Trésor des Kirouac

Bulletin of the descendants of Alexandre de K/voach  
Witness to Kirouac Activities for 32 years



Family of Karyne Kirouac who won the contest organized by *ICI Radio-Canada Première* as part of the series in the footsteps of Jack Kerouac last autumn 2014. From L. to R. her father, Pierre Kirouac, her twin sister, Roxanne, then Karyne and her mother, Lise Marcotte-Kirouac. (photo: Karyne Kirouac collection)



Kirouac  
Kirouack



Kérouac  
Kérouack



Keroac  
Keroack



Kéroack  
Kyrouac



Breton  
Burton



Curwack  
Curwick



## ***Le Trésor des Kirouac***

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# The President's Word

This is the first issue of *Le Trésor des Kirouac* in 2015. It is with great pleasure that I announce that André Kirouac, has officially joined the KFA Board as of 31 January 2015.

André, a native of Saint-Cyrille-de-L'Islet, is already well known as he was one of the organizers of the 1996 K/ annual family gathering in Saint-Cyrille. In our previous bulletin #116, we informed you that he plans to climb Mount Kilimanjaro in autumn 2015 and has to raise \$10,000 to qualify as this is a fund-raiser. In 2013, he was an important member of the team organizing the launching of my book about the story of the K/ Ancestor, his wife and their sons, in North America (*L'Ancêtre des familles Kirouac en Amérique, son épouse et leurs fils*). Thanks to him the reception was held (in September 2013) at the *Musée naval de Québec*. In this issue, we invite you to discover his impressive professional itinerary.

André has taken on a very important task within the KFA, that of looking after the social media where we are present but not sufficiently active. According to some studies, the Quebec Federation of Family Associations concluded that using social media is not necessarily the most effective way to recruit new members. However, because the new generations chat, discuss and share info via social media we must be present. Also as one of the KFA's aims is to develop and spread our family heritage, the best way to do so is by actively using the social media.

In the not-so-far-away 'good old days', if we wanted to exchange with others, we would gather in pleasant surroundings. Times

change! Today people gather virtually anytime, anywhere, using social media. Hence we must adapt and change our ways of doing things if we really want the Association to be present today and survive for future generations.

This is André's conviction and mine too. More important than maximizing recruitment is to ensure that the KFA is present in the social media and that its achievements and endeavours since its creation in 1978 are known and broadcasted.

Would you like to know who won the contest launched by *Radio-Canada Première* last November during its series marking the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Jack Kerouac's death? Karyne Kirouac from Laval, a ninth-generation descendant of Simon-Alexandre, our Ancestor's eldest son, won a trip for two to San Francisco to visit some of our famous cousin's familiar haunts.

Do you remember Geneviève Kerouac, artist, gymnast and dancer, whom you met in the winter 2007 edition of *Le Trésor* when she was winning top prizes as a SWING dancer in North America? Well, she is still very much involved in the artistic world, in theatre and circus. Marc Villeneuve interviewed her and tells us what she is up to and also introduces Geneviève's spouse and their son.

Here is the last instalment in a series of three started in winter 2011, when I took on to tell you about Louis, our Ancestor's youngest son, and the numerous contracts he entered into during his life time. Now, read about the sales and purchases made by his widow, Marie Catherine Metot, after her husband's death in 1779. Catherine and Louis were married under the then prevalent system of 'joint property' (*communauté de*



François Kirouac

François Kirouac Collection

*biens*). In addition, I thought it might be useful to add a text about how French and British law were merged during the 18<sup>th</sup> century as it helps to understand the double legal system our ancestors lived with at the time.

Out of the blue, Jack's estate is in the news again! A most important letter that Neal Cassady wrote and sent to Jack Kerouac, but believed lost forever, suddenly, sixty years later, turns up in a Los Angeles auction house. Gerald Nicosia tells us this story and its immediate aftershocks. He promises to keep us up to date.

A word about our other very famous cousin, Brother Marie-Victorin, born Conrad Kirouac: on Sunday, 29 March 2015, *Radio-Canada Première* aired a special programme to mark the eightieth anniversary of the first edition of his precious *Flore laurentienne*, considered Eastern Canada's bible of botany. The broadcast was presented by Yannick Villedieu within a series entitled: *Les années lumières* (the bright years). We plan to tell you about it in our next Trésor.

Enjoy reading!



## ANNUAL FAMILY HERITAGE FAIR\* 2015

Again this year, the KFA, and some fifty other family associations took part in the Annual Heritage Weekend held in the Place Laurier Shopping Mall in Sainte-Foy, Quebec City. In French it is called *Salon du Patrimoine familial\** and it is organized by the Federation of Quebec Family Associations. This thirteenth Heritage Fair was held on 27-28 February and 1 March. It seems that there are less family associations taking part and fewer visitors in recent years even if finding one's ancestor is obviously extremely popular. It is very easy indeed to surf the Internet to find genealogical data but it is too often inaccurate. Therefore it is most important to know that exact data is available from family associations who search various official archives and double check everything! Exactly what François Kirouac and Greg Kyrourac do for all K/ descendants.



In this photo, we see Céline Kirouac, our meeting secretary, and Jean-Yves Laurin, a nephew of Brother Marie-Victorin. Others who helped during the weekend were: Marie Kirouac, Lucille Kirouac, Mercédès (Bolduc) and Marc Villeneuve, Jacques Kirouac and François Kirouac. We thank our generous volunteers who gave time and energy to welcome the visitors and answer their questions about the K/s.



This year, each visitor who stopped at the K/ stand was offered a raffle ticket for a chance to win a prize: either a one-year subscription to our news bulletin *Le Trésor des Kirouac* or a personalized genealogical chart. The two winning tickets were drawn at 4 p.m. on Sunday afternoon by Robert Kirouac. Mrs. Doris Mayhue from Quebec City won the one-year subscription to *Le Trésor des Kirouac* and Mrs. France Kirouac from Lévis won her K/ family tree. Thank you to Robert, a KFA founding member, and congratulations to the winners.

Mrs. France Kirouac, from Lévis, placing her ticket in the raffle box on Friday morning at the opening of the Family Fair. Behind her is Mrs. Marie Kirouac looking on as if she knew this would be the lucky lady.



## NEW KFA BOARD MEMBER ANDRÉ KIROUAC (GFK 02252)

At last year's AGM of the KFA members, in August 2014, two administrators' posts were left vacant. As per article 6.06 of the KFA rules and regulations, during the Board meeting held on Saturday, 31 January 2015, Mr. André Kirouac was officially appointed KFA counsellor. André Kirouac replaces Lucie Jasmin who left the Board after eight years. His main responsibilities will be to look after the social media on the Web including Facebook and Twitter as well as the Internet page entitled *Le Québec une histoire de famille*. André has already studied what the KFA publishes on the media in order to improve and enhance the KFA's contribution.

André Kirouac is the Director of *Quebec Naval Museum*, a position he has held since June 1997. Previously he was director and/or project manager in various posts always related to history and often to our nautical heritage, notably at the *Bernier Maritime Museum* in L'Islet (1977-1986); then at the interpretive centre of the *Seigneurie des Aulnaies* in Saint-Roch-des-Aulnaies (1986-88); on to *Quebec City Museum of Civilisation* (1988-94); and from 1994 to 1996, in Trois-Pistoles at the interpretive centre of the *Basque adventure in (North) America* (Parc de l'aventure basque en Amérique).

He obtained a general bachelor's degree with majors in education and communication and a diploma in landscaping architecture. He holds a Master in museum science and did many hands-on training sessions including one period at the *Mystic Seaport Museum* in Mystic, Connecticut, USA. He published many articles and papers and gave talks about maritime history and museum sciences in Canada and



(Photo: André Kirouac collection)

André Kirouac, New KFA Board Member

Europe. In 2001, he gave the Canadian military history course at the Royal Canadian Military College in Kingston, Ontario. In 1993, he published a history book about the church in L'Islet entitled: *Quand l'Église rythmait la vie*, e.g., when the (Catholic) Church set the tone and rhythm of daily life. He is now working on a new soon-to-be-published book entitled: *L'objet messager* (messenger object).

During the past thirty-seven years, he worked on numerous exhibitions for various museums and on many documentaries for television; in addition, he helped create and develop various Web sites, as well as devising courses and activities, interpretation and animation for many Quebec museums. At the Quebec City Naval Museum, through his work the museum won many important prizes including the top prize: *Excellence 2003* awarded by the Association of Canadian Museums for the exhibition (*Impacts 1942-1944 La bataille du Saint-Laurent*) Impact of the battle of the St. Lawrence, in 1942-1944; as well as the audio-visual and

multimedia prize *Télé-Québec 2007*, awarded by the Society of Quebec Museums for the virtual exhibition entitled: *Pirates or corsairs, boarding along the St. Lawrence*. He received Queen Elizabeth II's Golden Jubilee Medal and Diamond Jubilee Medal. He also received a Special Citation from the Commander of the Royal Canadian Navy.

André is the spouse of Doris Brochu and step-father of Alexandre Brochu. He has four children: Philippe, Étienne, Ariane and Marie-Laurence, and one grand-daughter, Alice. He is the older brother of Serge Kirouac, a businessman we wrote about in the previous *Trésor*, number 116, in an article entitled: Chinese Carnival in Quebec City in 2015. André and Serge are the children of Conrad (Wilfrid) Kirouac and Carmelle Caron and are also first cousins to our KFA treasurer, René Kirouac.

More about André Kirouac, in *Le Trésor* number 111, spring 2013.



# André Kirouac's Ancestors



François Kirouac, February 2015

# KARYNE KIROUAC

Interviewed by Marie Kirouac, Jacques Kirouac and François Kirouac

**I**n November 2014, to mark the 45th anniversary of the death of our 'cousin' Jack Kerouac, ICI Radio-Canada Première Chaîne, i.e. CBC's French radio station, broadcasted a series of four programmes. This was an original idea of Gabriel Anctil and Élodie Gagnon in order to pay homage to the Franco-American writer particularly by underlining his Breton and Quebec origins.

As part of this series, there was a contest for the listeners. Many Kirouacs entered it and the winner was Miss Karyne Kirouac from Laval (suburb north of Montreal).

She won a very nice prize, a trip to California, USA. *Le Trésor des Kirouac* interviewed her. Here are her answers to our questions.

*Le Trésor*: Where were you born?

Karyne: I was born in Laval and I grew up in Saint-Eustache, both suburbs north of Montreal.

*Le Trésor*: Where did you study?

Karyne: I completed my high school studies at Lionel-Groulx College in Sainte-Thérèse, in the Lower Laurentian, and at Ahuntsic College, in Montreal, I also attended UQAM (University of Quebec in Montréal).

*Le Trésor*: What did you study?

Karyne: I am fascinated by history so I studied human sciences. First I completed a DEC (College Education Diploma) in 2002.

Then I went to UQAM where I obtained a Bachelor degree in 2006, majoring in history including archives and documents management. I intended to keep studying along those lines and wanted to complete a librarian course; however, I changed my mind due to lack of openings in that field. After reflection, I opted for training in medical archives administration and I received a second DEC in that field in 2011.

*Le Trésor*: Where do you work?

Karyne: Since June 2011, I have been working in the medical archives Department at Saint-Luc Hospital, one of the hospitals attached to Montreal University.

*Le Trésor*: What are your responsibilities?

Karyne: My main task is to analyze the content of each medical file to make sure that the information written by the doctors on the summary sheet corresponds with what is already in the original patient's file. Afterwards I pass on this data to the Quebec Department of Health and Social Services as they use this data to draw up a picture of the general health of the Province of Quebec's population and, also, to see what services are required to provide adequate time for hospital stay or for one-day surgery. General hospital statistics are prepared using this data as well as budget decisions, including allocation of funds to the various departments; for example, for internal medicine like nephrology, urology, hepatic & biliary surgery, pancreatic



(Photo: Karyne Kirouac collection)

Karyne Kirouac, winner of the contest organized by ICI Radio-Canada Première Chaîne (French speaking CBC) as part of the series marking the 45th anniversary of Jack Kerouac's death.

surgery, obstetrics and gynaecology. Another aspect of my work is to pass on the information to other relevant parties who need it to ensure that, in some cases, the treatments may be carried on. Therefore, I have to relay the appropriate data in the medical files either to the users, medical clinics, insurance companies, hospitals, and CLSC (Local Health Referral Centre).

*Le Trésor*: Do you know anything about your family ascendancy, your ancestors?

Karyne: Yes, thanks to my father, my uncle, and my paternal grandmother. They enabled me, and my sister and cousins, to know something about our genealogy as they shared with us

# Karyne Kirouac's Ancestors





many souvenirs. Therefore, as we grew up we have always known that Jack Kerouac's father was a cousin of our great-grandfather. I also consulted the Kirouac genealogical book that my uncle had bought in the nineties; in it I found more information about my family's origins.

*Le Trésor*: What prompted you to read Jack Kerouac's books?

Karyne: I owe to my grandmother, and even more to my uncle, my interest in Jack Kerouac's works. My grandmother recommended to my sister and me to read *Avant la route* (Before The Road) and *Sur la route* (On The Road). As for my uncle, after reading a book, he used to share his reflections with members of the family. Like most people, I first read, *Sur la route* as it is the writer's major novel. Then I read *Avant la route* and I carried on from there. I have read almost all the books he wrote.

*Le Trésor*: Did you read his books in French or in English?

Karyne: In French.

*Le Trésor*: What do you like about Jack's works?

Karyne: I really love the fact that he wrote about events in his own life; also his prose is his own, and his prose has something 'jazzy' about it through its rhythm, the frantic rhythm of his writing, his ideas and words follow at a great speed.

*Le Trésor*: What do you feel about his works?

Karyne: It is unique and everlasting.

*Le Trésor*: Which is your favourite book?

Karyne: I could easily answer *Sur la route* because I read it twice, including the original text. However, this is not the case. I cannot really choose one book over others. Besides, I have not read all of Jack's novels but three particularly impressed me. I enjoyed reading *Avant la route*, first because I loved his fluid writing and also for the story itself that plunges us into the childhood and teenage years of Kerouac in Lowell, even if it is romanticized. I felt like I was living the events with the characters and I was totally engrossed in my reading. Then *Big Sur* is another book I particularly like because Kerouac shows his fragility as well as his spiritual quest. I believe that in this novel Jack says more about himself than in any others hence the reader can access the man he was. In other words, in this novel Jack is going through some rather difficult time, he is sitting in an isolated hut on top of a mountain and is looking into his soul trying to come to turn with life in general and his own life in particular. Thirdly, I appreciated *Satori à (in) Paris* because of its theme, which is the author's search for his genealogical origins in Paris and Brittany.

*Le Trésor*: If you had to recommend one of Kerouac's books, which one would it be?

Karyne: *Sur la route*, because I am convinced that it is the easiest one to read and it really enables the reader to understand the essence of what the *Beat Generation's* literary movement was and is.

*Le Trésor*: What do you think of Jack as a man?

Karyne: People tend to label others by what they do and how they live, and Jack is no exception. Many have painted him as a debauched alcoholic but I think that one needs to look beyond that image. True enough he burned the candle at both ends and some of his doings were questionable but when reading his works, we see that his values were: family, friendship, generosity, loyalty, freedom and culture. I am also convinced that the people he associated with greatly influenced him and played an important part in shaping the course of his life.

*Le Trésor*: What do you think about the *Beat Generation*?

Karyne: The *Beat Generation* is part of the counter-culture movement that developed after the Second World War in the Western World. It was not at all a unique and isolated phenomenon. It showed a break with the pre-established order, a rejection of traditional values and an opening on the world.

*Le Trésor*: In the various books Jack wrote, were you surprised by the importance he placed on his Quebec and Brittany roots?

Karyne: No, because I had read about Jack's life before reading his novels so that enabled me to understand the importance he placed on his Quebec roots and Breton origin.

*Le Trésor*: How did you learn about the contest organized by Radio-Canada?

Karyne: During my lunch hour at work, I usually look for information on Radio-Canada's (CBC) Web site. So one day while surfing I learned there was a contest to mark the publication of an e-book as well as the broadcasting of a documentary series about Jack Kerouac as part of the radio programme *Medium Large* hosted by Mrs. Catherine Perrin.

*Le Trésor*: What do you think about the series broadcasted last autumn by Radio-Canada?

Karyne: I really appreciated those four programmes in which Jacques Kirouac and François Kirouac took part when the authors, Gabriel Anctil and Franco Nuovo, visited the Lower-Saint-Laurence-South-Shore region. I learned a lot more about the Quebec roots of the American author and better understood his longing to know them as well as his lifelong search, and his literary style. I am now convinced that when I will read again Jack's works, I will look at them quite differently. I particularly enjoyed the interviews conducted by Anctil and Nuovo with various people who knew Kerouac as so many souvenirs were brought out and so much passion was expressed. Listening to those broadcasts, I also learned that Jack inspired many artists including Zachary Richard and Damien Robitaille.

*Le Trésor*: What made you decide to register for this contest?

Karyne: First of all, the various destinations offered, particularly New York, Chicago, New-Orleans and San Francisco interested me.

Then I thought it would be great to be able to go on Jack's road; visit some of the places he went to. As a matter of fact, my sister Roxanne and I, for some time, have talked about driving along the mythical Route 66, to follow in the footsteps of the American author as he wrote in his novel *On The Road*. Let's say that this was the perfect contest for us both.

*Le Trésor*: Once the result of the contest was announced on the radio, did some people contact you?

Karyne: Yes, when people heard my phone interview with Mrs. Perrin, two former colleagues emailed me their congratulations.

*Le Trésor*: What exactly is this trip that you have won?

Karyne: It is a six-day trip to San Francisco, for two. So Roxanne and I will be able to visit the infamous Alcatraz prison, the California Academy of Sciences as well as the Bay Aquarium and also enjoy a cruise in the San Francisco Bay on the Blue & Gold Fleet Bay Cruise.

*Le Trésor*: Is this prize having any impact on your family?

Karyne: My family is extremely pleased for me.

*Le Trésor*: Is your twin-sister also interested in Jack Kerouac and his works?

Karyne: Yes, she started reading Kerouac's works a few years after I did.

*Le Trésor*: When are you planning to do this trip?

Karyne: Towards the end of June.

*Le Trésor*: Is your twin-sister accompanying you?

Karyne: Yes, indeed.

*Le Trésor*: Are you proud to be a Kirouac?

Karyne: I feel proud of it and I always feel flattered if someone asks me if I am related to Jack Kerouac. I will never forget two comments made to me: once in a book store, when the owner learned my family name, he said: "You have the same family name as a great American writer." Then one day, at the first session in the sociology class in college, after I had offered to spell my family name, my professor said to the student responsible to take down the names of those present: "Well, if he knows his 'classics' (i.e., the important literary authors), he will know how to spell your name because it is the name of a famous American author who wrote one of his novels on a many-meters-long roll of paper!"

#### TO KARYNE AND ROXANNE BON VOYAGE ENJOY YOUR TRIP TO SAN FRANCISCO

Make sure to visit the City Lights Book Store, Vesuvio Café and Jack Kerouac Alley.



# Latest News about Geneviève Kérouac

By Marc Villeneuve

We had the pleasure to learn about Geneviève Kérouac, artiste, dancer and acrobat, and to introduce her to you in a previous *Trésor des Kirouac* (number 90, winter 2007, pp. 7-11). She is the daughter of Diane (Massicotte) and Michel Kérouac. We are very pleased indeed to share with you the latest news just received from Geneviève.

Geneviève's career is developing by leaps and bounds and she is a bright star of the artistic world. After a brilliant career in SWING, where she won numerous prizes as a dance performer, and she was also much appreciated as a professor, and as a performance artist with various circuses. But nowadays she shares her time between administrative functions, as well as performing, and teaching. She is the general

director of the *Théâtre À Tempo* and artistic advisor of *École de cirque de Québec*, the Quebec City Circus School. She shares her time and talent with each company depending on the contracts during the year.

As the artistic advisor at the Quebec City Circus School, she is the stage manager for the senior students' final production (choice of music, rhythm, and esthetic). She is stage manager of the final production put on by the students taking the circus arts classes at the college level (DEC: college education diploma).

At the circus school Geneviève is in charge of the clown courses, and teaches these clown/entertainer classes at the Limoilou College (Quebec suburb) registered in the circus courses. In addition, she works with various circus companies as stage manager and artistic advisor for some of their productions. (\*Clown art combines dramatic art, mime, farce, burlesque and often acrobatic included in funny skits.)

In 2008, as well as working with the circus school, Geneviève with Olivier Forest, Benoît Lemay and Louis Laroche, founded the *Théâtre À Tempo*, a non-profit organization with a special mission: create and produce variety shows using multiple art forms centered on rhythm and movement incorporating much clownish technique. She is not only the general director of the *Théâtre À Tempo*, but also the artistic codirector and she regularly performs as a dancer and circus artist.

Geneviève explained to us that the multifaceted company was founded



Geneviève Kérouac  
(Photo: Geneviève Kérouac collection)

in order to show clearly its artistic intentions and mission and simplify general administration including contract signing, as well as making it easier to obtain grants and subsidies, which is almost essential to run a creative company and produce the kind of shows they want to do.

Their productions, like *Swing Station*, *La Grande Étude* (the great study) or *L'Oubliette* (hiding space), are for general all-age public, particularly for young people and all those who are still young at heart.

Olivier Forest has been Geneviève's better-half for almost fourteen years now, and he is also her business partner at the *Théâtre À Tempo*. They first met while both were working for *Eos Circus*; she was an acrobat and Olivier was a musician. Since January 2011, they are the happy and proud parents of

(Photo: Geneviève Kérouac collection)



From top to bottom:  
Siméon, Olivier and Geneviève.



Siméon, a wonderful boy who can be considered a 'circus child' as he has accompanied his parents since he was only five months old. As a matter of fact, Geneviève's extremely successful career as a SWING dancer and professor came to an end with the birth of Siméon. Having a normal family life became rather difficult when performances and classes were basically in the evening and over weekends but Geneviève and Olivier wanted to have a real family life.

As for future projects, Geneviève tells us that the *Théâtre À Tempo* is preparing an important tour in French-speaking Ontario, ninety performances of their play *La Grande Étude* over a period of two years and this comes on top of an invitation to spend six months in Germany at the beginning of 2016.

For more information on shows and presentations of the theater troupe *Théâtre À Tempo*, visit the Web site at this address: [www.atempo.ca](http://www.atempo.ca).

**TO GENEVIÈVE AND  
OLIVIER, GOOD LUCK IN  
ALL YOUR PROJECTS.**

(Photo: Geneviève Kérouac collection)



Siméon and his mother, Geneviève

(Photo: Geneviève Kérouac collection)



Siméon, like father, like son, perhaps?

Photo: Olivier Forest collection



## OLIVIER FOREST

*Biography taken from the website of Théâtre À Tempo*

Multifaceted and greatly talented artist, Olivier was born on the first of May 1978 in Quebec City, the son of Geneviève (née Noiroit) and Martin Forest. After completing his college and university studies in music, he made his professional debut as a musician in 1996. He is a drummer and percussionist with various groups and bands. He co-founded the *Plastic LitE Band*. He was a finalist at the Granby Song Festival in 2003.

Presently he plays with a number of music bands of various styles: *Tourelle Orkestra* (klezmer), *Strictly Jazz Band* (swing), *Insurgent* (electro-rock), etc. He is also an excellent comedian and stand-up comic and that is why he was hired by *Circus Eos* in 2001 as both, a comedian and percussionist. As artistic director and co-founder of the *Théâtre À Tempo*, he helped creating many shows during the last years including a recently joint production entitled *L'oubliette*. Olivier's biography is available on the Web Site of the *Théâtre À Tempo* at: [www.atempo.ca](http://www.atempo.ca)

# Marie-Catherine Metot, wife of Louis de Kervoach

François Kirouac

This is the third and last article about the same family. You may remember reading the first one during winter 2011 when it was published in *Le Trésor* 106, and the second, during summer 2012, in *Le Trésor* 108. Both concerned the deeds legally recorded by Louis de Kervoach, younger son of Alexandre and Louise (née Bernier) de Kervoach. In the first one we studied how Louise was able to help establish her son Louis on a farm and how this Louis increased his property between 1758 and 1765. In the second article, I studied the deeds recorded between 1766 and 1779, until Louis' death, and finally managed to draw a list of all the couple's assets at the death of the head of the family thanks to the official after-death inventory drawn up in January 1783.

These numerous notaries' deeds enabled us to appreciate the total value of the movable assets of the couple as described in the deed dated 27 January 1783 which amounted to 3,761 pounds, eighteen shillings and six pence. As of that date, the estate owed a total of 1,185 pounds and two shillings but an amount of 613 pounds and twelve shillings was owed to the estate. Therefore the net value as established by Notary St-Aubin was 2,576 pounds, sixteen shillings and six pence. Then, this amount, the real value of the *joint property* was legally divided in two equal parts of 1,288 pounds, eight shillings and three pence; the first part going to the widow, Marie-Catherine Metot, and the second part being divided between the eight living children. In his book entitled, *Vivre à la ville en Nouvelle-France*, (urban living in New-France) the historian, André Lachance, writes that according to

his colleague, Louise Deschênes, good workers left between 3,000 and 8,000 pounds to their heirs. So we can conclude that by leaving almost 2,600 pounds to his family, Louis had done very well financially for a man who had only been a farmer.

At her husband's death, forty-year-old Catherine is doing well financially. However, she is then the head of a family of eight children ranging in age: Catherine, 22\* (already married); Louis, 17; Jacques, 15; Victoire, 13; Charles, 10; Marie-Louise, 7; Joseph-Marie, 4; and Pierre, 2. (\*legal age at the time was 25).

In spite of the English take-over and France ceding New-France to England in 1763, at that time in Quebec/New-France, the French Legal system called *Coutume de Paris* (custom of Paris) was still in force. Thus, at her husband's death in 1779, Catherine's legal status changed. Becoming a widow meant gaining legal rights, particularly enabling her to sign notarial deeds something that was forbidden to her as a married woman while her husband lived. Given that this is the last of three articles I thought it might be interesting for you to read a text about the conciliation of French and English law taken from *Encyclopédie du patrimoine culturel de l'Amérique française* (Encyclopedia of Cultural Heritage of French America). In other words, reconciling and/or merging two different legal systems. This is an excellent presentation explaining how the various transactions were done at the time, during the second half of the eighteenth century. (See pp. 18-19)

## Notaries' Deeds Guardianship

On 27 January 1783<sup>1</sup>, in the morning, at the request of Catherine Metot, some relatives of the children of *Louis querrois dit le Breton* were in the office of Notary St-Aubin, in order to appoint a guardian and a surrogate guardian to watch over the interests of the deceased's children until they reach their majority, i.e., 25 years of age then. Those present were: *Alexandre querrois dit le Breton*, brother of Louis, François Guimont, husband of Catherine Kirouac, daughter of Marie-Catherine Metot, Louis Guimont, father-in-law of Catherine, Benjamin Bossé, Louis' second-cousin on the Bernier side of the family, Jean-Baptiste, Joseph, and Jean-Marie Metot, three of Catherine's brothers. At the end of this meeting, she, Catherine, was appointed her children's guardian. Jean-Gabriel Guimont was appointed surrogate guardian. Jean-Gabriel was the son of Ursule Bernier, a cousin of Louise Bernier, therefore Louis Querrois dit le Breton and Jean-Gabriel were second-cousins.

During the afternoon of 27 January 1783<sup>2</sup>, Notary St-Aubin prepared the after-death inventory of all goods and chattels (movable and

(To consult listed archives/documents, ask KFA for original French references)

<sup>1</sup> BAnQ-Québec / CC301, S1, D5861/ Guardianship of the under-age children of the late Louis Querrois dit le Breton, inhabitant of Cap-Saint-Ignace and of Marie-Catherine Metot, 27 January 1783, / Superior Court Archives, Quebec Judicial District, Guardianship and Trusteeship.

immovable) making up the estate jointly owned by the couple: *Louïs querrois dit le Breton* and Marie Catherine Metot. As there was no bailiff-appraiser present at the inventory, Jean-Marie and Joseph Metot as well as the newly-appointed surrogate guardian prepared the evaluation “upon my soul and honour”. The witnesses were, besides Notary St-Aubin, one Laurent Lemelin, mariner/sailor, and Joseph-Marie Bernier, both from Cap-Saint-Ignace<sup>2</sup>.

This deed dated 27 January 1783 does not mention the value of the real estate property. These immovable, the lots on the first and the third rural roads, (the one on the 3<sup>rd</sup> RR was bought by Catherine Metot after Louis’ death, see details below); they were divided between the widow and her children. Marie-Catherine had kept for herself one of the lots on the First RR, the one with buildings on it. That was the property where the Ancestor and his wife, Louise Bernier had lived. And Louise was most likely still living there as she died only in 1802.

Two days later, on 29 January 1783<sup>3</sup>, in the presence of Notary St-Aubin and of the children’s guardians, the crier, Noël Forgeau, auctioned off the movable goods from Louis’ estate. Catherine did not miss a beat and made sure to acquire many items having belonged to her husband and herself under the *joint property* legal marriage contract.



**Various real estate transactions concluded by Marie-Catherine Metot after the death of her husband, Louis de Kervoach**

### **Buying land from the Seigneur de Vincelotte**

Five months after her husband’s passing, on 15 January 1780<sup>4</sup>, Seigneur de Vincelotte, Jean-Gabriel Amyot du Hautmenil, ceded a lot in the third concession of his Seigneurie to Marie-Catherine Methot. That particular lot measured one and one half arpent in width by forty arpents in depth. It was boarded by the properties of: Joseph Fournier on the north-east and that of Joseph Metot on the south-west. The property’s front was on the second rural road and the back was facing the not-yet-attributed lots. On 15 January 1780, the price paid by Catherine Metot included paying three pounds by arpent, as seigneurial dues and two shillings as rent (‘cens’ in French) for the whole property. These rents and dues were payable yearly at the Seigneurial manor house on the feast of St. Martin, celebrated every year on 11 November.

However, she, or another person in her stead, had to be domiciled on said property, build a house, live there as well as work there. We have not yet found proof that she actually lived on that land, but we know that in 1783 she still owned that property in the third RR as it was included in the inventory drawn by Notary St-Aubin. What we also know is that when this inventory was drawn, she kept for herself all the buildings on the lot on the first RR, a lot where she most likely kept residing with her family after the death of Louis as she had been living there since 10 July 1761.

By this latest transaction, she also acquired all the hunting rights but they were not exclusive to her. The Seigneur and his descendants were still permitted to hunt on that land. She also agreed to have her grain milled at the Seigneurie’s bannal mill, as well as bake her bread at the

communal bake-house as soon as one would be built; in addition she agreed to “put up with all the roads/paths (crossing her lands) that the Seigneur or his officers would need to use.”

The Seigneur de Vincelotte reserved the right to take, on the ceded land, all the wood needed to build and repair the mill and the manor house. Finally, Marie-Catherine was forbidden to cut any oak trees because its wood was reserved for the construction of ships for “His Majesty’s and others”. Finally, the Seigneur reserved the right to cancel all these privileges if the lot were to be sold, in whole or in part, but he would have to reimburse the buying price and the costs incurred at the sale, this was done according to the ‘lineage redemption/withdrawal’ included in the Custom of Paris, i.e, taking back a property to pass it on, that is sell it, to a close relative, one in the same family line.

<sup>2</sup> **BAnQ-Rimouski / CN104, S49 / Inventory of goods and chattels jointly owned by Louis Querrois dit le Breton and Marie-Catherine Metot, 27 January 1783** / Superior Court Archives, Montmagny Judicial District, Archives of (Notary) Louis-Charles-Conscient de Saint-Aubin. (Microfilm: 4M01-0526)

<sup>3</sup> **BAnQ-Rimouski / CN104, S49 / Minutes of the sale by adjudication of the movable goods jointly owned by Marie-Catherine Metot, widow of Louis Kerrouac dit le Breton, in the name of and as guardian of her under-age children, 29 January 1783** / Superior Court Archives, Montmagny Judicial District, Archives of (Notary) Louis-Charles-Conscient de Saint-Aubin. (Microfilm: 4M01-0526)

<sup>4</sup> **BAnQ-Rimouski / CN104, S49 / Concession (grant) of a parcel of land located in the third Rural Road in the Seigneurie de Vincelotte by Jean-Gabriel Amiot de Vincelotte du Hautmenesnil, Seigneur, to the widow Kerrois dit le Breton, 15 January 1780** / Superior Court Archives, Montmagny Judicial District, Archives of (Notary) Louis-Charles-Conscient de Saint-Aubin. (Microfilm: 4M01-0525)



## **Buying lots in the Seigneurie de la Pointe-aux-Bois (cape hay) also known as Fief Saint-Joseph**

Six months later, on 3 July 1780<sup>5</sup>, Marie-Catherine Metot signs another real estate contract. From Jacques Rodrigue (third of the name, grandson of Jacques Rodrigue and Geneviève Caron) and his wife Marie Antoinette Bernier, Catherine buys a new parcel of land in the Fief Saint-Joseph also known as the Seigneurie de la Pointe-aux-Bois. The lot's frontage was about three and one half rods by two leagues in length, but the sellers cannot determine the exact boundaries. They had inherited this property from Joseph Metot and Hélène Le Normand, Catherine's parents. This property is totally free of Seigniorial rent and dues.

Through the same contract, Catherine also buys a second lot. The sellers are her own brother and his wife, Ignace Metot and Marie-Louise Rodrigue. The frontage of this second lot is two rods and as long as the previous one, that is two leagues, but again the sellers cannot determine its exact boundaries. They had acquired this lot through inheritance like the previous one and the property is totally free of Seigniorial rent and dues. Catherine Metot paid 33 Francs for these two lots; she paid cash in front of the Notary and other witnesses when the deed was signed.

These two properties that she bought on 3 July 1780 measured five and one half rods by two leagues in length. One other contract must be missing as, five years later, on 1 September 1785<sup>6</sup>, a deed of sale for a lot sixteen rods in frontage by two leagues in depth, located in this same Seigneurie was sold by Catherine Metot to François-Marcel Bernier for 159 Francs (or Shillings of twenty-pence). But let us go back in time and

mention that, previously at one point, this Seigneurie de la Pointe-aux-bois belonged to Jacques Bernier known as Jean de Paris, Louise Bernier's grandfather, who had bought it on 15 October 1683 and who, later on, ceded it to his four sons including Jean-Baptiste, Louise's father.

### **Land Sale**

The year 1780 was a busy one for Catherine Metot. For the third time she was back in a notary's office on 10 October 1780<sup>7</sup>. Notary Caze prepared a deed of sale for the widow of *Louis Croac*. That deed is for the sale of a parcel of land that had been auctioned off to the highest bidder on the Church's steps of Saint-Thomas in Montmagny. The buyer was Jacques Depraÿ, Co-Seigneur living in that parish. This sale was for a forested lot of one arpent of frontage by two leagues in depth located in the "*Bois du Cap*". This half arpent sold was part of some parcel of land that Marie Catherine Metot had bought from the Rodrigue heirs (this deed is still missing). The sale price was "*117 Francs, or Shillings of this province*" that the buyer paid cash upon signing the contract at the Notary's office.

### **A Second Purchase in the Seigneurie de Bonsecours**

On 13 May 1782<sup>8</sup>, the "*widow (of) Louis Kerrois dit le Breton*" bought from *Joseph Poitra* another parcel of land of two arpents of frontage by forty-two in depth, and located on the first RR of the Seigneurie de Bonsecours. The property's boundaries were the land of Jean Baptiste Poitras, senior, on the south-west, and Basile Caron on the north-east. The purchase price was rather high when compared with the other previous transactions, also when compared with those made by

Louis while he was alive or those made by Catherine Metot after her husband's death. Indeed, during the month of May 1782, she paid 2,200 Francs\* for this new parcel of land, including 96 Francs that she paid cash upon signing the contract. As for the other payments, they were as follow: 104 Francs on 15 July 1782 and 100 Francs in February 1783; and the remaining 1,900 Francs were to be paid in six instalments: the first one on 11 November 1783; then the contract mentioned a second instalment of 350 Francs during 1783; a third instalment of

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<sup>5</sup> BAnQ-Rimouski / CN104, S49 / Sale of lots located at the Pointe aux Boies, Fief St-Joseph, part of the parish of cap-Saint-Ignace, by Jacques Rodrigue, inhabitant and Marie Bernier, his wife, from Lilette, parish and Seigneurie of Notre-Dame de Bonsecours and Ignace Methot and Marie Louise Rodrigue, his wife, to the widow (of) Louis Kerrois dit le Breton, inhabitant of the Seigneurie de Vincelotte, parish of Cap-Saint-Ignace, 3 July 1780 / Superior Court Archives, Montmagny Judicial District, Archives of Notary Louis-Charles-Conscient de Saint-Aubin. (Microfilm: 4M01-0525)

<sup>6</sup> BAnQ-Rimouski / CN302, S27 / Sale of land located in the Fief St-Joseph in the parish of Cap Saint-Ignace; by Marie Catherine Metot, widow of the late Louis Karouac dit Breton of Cap Saint-Ignace, to François-Marcel Bernier of Cap Saint-Ignace, 1 September 1785 / Superior Court Archives, Montmagny Judicial District, Archives of Notary Nicolas-Charles-Louis Lévesque. (Microfilm: 4M01-6180)

<sup>7</sup> BAnQ-Rimouski / CN104, S21 / Sale of one parcel of land by the widow (of) Louis Croac to Jacques Depraÿ, Co-seigneur de Saint-Thomas, 10 October 1780 / Superior Court Archives, Kamouraska Judicial District, Archives of Notary Louis Cazes. (Microfilm: 4M01-0398)

<sup>8</sup> BAnQ-Rimouski / CN104, S49 / Sale of land by Joseph Poitras, son, to the widow of Louis Kerrois dit le Breton, 13 May 1782 / Superior Court Archives, Montmagny Judicial District, Archives of Notary Louis-Charles-Conscient de Saint-Aubin. (Microfilm: 4M01-0526)

350 Francs at the end of December 1784; a fourth instalment of 350 Francs at the end of December 1785; a fifth instalment at the end of December 1786; and the remaining 400 Francs were to be paid at the end of December 1787. In addition, when the transaction was being completed the seller kept for himself the 1782 hay harvest as well as the option to cut woods during four and half days to make stakes and posts. (\*Francs and Pounds were used indifferently, translator's note).

However, the very next day<sup>9</sup> in front of the same Notary, this lot was exchanged for another one. This time, Marie-Catherine Metot acquired another lot slightly smaller, measuring eighteen rods and ten feet in frontage by forty-two in depth located in the first RR in the Seigneurie de Bonsecours, bound on the south-west by the property of "*Antoine Dandurand dit marche à terre*"\* and on the north-east by the heirs of Pierre Cloutier. The owners of this lot, François Bellanger and his wife will have to remove the house built on that lot but whenever they want to. They also reserve for themselves the right to harvest, only in 1782, all the grains they had sown that year (\**Dandurand* was his family name; dit = known as: *marche à terre* was obviously a nickname).

On 9 June 1786<sup>10</sup>, in gratitude for the wonderful way that her son Louis was taking care of his mother and other members of the family since the death of her husband, Catherine gave Louis this last lot located on the first RR in the Seigneurie de Bonsecours. The same day<sup>11</sup>, Louis ceded this same lot to his brother Charles in exchange for a receipt of all the rights either already expired or to expire in their father's estate. As

Charles was still a minor, this contract was concluded with the assent of their mother and guardian.

### **Sale of one of two lots located in the Third RR in the Seigneurie de Vincelotte**

On 26 October 1784<sup>12</sup>, Marie-Catherine sold one of the two lots located in the Third RR in the Seigneurie de Vincelotte. This latest lot sold to Alexandre Bernier, measured one arpent of frontage by half a league in depth and was bound on the south-west by Basile Bernier's land and on the north-east by Pierre Durand's land. The price was fifty Francs, paid cash. It seems that this was the lot that Catherine Metot had bought from the Seigneur de Vincelotte on 15 January 1783, transaction mentioned earlier. It seems that the size is different and the neighbours are not the same either. So I have yet to establish when Catherine bought this latest lot on the Third RR.

### **Donation of Catherine to her son, Jacques, of a parcel of land located in the first concession in the Seigneurie de Vincelotte**

On 9 June 1786<sup>10</sup>, Catherine and her three sons, Louis, Charles, and Jacques agreed together to share the estate belonging to Catherine Metot and Louis Querrois. Because of the love and friendship of Jacques for his mother, he is granted a parcel of land measuring about one and one half arpent in frontage by forty arpents in depth located in the First RR in the Seigneurie de Vincelotte, bound on the north-east by Joseph Metot's land and on the south-west by Charles Guimont's land.

This parcel of land is one of the two listed in the 1783 after-death inventory and was located in the First RR of the Seigneurie. According to the Notary's

description, it was obviously not the one where the Ancestor had lived. On one side the Ancestor's lot adjoined the Seigneur de Vincelotte's land, but this was not so with the lot given to Jacques. Presently I am unable to establish when Jacques' lot was first acquired nor from whom. Some Notaries' deeds are most likely still missing or the names of some the owners of the adjoining properties have changed thus are not the names listed in the deeds we have. This is quite plausible as, in the deeds, the limits of the lots and parcels of land are identified only by the names of their owners, and this seems to be the only way we have to put two and two together. So what happened to the other property where Alexandre de Kervoach and Louise Bernier lived, the one adjoining the

<sup>9</sup> **BAnQ-Rimouski / CN104, S49 / Exchange of parcels of land between Mr. and Mrs. François Bellanger and widow of Louïs Querrois dit le Breton, 14 May 1782** / Superior Court Archives, Montmagny Judicial District, Archives of Notary Louis-Charles-Conscient de Saint-Aubin. (Microfilm: 4M01-0526)

<sup>10</sup> **BAnQ-Rimouski / CN104, S49 / Donation and transport by Catherine Metot, widow of Querrois dit lebreton to Louis Querrois dit Lebreton, son, 9 June 1786** / Superior Court Archives, Montmagny Judicial District, Archives of Notary Louis-Charles-Conscient de Saint-Aubin. (Microfilm: 4M01-0526)

<sup>11</sup> **BAnQ-Rimouski / CN104, S49 / Exchange between Louis Querrois dit Lebreton and Charles Querrois dit Lebreton, his brother, 9 June 1786** / Superior Court Archives, Montmagny Judicial District, Archives of Notary Louis-Charles-Conscient de Saint-Aubin. (Microfilm: 4M01-0526)

<sup>12</sup> **BAnQ-Rimouski / CN104, S49 / Sale of land located on the third RR of the Seigneurie de Vincelotte by Catherine Metot, widow of Louis Querrouac dit le Breton to Alexandre Bernié, 26 October 1784** / Superior Court Archives, Montmagny Judicial District, Archives of Notary Louis-Charles-Conscient de Saint-Aubin. (Microfilm: 4M01-0526)

Seigneur's domain? At the moment I still cannot answer this question. Besides the lot given to her son, Jacques, Catherine added one plough plus equipment, two horses and two steers in exchange for half the grain to be harvested on that land during the next three years; two young mothering-cows, four sheep, two young and two old ones, one hay cart and various usual implements needed at the time: one bed, one chest and one large cooking pot. Catherine kept for herself half the apple orchard as well as all the buildings located on said parcel of land. In the house, she also kept for herself the use of a bedroom measuring 15 X 15 feet.

Some conditions and obligations were attached to the donation to Jacques: annually he had to supply his mother with fifteen minots (old French measure = 39 litres) of wheat, one fattened pig and one minot of peas. On top of that every year, he had to provide her with some flax, three ells of linen, half a yard of Muslin, two dozen candles, four pots of oil, two pairs of locally made shoes and one pair of French shoes, half a minot of salt and some six quarts of (locally made) alcohol for her own use in case of sickness. Jacques also had to supply his mother with enough wood for her stove and to heat her house (fireplace) through the year, enough hay and feed for two cows and supply her with twenty-five pounds of beef and twenty-five pounds of 'sucre du pays', i.e., maple sugar\* In addition, the son had to supply his mother with three minots of oats every year, and a set of clothing from France every four years. (\*provided in hard brick-size blocks; still available today but rare and very expensive. TN)

As for Louis and Charles, they had to pay the annual rent to their grandmother, Louise Bernier; that rent comprised supplying her with

one fatten pig every year, one healthy cow (*one that would not soon die*), twelve minots of wheat, twelve cords of hard wood, six jugs of alcohol, as well as personal items she would need like linen, clothing and shoes. The details of this rent had been established through the donation act that Louise Bernier had legally drawn on 20 June 1766 when she sold to her son Louis, the parcel of land on the second RR in the Seigneurie de Bonsecours.

Finally, one more deed was concluded on that day, 9 June 1786<sup>10</sup>, in which Louis and Jacques swapped with each other all their rights, present and future, in their parents' estates, as established in their respective wills. On the following 14 July, they signed another contract at Notary St-Aubin, in which they mortgaged all they owned in order to guarantee the rights of their two younger and under-age brothers, Joseph-Marie and Pierre; rights they still had according to the inheritance from their father, Louis, who died in 1779.

### Conclusion

After 9 June 1786<sup>10</sup>, it looks as though there are no more notaries' deeds concerning transactions made by Catherine Metot. However, it is possible that there would have been a last one because she was married a second time two years later; on 19 August 1788 in Cap-Saint-Ignace, she married Germain Morin dit Valcourt. But, I have yet to find that particular marriage contract if such a contract exists.

Who was this Morin dit Valcourt that Catherine Metot wedded? He was born around 1735 to Ursule Vallières and Germain Morin dit Valcourt. He died on 2 April 1829, and was buried two days later in Saint-Pierre-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud. His first marriage was to Marie Thérèse Côté, daughter of Isidore

Côté and Marie Geneviève Bouchard, in Saint-Pierre-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud, on 4 November 1760. His second marriage was to Marguerite Bolduc, daughter of René Bolduc and Marguerite Malboeuf dite Beausoleil, in Saint-Michel-de-Bellechasse (La Durantaye), on 29 July 1765. It is mentioned that he was a bar-owner in Saint-Pierre-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud.

After Catherine's death on 8 February 1813, he married again, for the fourth time, Marie Anne Aubé in Saint-Pierre-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud, on 19 October 1813. This fourth wife was also a three-time widow; her three husbands had been Joseph Jalbert, Jérôme Deçin dit Saint-Pierre and Joseph Migny (or Migné) dit Lagacé. She was the daughter of François Aubé and Françoise Bérubé.

The present article is the third and last one I promised you in the *President's Word* in the winter 2011 edition of *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 106. It is very likely that further research for more notaries' deeds should eventually uncover new information. It certainly would be interesting to find out who were the various owners of the land where Louise Bernier grew up and where our Ancestor lived. A partial answer to that question can be found in a book entitled *Cap-Saint-Ignace, 1672-1970*, written by Mr. Joseph-Arthur Richard, priest, where he mentions the list of owners of that land between 1876 and 1970. But we still need to discover who the owners were between 1786 and 1876. Let us hope that one day this will be the subject of another article.



# Reconciling French and British Legal Systems during the 18th century\*

French text taken from: *Encyclopédie du patrimoine culturel de l'Amérique française*, translated by Marie Lussier Timperley

Until the seigneurial system was abolished in 1854, the fiefs (feudal real estate property) were administered according to the *Coutume de Paris*. Sometimes the regulations concerning land were contested as they seem to impede the agricultural development in the St. Lawrence Valley particularly when the *retrait lignager*, i.e. "lineage withdrawal/redemption" was to be applied, and that meant: withdrawing the ownership along the family line. This by-law permitted a Seigneur's descendant, even a very distant one, to buy back a property or land legally sold to a non-family member, simply by reimbursing to the owner the purchase price or by paying back the Lord's due (sums collected according to feudal law) sums due to a seigneur when he sold a "censive", i.e. annual rent. The British who bought seigneuries eventually adjusted themselves to these rights because the seigneurial/feudal system, applied only to properties, usually lands that had been granted under the French Regime. However, from 1774 onwards when lands were granted by the British Crown, it was always freehold, no more strings attached, no "cens", no rents.

On the other hand, the most important prescriptions in the *Coutume de Paris* concerned family law. At the time and in that society, there were strict rules regulating the rights of husband and wife, their wills and estates, as well as the relationship between them and various members within the same family and members in direct or collateral line.

According to the *Coutume de Paris*, non-married women-of-age and widows enjoyed full legal rights; but upon getting married, a woman automatically lost all those rights to her husband. In other words, a married woman had no legal rights. For example, a married woman could not sign a notary's deed or make any legal decision or act legally unless authorized by her husband. However, her economic rights were protected. The *Coutume de Paris* clearly separated the spouses' *propers*, their personal goods and personal properties inherited from their respective families, and the *conquests*, goods and real estate properties acquired and added to the *communauté de biens* i.e. *joint property* created between them by the marriage contract.

During married life, the husband administered the goods and properties of both spouses as well as his wife's properties that she still owned; but he was legally obliged to return it all his wife's properties to her family if the couple died without issue. (If there were no child or children to inherit the wife's property it all reverted to her family).

Article 226 in the *Coutume de Paris* clearly stated that the husband could not alienate his wife's personal properties without her authorization and to do so it had to be in the interest of the family. The legal inequality between spouses was great but it was at least partially compensated by the fact that the husband, in fact, had to cooperate in administering both the

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\* *Editor's Note*: The above text is a clear explanation of the legal landscape during the 18th Century in New France when both legal systems, French and British, were used by notaries. It should help better understand the three articles about the deeds and contracts entered into by Louis de Kervoach and Catherine Metot and published in this issued of *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, and also in number 106, winter 2011 and number 108, summer 2012.

## Saint-Laurent Kirouac, Huguette (1925 - 2015)



At the St-François d'Assise Hospital in Quebec City, on 3 March 2015 at the age of 89 years, died Huguette St-Laurent Kirouac, widow of **Yves Kirouac (GFK 00646)**. She was the daughter of the late Éléonore (née Desbiens) and the late Joseph-Édouard St-Laurent. Funeral was on 21 March 2015. She leaves to mourn her children: Diane (Claude Gendron), Ginette (Barry Gold), **Alain\* (Marie-Andrée Paquet)** and Marie (Pierre Delage); her grandchildren: Marie-Josée (Michel Delisle), Annick (Louis Graton), Sophie (Alex Choko), Claudia (Christian Sévigny), Dominique (Scott Rickards), Stéphanie (Umberto Santos), Jonathan (Caroline Vézina), Philippe (Marie-Renée Chauveau-Lavoie), Geneviève (Alex Ouimet), Julie and Vincent; her beloved great-grand-children: Victoria, Charles, Thomas, Philippe, Maya, Sienna, Liam, Vanessa, Alexandre, Thomas, Samuel, Adriano, Livia, Lea, Zack, Delphine, Éloise and Mason; her brothers and sisters and their spouses: the late Benjamine (Fernand Lucchesi), the late Colette (Jean-Paul Gingras), the late Claude (Huguette Landry) the late Charles-Édouard (Aline Bussièrès), Guy (Colette Pageau), the late Yvon (Mora Parson), the late Réjean, Monique (Paul Renaud), Michel (Lily Sénéchal), the late Pierre (Johanne Beaumont), Nicole (Denis St-Hilaire) and Jacques (Carmen Marcoux).

\***Alain Kirouac was one of the 15 founding members of the Kirouac Family Association .**



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PLEASE HELP US TO UPDATE OUR GENEALOGICAL  
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**We are particularly interested in cards printed for people called Kirouac (with any spelling), either born K/ or married to a K/, men and women as well as persons whose mother was born K/.**

jointly owned properties as well as his wife's personal properties. In New-France at the time, husbands often had to travel, usually for business either to the *Pays d'en Haut*, as the Laurentians were then known, or to Paris, the *métropole française*. Before departing, the husband would sign a Power of Attorney in favour of his wife giving her all legal rights to administer the family property.

Upon her husband's death, a wife obtained legal powers. Upon the death of the first spouse, the joint properties were shared along the following lines: half went to the heirs of the deceased and half to the surviving spouse who would also receive before the division was done, a *préciput*, i.e. a 'predetermined amount of money' or some of the movable properties. In addition, if the husband died first, then his wife would also receive a *douaire coutumier*, i.e. a 'predetermined dowry' consisting in the usufruct, i.e. interest on part of her husband's personal properties. The widow also had the liberty to renounce the *joint property* if the debts were too important; this protected the wife from an incompetent or spendthrift husband.

As for the personal property of the deceased, everything went to the children, and in the absence of

descendants everything reverted to the spouses' respective family. On that point, the *Coutume de Paris* followed clearly the *esprit lignager*, i.e. on principle, what came from the family of one spouse reverted to that family and not to the other spouse's family. Hence donations from one spouse to the other were strictly regulated and usually recorded in legal deeds.

The deceased's estate was equally divided between all the children particularly if said deceased did not leave a will. However, the *Coutume de Paris* permitted the children who had received a dowry or gift upon their marriage to decide not to be included in the equal sharing of the parent's estate; they usually did so if they believed to have already received their fair share compared with what the other heirs were receiving. If they wanted to be included in the sharing of the estate, they had to give back to said estate the goods/properties received earlier.

Interestingly enough, in the South of France people did not apply the *Coutume de Paris* which strictly dictated the content of wills, by stating what could be willed and to whom; instead they followed a law of Roman origin. In this Roman inherited law the testator or testatrix could freely will their goods and

chattels and their conquests but could only give away one fifth of their own properties. The other four-fifth formed a "reserve" that had\* to be shared among the heirs. (\*legal obligation). Anyway the heirs could not be deprived of their legal share that corresponded to half of what they would have received if the totality of the deceased's estate (*propers* and *conquests* together) had been equally divided.

Canadian notaries' deeds reveal that the inhabitants of New-France generally respected the egalitarian spirit of the law known as *Coutume de Paris*, at least until the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. However, as early as 1774, the inheritance rights were altered because the British authorities imposed the 'freedom of decision' when writing a will, as it was the practice/custom in the British Isles. Thus, notaries deeds started to show that, progressively, the French Canadians through various means, like donation for example, tended to pass on the family property to one heir only, not always the eldest, but usually the one who could take care of the aging parents; and, at the same time, trying to leave something to the other children.

François-Joseph Ruggiu  
Professor,  
Université Paris IV-Sorbonne

Source of information:

([http://www.ameriquefrancaise.org/fr/article-187/Coutume\\_de\\_Paris.html#.VE-QhmfwuUk](http://www.ameriquefrancaise.org/fr/article-187/Coutume_de_Paris.html#.VE-QhmfwuUk))

## A FACEBOOK PAGE DEDICATED TO JANET MICHELE KEROUAC

### Who did it?

**Jacqueline Arruda-Soares**, a twenty-two-year-old university student from São Paulo, Brazil, got her bachelor's degree diploma in December 2014. After studying Fashion Design at SENAC in Sao Paulo, she worked as a Trend Researcher for four years. Youth Culture was always her main interest and her final project started as a research about the beginning of the Youth Culture. She writes: "When I "discovered" the *Beat Generation*, I finally realized what I was looking for because I could not stop thinking of Dean Moriarty and his friends."

### How?

So she decided to compare the North American Beat Generation with her own, the contemporary youth of Brazil. Her 250-page essay on the *Beat Generation*, an assignment for one of her courses, received top marks and she credits and thanks her guiding



Jacqueline Arruda-Soares, author of the Facebook page in honour of Janet Michele Kerouac. (Photo: Jacqueline Arruda-Soares collection)

teacher, Fernando Citroni for being most helpful.

### Why?

As she became familiar with Jack Kerouac's works, she discovered that he had one and only daughter, Janet Michele. Fascinated by Jan's unusual life, she decided to produce a Facebook page to honour her memory. Jacqueline writes: "*This journey will never end because there is so much to learn about that road. Creating Jan Kerouac's page was the way I found to keep her spirit alive.*"

Here is Jacqueline's photo and some excerpts from the Facebook Page she dedicated to Janet Michele Kerouac. The following - <https://www.facebook.com/jankerouac>, will take you to the Web page.

The Editor

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### K/ ANNUAL GATHERINGS IN 2016-2017-2018

Would you have any suggestions to make concerning our future annual family gatherings? Any particular location you would like the K/ families to discover? Please let us know.

Over the last few years, Mercédès and Marc Villeneuve have been planning our annual reunion, and they would much appreciate to hear your ideas concerning locations and activities in order to prepare a calendar for the next three years.

We are looking forward to hearing from you, please contact us ASAP.



Jan and her father's typewriter in his house in St. Petersburg, Florida, in March 1994. (Janet Kerouac gave this photo to Gerald Nicosia.)



# **KFA -Annual Gathering at the VILLAGE QUÉBÉCOIS D'ANTAN 17-18 July 2015, Drummondville**

## **PROGRAMME**

**NOTE:** In order to give you the best prices for the activities during the 2015 gathering, all registrations must be paid and received before the deadline of 30 June 2015. Everyone is free to sign for only one, or two or all three activities offered:

- A- tour of the Drummond Greenhouses, a paradise of roses;
- B- Visit of a Quebec village of yesteryears; and
- C- Saturday dinner and evening.

The cost of the activities will soon be determined and each KFA member will receive an invitation by mail. Non-KFA members are most welcomed to join us but, PLEASE, ASAP, send an email to: [afkirouacfa@hotmail.com](mailto:afkirouacfa@hotmail.com) to receive the invitation and registration form by mail.

### **Friday, 17 July 2015 (Activity A)**

1:45 p.m. Visit to the great *Serres Drummond Greenhouses* (about one hour)

### **Saturday, 18 July 2015 (Activity B)**

9:30 to 10 a.m. Registration at the Welcome Centre of the *Village Québécois d'Antan*\*

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit to the beautiful nineteenth century historical village

Lunch on site: Picnic tables available if you bring your own lunch, or eat at one of the restaurants or snack bars.

4:15 to 5:30 p.m. KFA AGM held in the Maison Lemaire-Larocque, historical house on the site.

### **Saturday, 18 July 2015 (Activity C)**

6 p.m. Dinner and evening activities held in the Maison Lemaire-Larocque house (maximum 70 seats for dinner, so reserve early)

## **ABOUT THE VILLAGE QUÉBÉCOIS D'ANTAN\* YESTERYEAR QUEBEC VILLAGE**

In 1977, at the request of the Drummondville County Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Claude Verrier, an historian, planned and created this Quebec village of yesteryear. The idea was to recreate a nineteenth century Quebec village to show our ancestors' way of life over a century. It is all there: architecture, roads, transportation, agriculture and farming equipment and methods, trades and professions, old customs, clothing, nutrition, folklore, music and dance.

\*Address: 1425, rue Montplaisir, Drummondville (Qc). \*Website: <http://www.villagequebecois.com/>

Seventy authentic buildings have been moved to reconstruct a village as it was between 1810 and 1930. In some forty of them, actors in period costumes demonstrate and explain ways and uses. Even the streets are lively with music, traditional dances, theatre shows, games, etc. And visitors can enjoy a ride in a pony-and-trap or in a 1917 Ford-T model. This site is a must for history buffs and perfect for one and all to spend a day down memory lane and get a taste of our ancestors' life.

Take advantage of our KFA annual gathering to discover the beautiful area called Centre du (of) Québec. For a virtual visit, go to: [www.tourismecentreduquebec.com](http://www.tourismecentreduquebec.com)

For more information: Mercédès Bolduc-Villeneuve and Marc Villeneuve:

Email address: [mercedesbolduc@familleskirouac.com](mailto:mercedesbolduc@familleskirouac.com),

Telephone: 418-549-0101

# THE JOAN ANDERSON LETTER

## The Neal Cassady Letter that is Turning the Jack Kerouac World Upside-Down

by Gerald Nicosia

Big things are happening in the Jack Kerouac world right now, and the end result could be that Jack's real, blood relatives may finally benefit from his thirty-million-dollar estate, (an estate that would have been theirs if Gabrielle Kerouac's will had not been forged. Had Gabrielle died intestate, as her legal heirs, the Blakes and Janet would have inherited millions of dollars)\*.

In late November, 2014, a Los Angeles performance artist named Jean Spinosa announced that she had found the Neal Cassady letter that inspired Kerouac's most famous novel, *On the Road*. The letter was a single-spaced, typed manuscript, mailed by Cassady to Kerouac in December 1950, and which Kerouac claimed was 23,000 words long.

Kerouac began calling it the "Joan Anderson Letter," because one of the main characters in the story was a young woman named Joan Anderson, whom Cassady had had a love affair with. No one had seen this letter since the very early 1950's, when it somehow got lost while Kerouac and his friend Allen Ginsberg were circulating it to publishers, trying to get it published so that Neal would be recognized as a great American writer.

There are good reasons why many Beat scholars consider the "Joan Anderson Letter" the most important document or specimen of Beat writing. For four years, from 1946-1950, Jack Kerouac struggled with the problem of how to tell the story of his friend Neal Cassady. Neal represented everything new about America after World War II: speed, sexual freedom, a devouring

hunger for life, a willingness to experiment with new modes of consciousness, including those induced by the use of illegal drugs, and in a kind of strange, mirror reversal, a complete disregard for the trappings of materialism, such as new cars, new clothes, expensive houses, and so forth. As Kerouac saw Neal, he was a pioneer of the heart, and his frontier was to try to find what was sincere, genuine, and real in a world of false advertising and hyperbolic claims by politicians and businessmen alike.

But Jack Kerouac's problem was that the old way of writing a novel - inventing characters and settings, putting those characters through the paces of an artificial plot, etc. - could not successfully evoke the mad, fast, wild world of Neal Cassady and of post-World War II America. Jack Kerouac created several early versions of his novel about Neal, which he was already calling *On the Road*. He made Neal a rancher's son in California; he invented several characters that did not actually exist. Any of these manuscripts would probably have made a saleable novel, but none of them captured the excitement of young people in the new America in the manner that Jack wanted to capture it.

And then, for three days and nights around Christmas 1950, Neal stayed up, using Benzedrine to overcome his fatigue, and typed this long manuscript called the "Joan Anderson Letter." He wrote spontaneously, giving Jack a complete and honest account of all the shames and triumphs of his daily life in Denver, talking about women, angry husbands, times in jail, cheap hotel rooms and poolrooms, miscarriages

and attempted suicides. Neal's language flowed just as if he were telling Jack a frantic story face to face. Jack had never realized that a writer could write about real life *without changing anything*, just telling the story in one breathless rush as if one were speaking to his best friend. A few months later, Jack fed a long roll of Japanese art paper into his typewriter, and, fueled by endless cups of coffee made by his wife Joan, he typed nonstop for three weeks to produce the first version of the novel *On the Road* as we now know it.

For decades, not just scholars, but tens of thousands of Beat fans have been dying to read this letter. But according to Kerouac, a careless poet named Gerd Stern had dropped it over the side of his houseboat in Sausalito, California, and it was lost forever. Then out of the blue, this woman Jean Spinosa announced that she had found it among her father's papers, that she had brought it to an auction house named *Profiles in History* in the Los Angeles area, and that it would be put up for auction on December 17, 2014. The auction house said it expected the letter to bring in half a million dollars; others said that it might sell for more than the roll manuscript of *On the Road*, which was purchased by Jim Irsay for two-and-a-half-million dollars.

Many people such as myself were outraged. Once again, it seemed that an important artifact of the Beat revolution was going to be sacrificed to pure greed - that the "Joan Anderson Letter" would probably end up in a collector's vault, where no one would ever be able to read or even see it. I felt that as a rejected manuscript, the letter should have been returned to Neal Cassady; and since Neal died in

1968, I felt it should be returned to his 'kids', John, Jami, and Cathy, all of whom I know. They are all good people and are not jumping in here just to try to make money.

I introduced them to a very famous, artistic rights lawyer named Marc Toberoff, who is based in Los Angeles. Toberoff has helped the families of many writers, including John Steinbeck's children, and he recently won a high-profile case against the Disney Corporation on behalf of the family of the original creator of *Superman*. Toberoff has long been interested in the Beat writers, and he jumped at the chance to help the Cassady children.

I am, however, still concerned with the very poor Blake family in Arizona. Paul Blake, Jr., the son of Jack Kerouac's sister Caroline, is Jack Kerouac's closest living relative. At almost 67 years old, he is very unwell with emphysema and other chronic health problems. His son, Paul Blake III, in his late 30's, can no longer work due to recent back surgery, and his wife and one of his children have special health needs. If Gabrielle's will had not been forged they would not be living in such dire poverty. They would, in fact, have millions of dollars.

I conferred with the Cassady kids (I call them "kids," (though they are in their early 60's not much younger than I am!)), and they said that if they could win ownership of the Joan Anderson Letter, they would see that the Blake family also received some financial benefit. Marc Toberoff crafted a legal deal that would see that the Blakes received a percentage of any money earned from the sale of the letter by the Cassadys. The Cassadys are committed to publishing the letter so all who are interested in Kerouac, Cassady, and the origins of the Beat Generation can read it; and most probably will sell it to a university or



Carolyn Cassady and two of her three children; left, Jami Cassady; right, John Allen Cassady. Absent from the photo, Cathy Cassady. (Sonoma, California, 2001).  
(Photo: Gerald Nicosia collection)

other institution where it would be preserved for scholars to study, rather than to a private collector.

Then everything came crashing down! John Sampas's lawyer, Nicholas Mitrokostas, contacted the auction house and demanded the letter. John Sampas's position, in essence, was that since his family could not take possession of the letter when they forged Gabrielle Kerouac's will, the letter being at that time hidden in a box, he had the right to collect it now. His claim is based on the Florida court's ruling, based on a Florida inheritance law, that since no one complained about the forgery for two years after Stella Kerouac died in 1990, Stella's brothers and sisters get to keep whatever stolen property she passed on to them. (Jan did not file her lawsuit alleging forgery until 1994)

Even more surprising, just as Paul Blake, Jr., and his son Paul III were about to sign the deal with Marc Toberoff, their contingency lawyers, Bill and Alan Wagner (who had won the forgery verdict against the Sampases), stopped them from doing so. The Wagners claim they alone have the right to take possession of the letter for the real Kerouac Estate, which consists of the closest blood

relatives of Gabrielle Kerouac, since she died without a valid will. Her legitimate heirs, had there been no forged will, would have been the Blake family, as well as Jan Kerouac's heirs.

The problem, however, is that this new strategy by the Wagner law firm pits Kerouacs against Cassadys. The Blakes told me they do not want to fight the children of Jack's best friend. Surely it would be an awful development – *on all levels*: financial, ethical, historical, etc. – if the families of these two great friends and literary collaborators ended up battling each other in court. Meanwhile, John Sampas and Jean Spinosa both insist on their exclusive claim to the letter.

The battle is far from over; in fact, it is just beginning. I promise to write more, as the story unfolds.

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\*Note: A streamlined account of Janet Kerouac's legal battle against the Sampas was published in *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, bulletin 114.





# IN MEMORIAM



## **BRESSE, JACQUELINE GAILLAND (1932-2015)**

At the Hospital St-François-d'Assise in Quebec City, on 30 January 2015, at the age of 82 years, died Jacqueline Gailland, widow of Robert Bresse. She was the daughter of the late **Bernadette Kirouac** and the late Louis Gailland; and the granddaughter of **Eusèbe Kirouac (GFK 01421)**. Funeral was held at St. Emile Church on 7 February 2015. Ashes were placed in St. Charles Cemetery in Quebec City. She leaves to mourn her children: Louise (Gilles Moreau), Linda (Kevin Jollotta), Richard (Manon Lemieux), André; her grandchildren: Alexandre, Guillaume and Maude, Samuel and Lexane; as well as members of the Gailland and Bresse families.

## **GAGNON, PAUL-ÉMILE (1923-2015)**

On 31 January 2015, at the Jonquière CSSS (long term care centre), aged 91 years and four months, died Paul-Émile Gagnon, widower of Irène Fortin. Funeral was held on 7 February 2015 at the Saguenay Funeral Home. Ashes were placed in the Columbarium St-Dominique. He was the son of the late **Annie Kirouack (GFK 02443)** and the late Joseph-Edmond Gagnon. He leaves to mourn his children: Jacques Gagnon (Liliane Gravel), Ginette (Michel Paradis), Carole (Guy Fraser), Marthe, Marcel (Josiane Simon); nine grandchildren: Audrey, Marilyne, Nadine, Cynthia, Yann, Amélie, Karine, Simon, Marick; and ten great-grandchildren: Arielle, Annaève, Alexanne, Justin, Thomas, Jessie, Éliane, Laurie, Laurence and Alexandra. He was the brother of: the late Jacques (Claire Tremblay), the late Gemma (the late Jos Muckle), the late Domitien (Hortense Hébert), the late Jeanne-d'Arc, the late Rita (the late Paul-Armand Gagnon), the late Georgette (the late Claude

Desmeules), Marguerite (the late André Pronovost), Victorien (the late Charlotte Bouchard), Guy (the late Hermance Boivin); he was predeceased by brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: Henri Fortin, Laurette (Henri Paradis), Cécile (Vilmont Dumais), Léopold (Mrs. Verreault), Arthur (Fernande Julien), Rita (Paul-René Cloutier).

## **HOUE, PIERRE (1947-2015)**

On 4 January 2015, in the palliative care department at the Hôtel-Dieu in Quebec City, at the age of 67 years, died Pierre Houde, son of the late Cécile Bédard and the late Louis-Joseph Houde. Funeral was on 11 January 2015 at the Coopérative funéraire des Deux Rives in Quebec City. Private burial will be at a later date. Pierre leaves to mourn two sisters and a brother: Danielle (the late Jean-Luc Dutil), Yves-Denis (Michèle Bédard) and **Sylvie (René Kirouac, GFK 02241, KFA treasurer)**; two nieces and a nephew: Geneviève, Martin (Lorenna Fernandes) and Caroline (Luis Navas); one great-nephew and two great nieces: Esteban, Simone and Naomi; members of the Houde and Bédard families and friends.

## **KEROUAC, JOAN T. (1931-2015)**

Joan T. Kerouac, 83, of Kankakee, Illinois, passed away Thursday (Jan. 8, 2015) at River North Nursing Home in Bradley. She was born Dec. 3, 1931, the daughter of Alice and Harold Meisterling. Joan married **Vernon E. Kerouac (GFK 02738)** on Nov. 11, 1948, in Manteno, IL. He preceded her in death on Sept. 20, 1997. Joan spent her years as a homemaker. Surviving are two daughters and three sons, Diane Holley (Rob), Rita Juckett (Jeff), Thomas Kerouac (Misty), Dale Kerouac (Laura), Robert Kerouac (Joady); ten grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Also surviving are one brother and two

sisters, Harold Meisterling (Carol), Berniece Blanchette (Ronald) and Betty Tousignant (Gerald). In addition to her husband; she was preceded in death by her parents and a brother, Tommy Meisterling.

## **KIROUAC, GILBERT (1945-2014)**

On 15 December 2014, at the age of sixty-nine, died Gilbert Kirouac (**GFK 01393**). He leaves to mourn his wife, Micheline Laramée-Kirouac whom he married forty-eight years ago; three children: Claude, Linda and Stéphane, grandchildren and one great-granddaughter as well as his brothers, sisters, brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, other relatives and friends. A prayer meeting was held on 19 December 2014 in the Chapel of the Yves Légaré Funeral Home in LaSalle (Montreal suburb).

## **KIROUAC, YVETTE MOREAU (1921-2014)**

At the St-Sacrement Hospital in Quebec City, on 13 December 2014, at the age of ninety-three, died Yvette Moreau, **widow of Martin Kirouac (GFK 02258)**. She leaves to mourn her daughters: Lyse (Renaud St-Pierre) and Yolande (Réal Bourgault); her grand-daughters: Nathalie (Jean-François R. Gagné) and Julie Grandmaison (Navuth Eap); her great-grand-children: Coralie, Mathis and Antoine Gagné; Liam, Jacob and Nylah Eap; nephews and nieces and her god-daughter Claire Ouellet. Funeral was on Friday, 2 January 2015, in Notre-Dame-de-Bonsecours Church in L'Islet followed by burial in the Parish cemetery.

## **LAROCHE, LOUIS-GEORGES (1957-2014)**

At the Trois-Rivières CSSS palliative care of the Reginal Hospital, on 27 December 2014, at the age of fifty-seven, died Louis-Georges Larouche, husband of **Suzanne Kirouac (GFK 00330)**. Mr. Larouche leaves to mourn, besides his wife, Suzanne Kirouac, their children: Benoit and

Stéphanie Larouche; his father Albert Larouche; his mother, Thérèse Dupuis; his brothers and sister, his brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law from the Larouche family: Claude Larouche (Renée Cardinal), Gilles Larouche (Johanne Hamel), Laurent Larouche, Suzanne Larouche, and from the Kirouac family: Pierre Kirouac (former KFA President), Jules Kirouac (Suzanne Lemay), Céline Kirouac, Hélène Kirouac, Louis Kirouac (former KFA regional representative for Montreal) (Janine Lemay), Claude Kirouac (Louise Richard); as well as many uncles, aunts, nephews and nieces, cousins and friends including his work colleagues at STTR (Trois Rivières (city) Transport Service)

**LEMAY, GÉRARD (GERRY)  
(1920-2014)**

At the CSSS (palliative care centre) Trois-Rivières Regional Hospital, on 17 December 2014, at the age of 94, with his daughter Suzanne at his side, died Gérard (Gerry) Lemay, widower of Jacqueline Gougeon. He was the last surviving of the seventeen children of Joséphine (née Dorion) and Dominique Lemay. Mr. Lemay was for many years the Sales Director for the Prudential of America Insurance Company. He leaves to mourn his two daughters: Nicole and **Suzanne (Jules Kirouac GFK 00322)** their children David and Caroline and their families. Funeral was held on 3 January 2015, at Sainte-Catherine-de-Sienne Church in Trois-Rivières. Burial will be at a later date in St-Michel Cemetery in Trois-Rivières.

**MASSON, LAURENT  
(1922-2014)**

At St-Sacrement Hospital in Quebec City, on 4 December 2014, at the age of ninety-two years and four months, died Laurent Masson, **husband of Simone Kirouac (GFK 00539)**. He was born on 17 July 1922, the son of Maria (née Chamberland) and Oscar Masson. Funeral was held on 12

December 2014 in the Chapel of the Seigneurie Funeral Cooperative. Ashes will be buried in the Belmont Cemetery at a later date. Besides his wife, Simone, he leaves to mourn his children: Denise, Pierre (Line Boucher); his grand-daughters: Marie-Sophie (David Bisson), Amélie (François Beaulieu); one great-granddaughter Jeanne; his two sisters: Jeanne d'Arc and Lucille; and from the Kirouac family: Gabriel, Jean-Marie and Thérèse.

**PARÉ, GEMMA NADEAU  
(1923-2015)**

At the Thetford Mines Hospital, on 18 January 2015, at the age of ninety-one years and three months, died Gemma Nadeau, daughter of the late Florence (née Lessard) and the late Émile Nadeau. She was the widow of Jean-Denis Paré. She leaves to mourn her children: André (Monique Bolduc), Luc (Diane Vallée), Yolande (Robert Boulé), Daniel (Colette Lemieux) and **Lucie (Yves Kirouac, son of Gabriel Kirouac, GFK 00541)**; thirteen grand-children, eighteen great-grandchildren. She had eleven brothers and sisters and thirteen sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law in the Paré family.

**STEINFADT, DONALD G.  
(1934-2015)**

Donald G. Steinfadt age 80 passed away on Friday, January 16, 2015 at the Grundy County Memorial Hospital, while under the care of Cedar Valley Hospice. A funeral service will be held on Monday, January 19, 2015 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Reinbeck, Iowa. Burial will be held privately. Don was born on September 28, 1934 in LeMars, Iowa, to his parents Herman and Dora (Andressien) Steinfadt. Don served his country in the United States Navy. He was stationed in Korea during the Korean Conflict. Don was united in marriage to **Virginia Curwick** on December 19, 1961 in Jackson, MN. Together they welcomed their sons Scott and Jim into their family. Don worked as a

heavy equipment operator for many years. He was a proud member of the Operating Engineers Union, Local # 234. He retired at the age of 62 from the Dave Schmitt Construction Company. After retirement he spent many happy hours restoring antique construction equipment and tractors. Don was a member of the American Legion Post # 241 in LeMars, Iowa. He was also a member of the Otter Creek Gun Club in Cedar Rapids and a member of the Amateur Trapshooting Association. He enjoyed both trap and skeet shooting. He was fond of fishing and camping, but really loved hunting with his dog Bear. Don was also a pilot and enjoyed flying small aircraft. Don is survived by his wife of 53 years, Virginia; his sons Scott (Sandy) and Jim Steinfadt; five grandchildren; a brother Marlan Steinfadt; sisters Gladys Kock. He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother Harold and sisters Betty, Delores and Joyce.

**VAILLANCOURT, JACQUES  
(1938-2015)**

At the Marie-Élisabeth Home, on 28 January 2015, at the age of seventy-six years and eight months, died Jacques Vaillancourt, engineer, husband of Elmina Allard. He was the son of the late Georgianne (née Dubé) and the late Joseph Vaillancourt. A prayer gathering was held on 31 January 2015 in his memory in the St-Germain Mausoleum's Chapel in Rimouski, Quebec. Burial will be in the spring in the St-Germain Memorial Gardens in Rimouski. He leaves to mourn his wife Elmina, his children: Éric, Luc and Annie (Alain Brassard, son of **Thérèse (née Kirouac GFK 01312)** and Réjean Brassard); his grand-children: Samuel, Jérémie and Élodie; his brothers: Roland, Paul-Émile, Marc, Yves and Fernand, his sisters Anniella and Monique, his brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law from the Vaillancourt and Allard families, nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends. He was predeceased by one sister, Françoise.

**OUR DEEPEST CONDOLENCES TO THE BEREAVED FAMILIES**

# GENEALOGY / THE READERS' PAGE

*The KFA's computerized genealogical data base comprises a number of persons' names for which we are missing either the spouse and/or the parents' names; therefore, answers to the following questions would enable us to complete our data. Feel free to consult our previous issues of Le Trésor and please forward us the relevant info.*

*Many Thanks  
François Kirouac*

## **Question 486**

What are the names of the parents of Nicolas Reed, second spouse of Linda Kirouac, daughter of Fernand Kirouac and Irène Robichaud, and grand-daughter of Rosario Kirouac and Jeanne Vallée?

## **Question 487**

What are the names of the parents of Michel Love, first spouse of Linda Kirouac, daughter of Fernand Kirouac and Irène Robichaud, and grand-daughter of Rosario Kirouac and Jeanne Vallée?

## **Question 488**

What are the names of the parents of Rose Boisy, second spouse of Alfred Hurtubise who was first married to Germaine Kirouac (GFK 00842) in 1913? Alfred Hurtubise's second wedding took place on 28 September 1950 at Montreal.

## **Question 489**

What are the names of the parents of Medhi George, spouse of Caroline Kirouac (GFK 00323), they were married in France? What is their wedding date?

## **Question 490**

What are the names of the parents of Janine Lemay, spouse of Louis Kirouac (GFK 00327)? Where and when were they married?

## **Question 491**

What are the names of the parents of John Diehsner, second spouse of Lorraine Jalbert, daughter of Walter Wilfrid Jalbert and Lillian Kirouac (GFK 01547)? They were married on 10 September 1988, but where?

## **Question 492**

What is the name of the mother of Lisa Bowen, spouse of Joseph Deschênes, son of Antoine Deschênes and Marguerite Keroack (GFK 01245)?

## **Question 493**

What is the name of the mother of Derry Vale, spouse of Carmen Deschênes, daughter of Antoine Deschênes and Marguerite Keroack (GFK 01245)?

## **Question 494**

What is the name of the mother of Dave Rokos, spouse of Suzanne Deschênes, son of Antoine Deschênes and Marguerite Keroack (GFK 01245)?

## **Question 495**

What is the name of the mother of Todd Buehrer, spouse of Margo Joly, daughter of Charles-Émile Joly and Simonne Keroack (GFK 01236)?

## **Question 496**

What are the names of the parents of Esther Muirhead, spouse of Grégoire Joly, son of Charles-Émile Joly and Simonne Keroack (GFK 01236)?

## **Question 497**

What are the names of the parents of Ruth Falkingham, spouse of Robert Joly, son of Charles-Émile Joly and Simonne Keroack (GFK 01236)?

## **Question 498**

What are the names of the parents of Richard Brooks, spouse of Barbara A. Kerouac, daughter of Armand Kerouac and Grace Sullivan, and grand-daughter of Joseph Kerouac and Léontine Rouleau (GFK 01362)?

## **Question 499**

What are the names of the parents of Grace Sullivan, spouse of Armand Kerouac, son of Joseph Kerouac and Léontine Rouleau (GFK 01362)?

## **Question 500**

What are the names of the parents of Francis Marin, second spouse of Monique Kirouac (GFK 00665), daughter of Jean-Yves Kirouac and Claire Robert? Where did they get married, the wedding was on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2006?

## **Question 501**

What are the Christian names of the first and second husband of Theresa Kirouac, daughter of Donald Kirouac and Dorothy Elizabeth Wills, and grand-daughter of Henri Kirouac (GFK 01047) and Corinne Ouellet? Their family names were respectively Lowell and Keating. What are the names of their respective parents?

## **Question 502**

What is the Christian name of the husband of Louiselle Verville, daughter of Émile Verville and Isabelle Kirouac (GFK 00773)? His family name is Boulanger.

*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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Programme on page 21**

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