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Number 121

Le Trésor des Kironuac

Bulletin of the descendants of Alexandre de K/voach
Witness to Kironuac activities for 33 years



28 May 2016 - 70th Wedding Anniversary of Dorothy Eunice Sandling and Leo George (Bud) Curwick



Kironuac
Kironuack



Kérouac
Kérouack



Keroac
Keroack



Kéroack
Kyrouac



Breton
Burton



Curwack
Curwick



Le Trésor des Kirouac

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The President's Word

Today I want to talk to you about something very close to my heart, the content of our family bulletin. A few years ago, we had a list of subjects, suggested by various people, to be eventually written up and published in our bulletin. Some of these topics were used in various *Trésor*. Unfortunately some fell by the wayside, essentially for lack of a person to take on to do the research, interviews, and writing. So we have to start afresh. Presently we find it increasingly difficult to offer you a variety of subjects.

Some people commented to the effect that we keep publishing articles about Jack Kerouac. Why? Given that almost fifty years after his death, he is still very much present in the news, and his influence is still widely felt, we think that we cannot ignore him. However, let me assure you that we are very keen to write about all K/s, past and present. So, this year you read about Audrey Kirouac-Ouimet presented by Karyne and Roxanne Kirouac; the Hurtubise and their wonderful family gatherings at Christmas and April every year; and Joseph Damase Kirouac's family story written by René Kirouac from Saint-Constant.

In order to carry out our mission and print present-day stories of living K/ in *Le Trésor*, your help is not just needed but vital and essential.

It is rather simple, anyone can do it: keep an eye on

newspapers, regional and national, and an open ear to radio and TV news, and note whatever concerns the K/s, C/s and any other surnames related, and pass on such information to *Le Trésor's* editors. Anything that could eventually become a subject for a story to be printed now or later, what will make the difference, is how soon one person will take on to do the research and/or interview needed.

In addition, may I invite you once more to write articles? This request is addressed to all K/ descendants wherever living in Canada, the States or anywhere else on our planet. We are convinced that all *de Kervoach* descendants will be happy to learn about the endeavours of near or distant cousins. The more the merrier, they say, well it is true when it comes to team up to produce an interesting and heartening news bulletin which we like to call our **family encyclopedia**.

We love to receive photos and comments from grandparents proud of a prize earned or a competition won by their grandchildren. Just as well, about an honour gained by a grandfather, read Pierre's story on p.8.

What about important anniversaries? Who can beat a 70th wedding anniversary? Read the story of Bud & Dorothy Curwick, written by LeRoy Curwick. He deserves much gratitude for researching,



François Kirouac collection

François Kirouac

writing and collecting all pertinent photos.

Le Trésor des Kirouac is our **FAMILY ENCYCLOPEDIA**. We have written this before and it is our goal. So why not have a part in enriching it, to make it the essential source of information about all de Kervoach's descendants. We want you to be proud to read *Le Trésor* and proud to show it to your children and to leave it as an heirloom to your descendants.

To conclude, I wish to remind you that in our next issue, our Christmas bulletin, again for the eighth year, we will publish photos of our **YOUNGER TREASURES**, usually sent to us by happy grandparents, to whom we are ever so thankful. It has become such a lovely tradition to introduce the younger generation with our holiday wishes.



The Odyssey of Neal Cassady's Letter Approaches a Conclusion II

Gerald Nicosia

In the last issue of *Le Trésor des Kérouac*, #120, pp. 21-27, Gerald Nicosia gave us the latest news about the saga of the **Letter** that was supposed to be sold at Christie's auction in New York City on 16 June 2016.

Was it sold? **NO!** How come? According to Gerald Nicosia, the blame rests mainly with the lawyers!

"The **Letter** did not sell; no one would come up with the opening bid of \$400,000. though there were bids for less. As you may remember, the lawyers put a gag order on everyone, and did their best to keep people from talking about the Letter or, as in my case, from writing about it. I kept telling everyone, that when you hold an auction, you want what they call a "buzz," which in English idiom

means everyone is talking about it, whether person or thing. When you want to get a lot of money for something, you want stories in the newspaper and magazines; you want people talking about it on radio and TV. You do not want silence. But that is what the lawyers wanted, and that is what ensued. Hardly anyone knew about the auction of the Letter, and I believe that was the reason there were so few bids.

"Two months after the auction, even the Blakes' lawyers, are still not answering my emails, so I guess they have not changed their strategy. ... I will soon talk to the Cassadys and the Blakes to find out more.

"Many issues remain unresolved. As you remember, the Cassadys were supposed to wait till the letter

was sold before they could publish it. But now that it has not sold, can they still publish it? Or must they go on waiting? There is also a story to the effect that two days before the auction at Christie's, the Los Angeles auction house, Profiles in History, announced that they had not really surrendered their interest in the Letter. Profiles in History demanded a \$50,000 payment from Christie's, and threatened that if they were not paid, they would sue both the seller and the buyer of the Cassady letter (if there was a buyer). This threat may also have dampened the prospective buyers and kept the offers low."

So what next?

One may well ask ...

and the saga lingers on.

Exposition of the "Joan Anderson" letter in San Francisco



On 3 June 2016, at the Weinstein Gallery in San Francisco, exhibition of the *Joan Anderson Letter*. The 23,000-words letter written by Neal Cassady and addressed to Jack Kerouac was lost for over half a century. It gave Jack Kerouac the key to how he should write his landmark novel *On the Road*.

In the photo: Jami Cassady, Neal's daughter and (left) her husband, Randy Ratto, with Gerald Nicosia at right.

(Photo: Gerald Nicosia collection)

70th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF LEO GEORGE (BUD) CURWICK & DOROTHY EUNICE SANDLING

Married on 28 January 1946

Bud and Dorothy Curwick celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary Saturday, May 28th, 2016 with a large gathering of family and friends, at the Rock Creek City Center, Rock Creek, Minnesota.

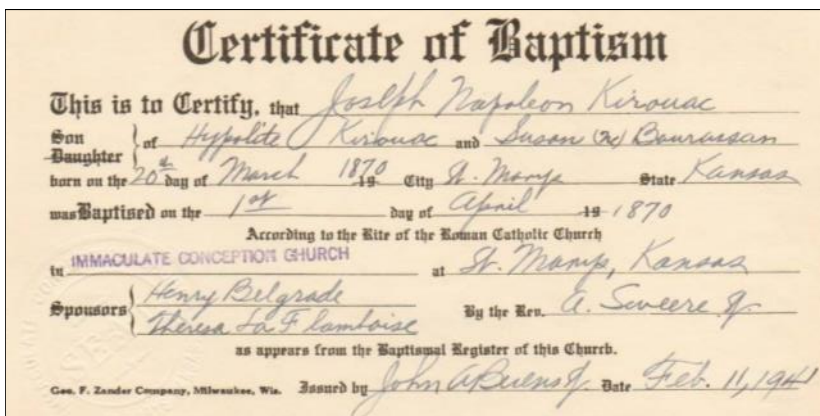
Leo George (Bud) Curwick, age 17 years, and Dorothy Eunice Sandling, age 15 years, were married on January 28th, 1946 by a Texas Justice of the Peace in Dallas, Texas. Bud was serving in the U.S. Navy toward the end of World War II. They met at a dance at the local fairgrounds, where Dorothy said "all the girls went to meet the sailors from the base". Despite their young ages, both the bride and groom's mothers approved of their marriage. Dorothy's mother went with them to get the marriage license since her written approval was required. Upon signing the marriage license the Texas JP asked, "When are you going to get married? Why wait, I can do it right now!" So, with Dorothy's mother as their witness they were married immediately. Bud says he had to call twice to

get his mother's O.K. The first time he asked his mother, Louise Marie Baert Curwick, living in Marshall, Minnesota, she was emphatic, the answer was NO! The second time he asked he said "Mom, I just HAVE TO GET MARRIED". She relented. About six months later, when Louise welcomed Dorothy to Marshall, she took one look at Dorothy's trim and petit figure and exclaimed, "I thought Bud said that you had to get married!" Bud's answer later was, "Well we did, we were so much in love".

Bud had joined the U.S. Navy, for the duration of the war, sometime prior to VE day (May 8, 1945) and VJ day (August 15, 1945). After 8 weeks of basic training near Chicago, IL he was assigned to a Naval Air Station in Texas. His term of service lasted until July, 1946 when they were transferred north by train, Bud to Fort Snelling for mustering out, Dorothy to Marshall, MN to live with her new mother-in-law Louise. Bud joined Dorothy in Marshall in short order.

Their first daughter, Shirley Margaret was born there in February, 1947. A month later, Bud and Dorothy were visiting his cousins, Eileen Curwick Thanghe and Alverna Curwick DeRoode, and their new-born daughter at the birthing hospital in Marshall. While there Nurse Tilges, who knew Bud came from a local Catholic family, introduced them to the new priest at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, Father Francis J. Fleming. Father Fleming welcomed Bud back into the Catholic Church, instructed Dorothy in the Catholic faith and baptized both mother and her new-born daughter and officially blessed their marriage. Bud's heartfelt comment was and has been ever since, "I had nothing to do with all of this, it's all in God's hands". He brought us to that hospital room, with Eileen and Carolinda, with Alverna and Christine, and put Nurse Tilges and Father Fleming there to bring us to Christ and set us right on our journey in life".

Father Fleming attended their 50th Wedding Anniversary celebration in 1996. He gave them an interesting gift, a \$50 bill. He told them that after their wedding he would have bet \$50 that the marriage would not last, based on his assessment of their backgrounds. Bud and Dorothy's faith won that bet.



Baptismal certificate of Joseph Napoleon Kirouac, grandfather of Leo George (Bud) Curwick. (LeRoy Curwick collection)

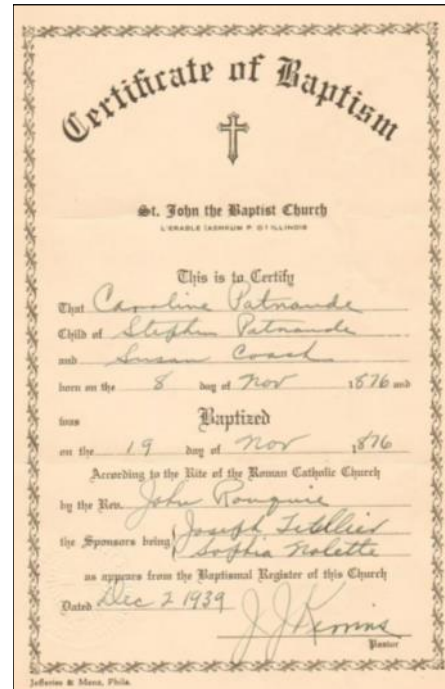


Photo: LeRoy Curwick collection

Photo taken in 1996 at the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary. From left to right: Bud Curwick, Father Fleming, Dorothy Sandling-Curwick and Bud's mother, Louise Baert (Curwick) Schrunck.

A word or two, about the Kirouac connection is in order here. Bud (Leo George) Curwick, born April 20, 1928 is the first born son of Reno Eugene Curwick and Louise Marie Baert. Reno is the brother of Leo Elmer Curwick and Louise is the sister of Mary Valerie Baert Curwick, the parents of LeRoy Roger Curwick (*Le Trésor* #115, pp. 5-6). Reno's father is Joseph Napoleon Curwick (1870-1956), the youngest son of Hippolite Paul Kirouac (1815-1880) {GFK 00178} and Suzanne Bellgarde (1832-1875). Refer to the article on Reno's sister, Mable Ann Curwick King, *Le Trésor* #115, pp. 19-25. Bud was named after his uncle Leo Curwick and his great-uncle George Patnaude.

Bud's Grandpa Napoleon Curwick was baptized at the Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception in St. Mary's, Kansas on April 1, 1870, born March 20, 1870. His name on the baptismal certificate reads, "Joseph Napoleon Kirouac". Later his name appears in his father's 1880 estate probate documents, as "Pauleo Kerwick". Sometime later his family name transitioned to Curwick. We see him in the 1895 Kansas census, along with his young wife Caroline (nee Patnaude, married October 29, 1894), identified as "Napoleon Curwick". Again, in the 1900 Federal census in Illinois he is identified as "Napoleon Curwick" along with Caroline and sons, Ulysus (sic) and Leo. It is interesting to note that the unknown person



Baptismal certificate of Caroline Patnaude, grandmother of Leo George (Bud) Curwick (LeRoy Curwick collection)

responsible for purchasing Grandpa Napoleon's gravestone for his 1956 burial in Webster, Wisconsin designated his name as "Joseph Napoleon Kerwick". All of Grandpa Napoleon Curwick's offspring have used the Curwick surname. This includes Bud and Dorothy's sixth child, and second son, Joseph Napoleon Curwick.

Bud and Dorothy have been working class laborers all their married life. Bud as a bricklayer and stonemason, Dorothy as a wife, mother and homemaker. We all know who had the hardest job. After settling in North St. Paul, Minnesota, Bud built a house brick by brick and Dorothy built a home, together they built a family. As the years went by Bud put on additions and added bedrooms so all twelve children would have their own bedroom. They later moved "up to Wisconsin" where Bud became a master stonemason creating stone chimney's and entrance monuments for the resorts and developments. After retirement they moved back toward Minneapolis/St. Paul, in Rush City, Minnesota, near most of their children and their families.

Along with celebrating 70 years as a married couple, Bud and Dorothy celebrated God's blessing their union with 12 children, 48 grandchildren, 65 great-grandchildren and 14 great-great-grandchildren. This

was just the latest of many family gatherings where this wonderful Curwick family celebrated and thanked the Lord for his many blessings.

Since their retirement in 1992 Bud and Dorothy have spent summers living near their granddaughter Jessica, on the western edge of the St. Croix River Valley. They winter in Rio Grande City, Texas where they perform a special ministry sewing quilts for the immigrant population along the Rio Grande River Valley. They work with the Sisters at the Good Shepherd Monastery. Over the years the Bud and Dorothy Curwick family has used annual family reunions for fund-raising for their Mom and Dad's mission activity in Texas.

This had strengthened their families' ties and faithfulness to mission work. This past winter daughter Shirley and many of her siblings travelled south to celebrate their Mom and Dad's 70th Anniversary in their mission field.

On the way they composed a poem sung to the Christmas tune of "To Grandmother's House We Go". We close with their words:

Over the highway
Across the Great Plains
to Mom and Dad's house we go
The motor home feels
the wind in her wheels
as she conquers the ice and the snow

Thanks to our Blessed Mother
and Jesus our brother

Our Father, His Spirit et al
We arrived all together
In spite of the weather
From Washington, Austin, St. Paul

From Harris and Stacy
and all points up North
From Rochester and Lino Lakes
We set sights on the Valley
as Curwick kids rally
and optimistically set forth

So over the farm roads
across the vast desert
to Good Shepherds Monastery
Honoring Seventy Years
of love, sweat and tears
Oh what a beautiful love story!

Praise be to God,
from whom all blessings flow.

LeRoy Roger Curwick



Dorothy (née Sandling) and Leo George (Bud) Curwick's twelve children; from left to right, top row: Tom, David, Joe and Rick; middle row: Shirley, Judy, Patti and Rita; front row: Caroline, Mark, Jane and Laura.

PIERRE KIROUAC GIVEN THE *TOM DEVITT AWARD*



Pierre Kirouac is the secretary of the Longueuil branch of **Les Marmitons***, a gastronomic and social club for gentlemen who love fine food and cooking. On 17 July 2016, at the annual international gathering of the *Marmitons International* held in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, Pierre Kirouac was presented with the **Tom Devitt Award**.

The membership of the North American *Marmitons International* is about 800. Each year, the eighteen chapters can submit one candidate to win the *Tom Devitt Award*. This year the Longueuil Chapter submitted the name of Pierre Kirouac, and since the award was created, it is the second time that a Quebec *Marmiton* has won it.

Tom Devitt, a founding member of the Toronto chapter of *Marmitons International*, was known for his sense

of humour, love of life and friendship; he was also keen on traditional ritual and proper dress code. He was vice-president responsible for traditions. The prize was created after his passing, and is given annually since 2010 to the candidate recognized as the best at promoting friendship and gastronomy.

The first Canadian Chapter of *Les Marmitons* was created in Montreal in 1977 by two immigrant Swiss businessmen inspired by similar experiences lived in their country, in Sister Berthe Sansregret's kitchen. Sister Berthe of the Congregation of Notre-Dame (1912-2003) was a famous cook, had a TV cooking show, and published a number of cookbooks. She was known as "The Grande Dame of the culinary art in Quebec".

For the past ten years, Pierre Kirouac has been fully involved with the president, in the planning of the meetings; his invaluable contribution won him the gratitude of his colleagues

in the Longueuil Chapter of *Marmitons* and they chose him as candidate for the **Tom Devitt Award**.

The invited Chef plans a four- to six-course dinner. He decides the number of teams and the number of members in each team. During the afternoon session, he shares his passion and knowledge with the *Marmitons* and makes sure that all goes according to plan. Around six o'clock, they move to the dining room. Each team presents its dish for tasting and the Chef grades the work of each team. Anything goes when it comes to try to influence the Chef's evaluation. The *Marmitons* usually find the Chef "tough" but always just!

A wine-expert marmiton studied the menu and made sure that the wines perfectly match the various dishes, as harmony between food and drink is essential to the general mood.

Three times a year the *Marmitons* invite their most critical judges, their wives, to partake in the dinner they prepared; it certainly adds spices to the discussions and for a long time after the event too.

Each Chapter develops its implication in the community. The Longueuil *Marmitons* created the **Gerald Ross Award**. Every year, out of the surplus funds generated from their activities, a scholarship is given to a student from the *Jacques Rousseau Academy*. It usually enables a student to pursue his training in France. Smaller amounts are also distributed to other deserving students.

For more information on *Les Marmitons International*, visit their website at: www.lesmarmitons.org



Pierre Kirouac and Mr. Camille Bentkowski, president of the Longueuil chapter of the *Marmitons International*.

(Photo: Pierre Kirouac collection)

**Marmitons is a French word deriving from 'marmite' (large kitchen pot). In the good old days, it referred to the chefs' helpers, those who stirred the content of the pot!*



The *Tom Devitt Award* is presented annually to a member of the *Marmitons International* who best represents the spirit of Tom Devitt in bringing humour, fun, and a sense of dedication and enthusiasm to the *Marmitons* goal of friendship and gastronomy. On 17 July 2016 in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, Pierre Kirouac from Boucherville received this accolade.

Pierre Kirouac and his wife, Marie-Andrée Lavigne-Kirouac, proudly holding the plaque given to him in recognition of his ten-year implication with the Longueuil chapter of the *Marmitons International*.

Pierre, former KFA representative for Montreal, Abitibi and Outaouais Region from 1983 to 1993, was also a key member of the planning committees for our annual gatherings in 1979, 1987, 1992 and 2003.

Pierre Kirouac's word of Thanks upon receiving the TOM DEVITT AWARD

This nomination compels me to re-evaluate my real age. At the moment, I consider myself still young enough to keep being involved in various activities. However, as I read the list of Tom Devitt's remarkable qualities as listed on this plaque I realize that I still need to improve.

I also wish to thank my sponsor, Michel Lebrun, who introduced me to the Longueuil *Marmitons*; and Gérald Ross, our founding president, for inviting me to join the Board of the Longueuil Chapter, and my wife, Marie-Andrée who still approves of my culinary passion and support my involvement.

I am sure I am forgetting to thank someone. Well, let's blame it on age; so please remind me.

Fréquentation de Kérouac, (i.e. hanging out with Kerouac)

A new book by **Jean-Paul Loubes**, published by Éditions des Vanneaux, France, 2016

Presented by Michèle Duclos, for *Poésie Première*

Once more Loubes decided to travel mentally with his friend Jack Kerouac. Having proclaimed in his previous book entitled *Je ne suis pas Jack Kérouac (I am not Jack Kérouac*)*, Loubes starts by cutting out the American side of Kerouac first by using the common French 'tu' and no longer the polite 'vous' when talking to Jack who did not want to be a 'beat' but a mystic, catholic, strange, solitary and crazy; and he adds an acute accent to Jack's family name to remind people of his Breton origin**; one the three brotherly poets: the K - G - B: Kérouac, Ginsberg, Burroughs. With Jack in mind, his book of poetry starts in a narrow territory somewhere between Landes and Chalosse where a silver heron throws him with teary eyes towards the *San Francisco Blues*. And we, the reader, the poet and Jack, are on the road. Kerouac's books are on a travelling bookshelf as far as Cap Nord. The smell from the herring crates floating above the docks calls..., in Asia with Japhy Rider; in Ireland as far as Tíj Coili's musical pub in Galway where one by one they arrived all scruffy, wearing ragged jackets but with their musical instruments in their cases, *bag pipes* and banjo and more... Pleasant... And on to Francis Bacon's and Oscar Wilde's Dublin and Trinity College.



The main part of the poem is a requisition by a sad anarchist poet who is also a professional non-architect, a de-creator as Kenneth White called him, in front of the post-Maoist urban and human desolation: girls bleach their hair, show their belly-button, and exhibit their thighs... Today if you enter an inn wearing heavy shoes ... YOU PAY FIRST before sitting at a table. Pekin was destroyed in less than a decade. It is a long sober and imaginative poem.

* See *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, Number 95, Spring 2009, pp. 12-13 and Number 102, Winter 2010, p. 7.

** Editor's note: **Ker** is a Gaelic word originally meaning a town, a distant location. Eventually it came to refer to a village, even a homestead. In Brittany, thousands of names of places and families start with ker but without an accent on the 'e'. Only in Quebec, perhaps by ignorance, or because of the pronunciation, the accent was sometimes added by officiating priests at christening, marriages and funerals.

Jean-Claude Dupont (1934-2016)

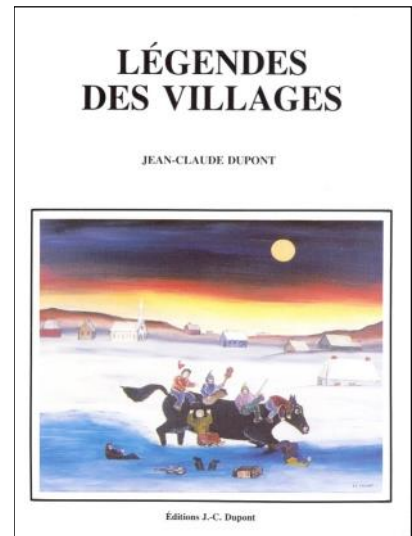
Author of the Kirouac Legend

On 17 May 2016, at the age of 82, the ethnologist, Jean-Claude Dupont passed away. We had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Dupont in 2008 in the context of the KFA's 30th anniversary. He had kindly accepted our invitation to participate in a video highlighting our association's different achievements from 1978 to 2008. He was the author of the Kirouac Legend, entitled *La Légende des Kirouac*, published in 1987. Mr. Dupont took great pleasure in explaining how he had gathered several variants of the legend before coming up with the version he published one year before the KFA's 30th anniversary.

For some thirty years, Mr. Dupont taught ethnology in the Literature Department at Laval University, in Quebec City. Son of Marie-Anne (née Castonguay) and Vilmaire Dupont, he was married to Jeanne Pomerleau. Born in Saint-Antonin, he lived in

Quebec City. His Saint-Antonin neighbours were Joseph Kirouac (**GFK 01575**), married to Agathe Guérette. A funeral service for Jean-Claude Dupont was celebrated on Saturday, 4 June 2016, in Saint-Jean-Baptiste-de-la-Salle Church, Quebec City.

Jean-Claude Dupont was one of the great Quebec ethnologists: innovative like his predecessors, including Marius Barbeau and Luc Lacoursière, he launched the teaching of Québec's popular material culture at Laval University in 1968. Keen to make known our material/physical heritage, he insured that the knowledge he had acquired during his work and research in the province of Quebec and in most Canadian and American centres, even in Europe, would be circulated through his teaching, writings, books and articles and paintings, and did so at scientific and popular level. For many, he remains a front runner, and he fully



The book published in 1987, in which the *Légende des Kirouac* is printed.

deserved the Gérard-Morisset Heritage Award, presented for outstanding contribution to preserving and explaining Québec's cultural heritage. (Source: <http://www.interbible.org/sebq/artistes/jcdupont.html>)



(Photo: François Kirouac)

REMEMBERING JEAN-CLAUDE DUPONT

PAR ANDRÉ KIROUAC, 25 JUILLET 2016

In 1984, the ethnologist Jean-Claude Dupont was completing one of his famous 'naïve' paintings representing Quebec legends. This particular one, a diptych, shows on the left side a disconsolate family watching a boat sinking and, on the right side, a lady seems to be burning some papers in a woodstove while a sad and tearful man watches her. This is how Dupont illustrated the Kirouac legend about a lost treasure. At the time I was studying ethnology and I had the pleasure and honour to meet Jean-Claude. We often talked about legends and Quebec history. I was also involved in museums then, working at the Bernier Maritime Museum in L'Islet during the eighties and I thought it would interesting to organize a first retrospective of his works. Therefore in 1985 I managed to put together a first exhibition of his naïve paintings entitled *Légendes du Québec*. As a token of gratitude, the artist gave me the original painting illustrating the *Légende des Kirouac*,



André Kirouac giving one of many conferences somewhere around the world. (Photo: André Kirouac collection)

which is on the wall behind me, as I write these lines sitting at my desk in my office. It will always stay there as a real treasure, belonging to the Kirouacs.

The book *Légendes des villages*, including the *Légende des Kirouac* (p.40), was published in French in 1987 and is available on the website of Bibliothèque et archives nationales du Québec at:

<http://collections.banq.qc.ca/bitstream/52327/2406246/1/47956.pdf>



Painting done by Jean-Claude Dupont, illustrating the *Kirouac Legend*

OUR BRETON ANCESTORS!

by Alain Olmi alias Jean Kersco

In July 2000, a delegation from the Kirouac Family Association toured Brittany to discover their ancestors' country. Genealogical research about the Kirouac's ancestor had finally established the link between a Le Bihan from Huelgoat, son of a Breton notary, and Alexandre de Kerouac, the Canadian landowner. The search was stimulated by the internationally known (especially in America) Jack Kerouac, "the pope of the Beat Generation."

Having heard about this upcoming tour, and checking that this Breton from Huelgoat was effectively among my own ancestors, and given that I was in Brittany at the time I used this opportunity to greet my new cousins both in Huelgoat and Lanmeur.

However, what genealogy had established, could genetics confirm

it? Thanks to DNA analysis, today a man can identify his haploid group both male and female, while women can only find out about their female genetic ascendants. While the "men" descendants of the first Canadian Kerouac are numerous, to my knowledge, there is only one male descendant of the Breton ancestor.

Unfortunately, the results were not conclusive... ("we are not made of wood," or National Geographic made a mistake, since strangely enough, the investigation did not find any genetic cousin). Therefore a Breton holder of the R1b haploid group has to be found. Nevertheless, concurrences are such that we can reasonably claim to be cousins.

**Noble Knight = Mounted Soldier
in armor**

Given this, who were our Breton ancestors? Were they noblemen (aristocrats), as Jack Kerouac believed? Well, yes! They even owned a coat of arms. Though they were not part of the aristocracy, they certainly were noble knights. I even tend to believe that some took part in Saint Louis' crusade in Egypt.

The first common ancestor is Laurens Le BIHAN (1646?-1686) Sieur de Kervoac and a resident of Huelgoat. He was a Clerk of the Royal Court, responsible for supervising and managing forestry. On 9 July 1675, he was appointed Notary in the Châteauneuf-du-Faou judiciary district. He was also the grandfather of Urbain-François Le Bihan who migrated to Canada.

Laurens was the son of Auffroy Le Bihan, an "honourable merchant" established in Morlaix, in the parish

Kerouac d'Amérique sur la route du Finistère

Samedi, dans le hameau de Kervoac, sur la commune de Lanmeur, un petit groupe de personnes se masse en bordure d'un champ. Toutes portent le même patronyme, mais avec des orthographes différentes: Kirouac, Kéroack ou Kerouac; un nom bien breton qui évoque les crêpes, le cidre et les «bistou coats». C'est pourtant du Québec et des États-Unis qu'ils arrivent, pour un voyage ému sur les terres natales de leur ancêtre commun. C'est là, en effet, qu'est né le premier «sieur de Kervoac», qui donnera une lignée de notaires à Huelgoat. Et un illustre descendant, prénommé Jack, dont, curieusement, les lointains pèlerins ne parlent pas spécialement en cette matinée de juillet 2000. Et pourtant...

A la fin des années 50, l'écrivain Jack Kerouac va donner une bonne claque au visage lisse de l'Amérique et bouleverser la littérature. Beau gosse, ancien footballeur, ex-marine, il couche sur le papier ses errances à travers les États-Unis dans des livres désormais mythiques qui s'appellent *Sur la route*, *Les clochards célestes*, *Big Sur*... Avec des amis, parmi lesquels William Burroughs et Allen Ginsberg, il est le père de la «beat generation». Une génération «sac-à-dos» qui allume la mèche de la révolte au cœur de l'Amérique conservatrice. Les hippies sont ses fils spirituels. Bob Dylan et Joan Baez ses filleuls. Dans le sillage de Kerouac, filles et garçons prennent leurs cliques et leurs cliques, du Larzac à Katmandou. En 1969, à 47 ans, l'écrivain meurt rongé par l'alcool. Non sans avoir tenté, lui qui a toujours prôné l'errance, de retrouver ses racines. Avec, dans l'oreille, une phrase que lui répétait son père: «Ti-Jean, n'oublie jamais que tu es Breton.»

Jean-Louis Kerouac, c'est son vrai nom, aurait sans doute apprécié l'histoire de son ancêtre, Urbain-François Le Bihan, sieur de Kervoac. En 1720, accusé à tort d'avoir volé de l'argent à une femme dans une auberge du Huelgoat, ce fils de notaire choisit de refaire sa vie en Nouvelle-France, outre-Atlantique. Sur les rives du fleuve Saint-Laurent, au Québec, le jeune homme voyage beaucoup et, surtout, brouille les pistes en changeant d'identité à maintes reprises: Alexandre de Kervoach, Alexandre Breton, Maurice-Louis Le Brits de Kervoach.

A la recherche de ses parents perdus, Jack Kerouac ne pourra pas reconstituer le puzzle de ses origines... « Comme un fils transplanté, il voulait savoir qui il était, d'où il venait, explique Clément Kirouac, président de l'association des Kerouac-Kirouac-Kéroack d'Amérique. Dans les dernières années de sa vie, il a mené une véritable quête d'identité. Comme beaucoup de gens au Québec – une société «tricot serré», comme on dit chez nous – où il y a un véritable engouement pour les familles descendant de France; où on passe beaucoup de temps à lire des micro-films. Les Kerouac, eux aussi, ont effectué de nombreuses recherches. En 1994, on a failli baisser les bras. Deux ans plus tard, je suis parti en solitaire à Huelgoat, à Berrien, et puis... »

A Quimper, c'est un coup de fil à la généalogiste Patricia Dagier qui va démêler l'écheveau. Oui, les Kerouac sont bien originaires du village de Kervoac, à Lanmeur. « Back to the roots », « on the road »: le retour aux sources peut commencer. Le grand Jack a désormais sa plaque à Huelgoat et une rue à Kervoac. L'espace d'un week-end, la départementale 786, qui traverse le hameau, avait les allures de la légendaire route 66 américaine, ancrée dans la mémoire de tous les voyageurs sans bagages.

Jean-Marc PINSON.

□ Pour en savoir plus: « Jack Kerouac, au bout de la route... la Bretagne », de Patricia Dagier et Hervé Quémener, aux éditions An Here.



Les Kerouac d'Amérique, de retour aux sources, ont retrouvé leurs racines dans le hameau finistérien de Kervoac, à Lanmeur, où une rue porte désormais le nom de Jack Kerouac.

One of the articles published in French newspapers while a group of KFA members were visiting Brittany 3-18 July 2000, going back to their family sources. Photo shows part of the delegation attending the unveiling of a plaque in honour of Jack Kerouac in Lanmeur in Brittany, cradle of our family.

of Saint-Melaine. He sold linen cloth (known in French as “les créés”) used to make shirts, tablecloths and towels, then exported to Europe and soon after to North America. Born in 1618 in Lanmeur where he died in 1662, he was the one who added to his patronym the name of his land *Kervoac*, a hamlet located south-east of Lanmeur. Having wealth, he did what all who aspired to nobility did, he became a landowner as land gave mere money respectability. It brought its possessor rank, and sometimes it earned him honors.

Trying to look further back in time is difficult as the genealogy gets thinner. Auffroy was the son of Henry Le Bihan, royal notary in Lanmeur, esquire, known as “honorable man”. Fortunately in a way, in 1609 with pomp and circumstance, he married Jeanne Le Dissez; and this allows us to follow the Le Dissez family genealogy. “In the summer of 1618, their child was brought to the parish church in Lanmeur to be baptized. While the priest, Father Pierre Hemery, was attending to the last details of the ceremony inside the church, outside on the front porch the crowd was a-flutter with anticipation because Auffroy Coayl, Lord of Traonnevez, equerry, King’s Counsel and former governor of the Château du Taureau, a fortified rocky islet in the Bay of Morlaix, was expected to carry the child on the baptismal font. As custom dictated, the newborn would be called Auffroy like his godfather. As to the godmother, Fiacre Noblet, Lady of Glenery, she belonged to one of the important families in the Trégor.” (Extract from the book of Patricia Dagier & Hervé Quémener: *Jack Kerouac - Au bout de la route...la Bretagne*)

Jeanne Le Dissez was the daughter of Jean Le Dissez, about whom we only know that he was the son of Yves le Dissez, Lord of Quistillic (village of Plouégat-Moysan, in Trégor); born in 1510, he died in 1573.

And then, surprise! The genealogist Jean-Miliau Garion found *Marguerite Le Dissez*, and her fabulous story was published in *Lien*, the journal of the Finistère Genealogical Centre, issues number 103 and 508. Here it is:

“On 31 May 1760, in the village of Coatisel, in Plouégat-Moysan, died Marguerite Le Dissez, an elderly woman, over eighty years old. Sister, daughter, granddaughter and great-granddaughter of notaries, she remained single, like her older sister and two brothers, who all died before her. Although she had a maid and a valet (male servant), her business was small. The stable sheltered only three cows, a mare and a colt. But she had 180 beehives and nineteen queen bees! She specialized in wax and honey, precious products that Morlaix exported mainly via Holland. She also produced cider. But her revenues came essentially from interest on loans, and rents from land leased to local peasants. She lived rather frugally in a relatively ordinary home, without any luxury: the after-death inventory showed her assets estimated at only 1,100 pounds*. However, all cash and coins received yearly on St. Michael’s Day, i.e. Michaelmas, 29 September, had been stashed away. Consequently, after her death, over 10,000 pounds was found hidden in a chest secreted at the bottom of a cupboard. A fortune! She was a very efficient money lender and the interest she collected from many people who had borrowed sums from her, had brought her 1,700 pounds. (*whether in France, England, or Canada then, the currency was L.S.D., i.e. L. = livre/pound; S. = sou/shilling; D. = denier/pence).

So what was to happen to all that money? Joseph Le Gat, Financial Magistrate for the Trogoff judicial district, which included Plouégat-Moysan, had the mandate to settle the matter, a rather complex affair to say the least. The old lady having no first cousins, nor second cousins,



Crest of the de Kerscau, three families from the same village had the privilege to use the Ermine, symbol of the Dukes of Brittany.

who should inherit? The magistrate scrutinized piles of old notarial deeds, going back two hundred years, for the district where so many relatives and known vassals of the deceased had been notaries. Eventually he found a settlement made in 1573 between the seven children of Yvon le Dissez and Marie Le Saux, ancestors of the deceased but five generations earlier! He tried to identify the couple’s descendants...

Jean-Michel Garion, a genealogist, built a database comprising nearly 10,000 descendants of Yvon le Dissez! A list looking somewhat drawn in the style of French poet Jacques Prévert; including a mayor of Morlaix, a colonel, on his wife side a cousin of the king of Bavaria, a mariner who gave his name to an island in New Guinea, some members of parliament, a general who served with Simon Bolivar and later in Algeria, a well-known preacher, a Yankee general who became Governor of Louisiana, a folklorist, a geographer, a historian, Jack Kerouac, the renowned writer, and Vicomte Olivier de Kersauson, French sailor and sailing champion born in 1944, and of course a few thousand people like you and I.

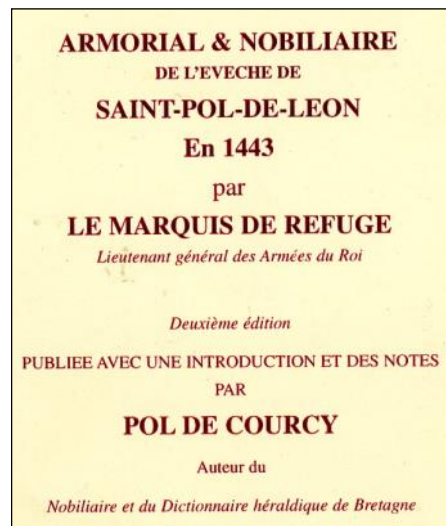
Nobility of the Léon Area

From family genealogy, now let us look at the nobility from Léon, the Breton district. We know how difficult it was to find the K/ family birthplace! However, one would have only needed to refer to the official map of the Brittany Government drawn up in 1768 by Gilles Robert de Vaugondy; and there it is, on the east side, a place named “Kerouac”! On this map, I have drawn ellipses to indicate the villages where some Le Bihan and some Kerseau lived, according to peerage lists. It is to be noted that Le Bihan and Kerseau patronimics often appear in the history of Brittany and even de Kervoac.

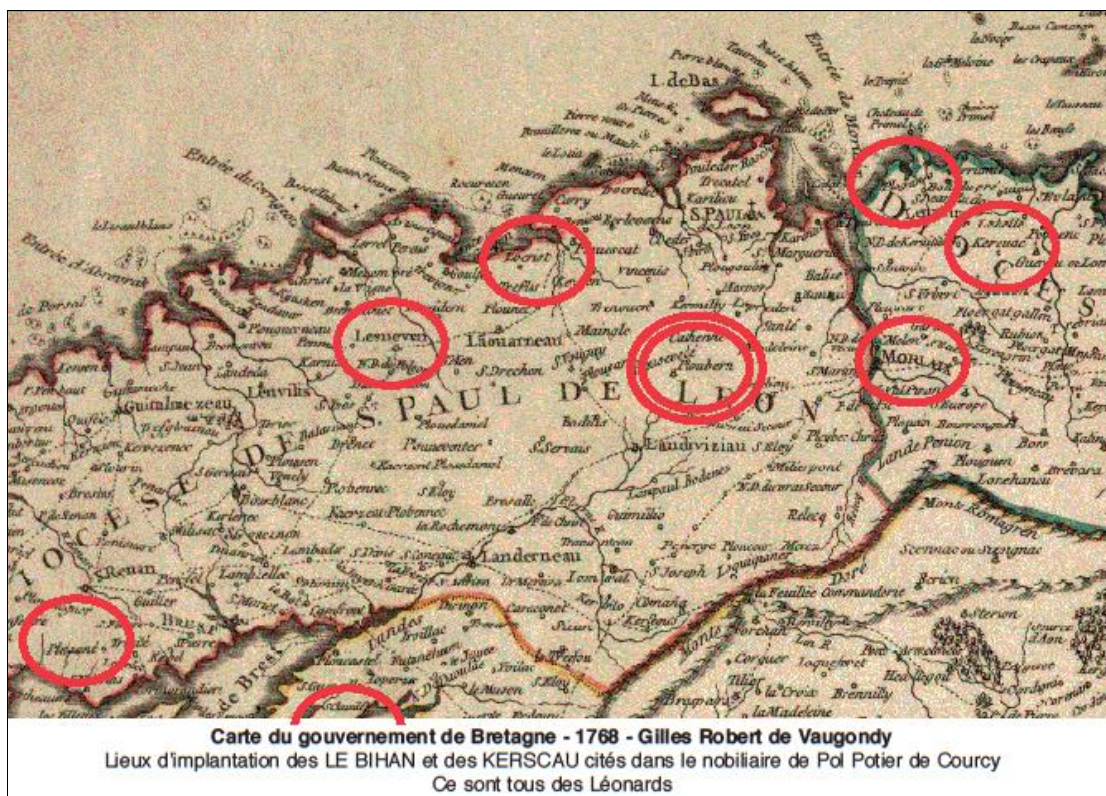
First, let us look at the etymology of the name. Le Bihan means the small one, by opposition to Le Braz, the tall one. Nowadays most Le Bihan live in Brittany and most of

them in the Finistère region. But only one Le Bihan family seems to be noble: the Le Bihan living in the Léon. On the other hand, “skaw” (elder tree) originates from old Breton “scau”, and corresponds to the Welsh “ysgaw”, also referring to elder tree. In toponymy it is the most common tree, since it appears over a hundred times (one example is Roscoff). As for “voac”, it means “a swampy place”.

In 1862, Pol Potier de Courcy published the first of three volumes about ‘Titles and Coats of Arms in Brittany’ (entitled in French: *Nobiliaire & Armorial de Bretagne*). At the time, it was a far-reaching project as it listed most noble Breton families during the “Ancien Régime” (old regime refers to France before 1789, i.e. before the French revolution). He mentioned the LE BIHAN “noble bourgeois”, well-to-do middle-class business people, including Bernard, Sieur de Pennelé around 1495, who became wealthy through the linen



trade. He particularly mentioned the LE BIHAN DE KERSCAU, the branch living in the Plouvon parish, located 20 km west of Morlaix. Plouvon seems to be a “family cradle” as five “Sieurs” are recorded there. Especially because around 1510, Jean Le Bihan, Sieur de Kerhellon, in Plounevez Lochrist, married Catherine de KERSCAU, from the parish of Plouzané near Brest, a family going



Official government map of Brittany - 1768 – prepared by Gilles Robert de Vaugondy, showing where the LE BIHAN and de KERSCAU families lived and printed in Pol Potier de Courcy’s *Nobiliaire*. They were all from the Léon area.

NOBILIAIRE DE POL POTIER DE COURCY

BIHAN (LE), s^r de Kerhellon, par. de Plounévez-Lochrist.

Anc. ext., réf. 1669, cinq gén., réf. et montres de 1426 à 1534, dite par. év. de Léon.

D'hermines à une quintefeuille de gucules, *comme Lagadec et Le Vayer*.

Jean, épouse, vers 1510, Catherine de Kerscau.

BIHAN (LE), s^r de * Pennelé et du Roudour, par. de Saint-Martin, — de Tréouret, — par. de Cast, — de Kerscau, — de Kerallo, — de la Haye, — du Clos, — de Kérouslac, par. de Plouvorn, — de Kersaint, par. de Plougasnou, — de Goariva.

Extract from Pol Potier de Courcy's *Nobiliaire*

back to 1426. But here is a troubling coincidence: all the KERSCAUS and LE BIHANS listed in the *Nobiliaire* are from the Léon region and only from the part of Léon north of the Brest/Morlaix line. Also to be noted: the ermine, symbol of the duchy of Brittany, appears in their coats of arms.

In addition, there is an even much older source, another "nobiliaire" (book listing all "titled" families) prepared by the Marquis de Refuge, a true specialist of the genealogy of the nobility. Pol Potier de Courcy used the Marquis' "nobiliaire" which enables us to go back to 1426, with good chances of finding our own ancestors. Interesting side-note about these lists*: they were very important as they gave the names of all nobles who could bear arms, including ownership of horses and equeries, all vital data to know the availability of combatants in case of conflict; besides providing lists of noble men for the genealogical archives. (*these lists were called 'montres' in French: demonstrating, showing).

The Breton legend

Now, let us look at the Breton legend. During the 18th and 19th centuries, mainly after the Hall of

the Crusades was created in the Château of Versailles, a certain Nicolas Delvincourt, who lived in Saint-Pol-de-Léon and pretended to be a genealogist, sold to many noble families genealogical data/documents dating as far back in time as possible, **but all false!** Unfortunately, his victims included some of the finest families in the Léon. His business was known as "Cabinet du Saint Esprit", "Cabinet of the Holy Spirit/Ghost"; even including the family of Count Geoffroy, Duke of Brittany, in 1185. Among the duchy's aristocrats were mentioned: Sire de Kerouatz and Sire Jacques de Kersauson, also Pierre Le Bihan is named and also as proxy for André, his lord and father and military superior. This is the oldest mention of the Le Bihan.

The Breton legend flourishes

In Brelevenez, the Church of the Knights Templar recruited volunteers for the Crusades, including a nobleman residing near the parish of Plounévez-Lochrist where a Le Bihan lived. For his campaign to the Holy Land, Saint Louis needed armed men and he counted on an important Breton/Norman contingent of armed horsemen commanded by Pierre Maclerc. At the battle of

Mansourah in Egypt, Robert d'Artois, the king's brother, recklessly entered the city with an inadequate contingent. The Muslims powerfully counter-attacked. Maclerc and his Bretons rushed to the aid of Robert d'Artois. The Bretons' sacrifice was in vain; many of them were taken prisoners and locked in ships' holds awaiting their fate: either death or freedom against ransom. At dawn the next day, their Muslim gaolers opted for the second solution.

A few days later, even Saint Louis was taken prisoner, and the king had to ask the Knights Templar to assemble a huge ransom for his release. However, Chagarat al-Durr, the only woman ever to be Sultan in Egypt, interceded for his release. Nevertheless, as the Breton nobles and their followers did not carry comprehensive insurance then, they had to sell part of their estates to help raise the ransom money. Perhaps our ancestors faced such a quandary... and out of necessity became notaries to earn a living.

Daydreaming is not forbidden!

Jean Kersco
Literary alias of Alain Olmi

REMEMBERING JAN KEROUAC

by Bill Bower

I came to know Jan Kerouac by good fortune. She was briefly married to my wife Deborah's brother, John Lash. Deborah and Jan first met in the late 1960's. There was an immediate connection between the two of them that lasted until Jan's death.

I first met Jan when she visited us in Maine. She spent several months with us during the summer. (I am sorry, I cannot recall the exact year but it would have been between 1981 and 1985). Deborah was a lobster fisherman at the time. Jan regularly accompanied her on her lobster boat where the two of them would laugh and sing together while Deborah hauled her lobster traps. During the evenings, the three of us would talk, tell stories, and Jan and Deborah would share the adventures of their day. Like Deborah, Jan enjoyed watching the lobster traps come up from the ocean floor. The two of them were excited as every trap came to the surface. They said it was like opening a Christmas package. One never knew what might show up in a trap. Lobsters were, of course, the desired catch but they frequently found all sorts of interesting creatures including the largest sea mouse ever found on the coast of Maine. Squid, scallops, sculpins, small sharks, green crabs, Jonah crabs, and small flounder were among the many things they caught. Jan delighted in this experience.

I believe Jan wrote something about her Maine experiences in "Parrot Fever." (I once saw a draft of this work but do not have a copy. If you know where I can get one, I would love to have it. In the draft, I was the minor character referred to as "Dill.")

We did not see Jan again until the early 90's. She called us from Puerto Rico, where she had been living. Her health was declining and she felt a strong

need for love and support. She turned to Deborah, asking if it would be all right if she came to Albuquerque. We were delighted that she had chosen us as her surrogate family. Jan lived with us for several months before renting a house near the University of New Mexico. She later moved to a home that was nearer to our house in the northeast part of town.

Jan and I spent considerable time together. She could not drive so it fell to me to act as her chauffeur so that she could get to her doctor and do her shopping. She joined us frequently in our home for dinner and for holidays and birthday celebrations. Our children delighted in these occasions, particularly Christmas, when Jan would bring them small gifts. The gifts were, of course, thoughtful and interesting but what really intrigued our children was how Jan wrapped them. Her packages were so beautiful the children were reluctant to open them. They did so carefully, preserving the packages as best they could.

I found Jan to be one of the most intelligent, interesting people I ever met. She had a gift for languages. Her ability to create puns was extraordinary. For example, the title of one of her chapters about herself and Deborah referred to

them as the "Harmonica Virgins" a play on the "Harmonic Convergence" that was part of the popular culture at the time. Jan was surprisingly well informed. I say surprisingly because she rarely read anything in her later years due to vision problems. And yet, she was conversant on a multitude of topics. As I drove her around Albuquerque we would talk about everything from art to politics to music. I think the two of us contributed much to each other's knowledge of the world.

During her last days Jan was hospitalized. Deborah and I visited her daily. I was able to see her two or three times a day during the last week of her life. My office was across the street from the hospital so I was able to slip away from work frequently to spend time with her. Of those she loved, I was the last to speak with her. I had seen her in the morning and we talked for about 15 minutes. That afternoon, she had slipped into a coma from which she never recovered.

Deborah and I both were at her side when she died.

My life was greatly enriched by Jan. She was beautiful, bright, funny, curious, and creative. I was blessed to have known her.



Photo: Bill Bower collection

Jan Kerouac and her first husband, John Lash. Bill Bower was married to John Lash's sister, Deborah, so he was Jan's brother-in-law.

Father Armand Morissette

Abbreviated speech given on Saturday, 18 October 1986 to the American Citizens' Club of Lowell, Massachusetts

From the archives of Dr. Eric Waddell, responsible of the *Club Jack Kerouac* in Quebec City

Introduction by Dr. Roger Brunelle:

We know that Jack Kerouac has written a great deal about heaven. And you, having been a priest for the past fifty years at least, you told us in the film about Kerouac that Jack was some kind of a modern saint. Could you possibly elaborate on the subject?

Father Morissette: Thank you, Roger! - There is nothing that bothered Ti-Jean Kerouac as much as when he heard people refer to him as the "King of the Beatniks". For him, this showed that people did not understand what the word "Beat" referred to. He did not use it to mean jazz, beat-beat-beat, or beat generation, that is the beaten generation after the War, but he used it in reference to beatitude! The Beatitudes! That was his idea. He wanted to be free and his whole philosophy was about each person finding freedom. He was very religious and very spiritual. He loved mysterious things, miraculous things. He spent hours sitting in churches looking at the crucifix, the statues, and sometimes he would say that they were moving. But he admitted that this was not vision, but only his imagination. He had an extremely vivid imagination that greatly inspired him.

People often talked about Kerouac being a vagrant and an alcoholic. Of course, he loved to drink and travel, but he was not a real vagrant according to the usual definition of the word; he wanted to earn his living by working, and his work was to write books.

The first time I met him, he was in high school, at Lowell High School and he was really worried, even quite discouraged. So, I asked him what he wanted. I knew his parents, his uncle and his aunt, but I did not know him. "Everybody laughs at me because I write poetry. That's why. And I want to be a writer. I want to write books! I said to him that it was not strange; they had no reason to laugh because it was fine to write. Then he said: "You are not laughing?" Father Morissette adds: "No, and I will encourage you; it is fine to write but you will not make money overnight. Writing will not make you rich overnight. You will have to earn your keep, and for that you need a good education." I also explained to him that he would also have to attend university, most likely in New York. Jack says: "People laugh at me and say that I am a good-for-nothing because I want to write. I will show them that I can do it. After all, I play football. And I will win at football!" He did indeed win a football scholarship to Columbia University.

He was always very religious. Edie Parker from Grosse Pointe, Michigan married him but it only lasted a few months; she was rich, she liked poets and writers very much



Photo: Kirouac Family Association collection

Father Armand "Spike" Morissette (1910-1991), O.M.I., on Jack Kerouac's grave at the Edson Cemetery in Lowell. Photo taken when members of the *Club Jack Kerouac* from Quebec City visited Lowell in 1986.

and they loved her because she always paid the bills! (Father Morissette and the public laugh). He ended up marrying her, but it was not serious. He spent a few months with her in Grosse Pointe. However, he did not like it. Although the house was very large, it felt like a prison to him. He would spend hours in the bathroom reading Shakespeare, and the Bible! (Father Morissette and the public laugh.) Spiritual things mattered very much to him and he really liked Jesus Christ. He was sincere. He wanted to imitate Christ, meaning by that to love everybody and do good unto everyone, like it says in the *Beatitudes*. That is what he meant.

His first book, *The Town and the City*, is a very beautiful book, very well written, but too kind. At

the time I said to him: "Congratulations!" Jack replies: "I told you that I would write a book!" My response was: "You will not make a fortune with this book! You need to put a bit more spice in your books if you want to write." As a matter of fact, he did spice up his books! (public laugh) He would say to me: "I have to sin to do well!" (Father Father Morissette and the public laugh).

He liked to work and he loved Gérard very much, his older brother who died too young, he was Jack's inspiration. "Gérard is my inspiration, Gérard pushes me to write" all the time. Then he talked about the way of the Cross here, the one at the orphanage, at the Franco-American school, because he wrote about it, it became an internationally known monument, now known around the world. Many people come here to see the way of the cross at the orphanage, because Kerouac wrote about it. Jack was fascinated by the way of the cross. He always said: "I love all things spiritual."

Sometime I went out with him, sometime we ate together at a restaurant on William Street; he liked that restaurant very much. I never considered him a Beatnik. For example, with long hair and a beard - like Our Lord! (Father Morissette laughs) He was always well dressed, always clean, always spotless. He liked to drink; sometimes he drank until two in the morning. Well, you know that poets and writers do that; it inspires them; they discuss. They empty one bottle, then another one. But he was spiritual. Once I asked him: "You drink too much, aren't you afraid of getting sick, aren't you afraid of hell?" "No, no," he said confidently, "I am interested in heaven, not in Hell, I want to go to heaven and see Gérard who is in Heaven with the angels."

Many people, priests unfortunately, did bad publicity for Kerouac; they said he was a good-for-nothing, even depraved. Some priests said: "You know, your Jack Kerouac, he was no angel!" So I said: "No ... but he was a saint." (a few people laugh, then many applaud)

Question Period

Father Morissette:... His influence is now worldwide. People may not read Kerouac, but still feel his influence. Kerouac has been a real inspiration to me, and a continual one, he taught me to respect people and to help them look for and find freedom. He was exquisitely honest, as Allen Ginsberg used to say: "Jack hated hypocrites and, that was Christ's philosophy".

Mr. Jacques Kirouac: Father Morissette, where do you think Jack got his propensity for writing? Where did he get that? Why did he like to write so much? Why did he have to write all the time?

Father Morissette: Well, his father was an editor and published a newspaper; therefore, Jack knew the importance of the printed word and literature. He wanted to write because he wanted to tell everyone what he thought; he was also convinced that he had something to say, he was convince about personal liberation. The whole world belongs to one and all. But each person cannot have the whole world. He



Autumn 2015, Dr. Roger Brunelle
on Jack Kerouac's grave in Lowell, Mass.
Photo: François Kirouac



New stone monument to Jack Kerouac at Edson Cemetery in Lowell, Massachusetts
(Photo: François Kirouac, Autumn 2015)

tried to explain that everybody must be willing to share intelligently. He hated the fact the some people called him a communist. He was not a communist at all. In fact, he was a capitalist, when he died, he was living well. He wanted to express that in his writing. So between the two of us we found the word: "interdependence"; meaning respect the independence of others and win our personal independence. But one has to respect other people's independence. That was his idea.

Mrs. Monique Blanchette: They say: "One is never a prophet in one's own country". Is that the reason why it took so long for Lowell to recognize/accept Jack?

Father Morissette: It is always the same thing, one is never a prophet in one's own country and people always find fault with someone who becomes popular and important. I officiated at Jack's funeral here in Saint-Jean-Baptiste Church. It was crowded. Mostly strangers; writers, poets, photographers, TV reporters,

and just about thirty people from Lowell and those were mostly Greek, Jack's wife, Stella Sampas' relatives. When coming out of the church and getting into the limo to drive to the cemetery, there were lots of people around, curious to find out what was going on. One guy asked: "Who's that?" I answered: "Kerouac". He said: "Kerouac? Who's he?" (Father Morissette laughs) A guy from Lowell... But he was unknown here in Lowell. Especially given that the priests gave him a bad press: "Don't read that, he's only a good-for-nothing, a skirt chaser." Of course now it is the opposite! Everyone remembers knowing Kerouac! "Of course, I knew him! Oh yes, I bought him a drink at the tavern!" (Father Morissette and the public laugh))

Dr. Roger Brunelle: That is called jumping on the bandwagon, and many do it.

Mr. Louis Dupont: You must have read Victor-Lévy Beaulieu's book on Jack Kerouac?

Father Morissette: Yes!

Mr. Louis Dupont: What do you think about Kerouac as a Franco-American and French-Canadian as presented in Victor-Lévy Beaulieu's book? The way he talks about it?

Father Morissette: I think his presentation is right. It proves that Kerouac always said the same thing, never changed his mind. He always said that he was an American of French-Canadian origin and Catholic. He always said that. I think this book proves that this is what Kerouac actually thought.

A Franco-American lady: Father, can you say something about his style, he uses a lot of Canadian expressions, Franco-American ones, there is a lot of French mixed into his English text. Was that natural for him to do that?

Father Morissette: Yes, he spoke French; well, not good French, rather some kind of dialect. He

spoke French with his mother and later with me; however, he loved the French language. He went to France and looked for his roots in Brittany. But he wrote in English, because he wrote for the American public. Nonetheless, in his books he always wrote: "I am a Franco-American, I am a French-Canadian, I come from Lowell." He put Lowell on the world map, in fact.

So now many people come to Lowell especially because it is Kerouac's home town. More and more we hear about it as a pilgrimage, the pilgrimage to Kerouac's home town. He is a great man, a genius. From now on Kerouac will be known around the world. He is part of history.

Mr. Louis Dupont: Has he ever mentioned how he perceived Quebec or Canada or what he thought about either?

Father Morissette: Yes, he loved Canada very much. He was fascinated by Quebec and Canada. He liked the idea of liberation, that Quebec should be liberated, independent. He used to like De Gaulle because he had been in

favour of independence for Algeria. So he was interested because he wanted Quebec to survive; i.e. Quebec being an important unit in the world it should survive. That reminds me of a Frenchman who gave a talk here in the parish hall many years ago, he ended his talk saying: "To see France and die!" Then Father Nolin, then one of the parish priests, got up and said: "To see Quebec and live for ever!" (Father Morissette laughs and the public applaud)

Dr. Eric Waddell: Father, what about the famous book that he apparently wrote, does it really exist? Some say it is in his archives?

Father Morissette: His wife* has those archives. He wanted to write in French, he made lots of notes in French. Stella Sampas, his wife is very nice and good but leads a rather cloistered life. She lives in St. Petersburg, Florida, and refuses to see anyone; she is constantly bothered by people and always says: "If you want to know about my husband, read his books!" That is all she says. However she has a lot of documents, including those

written in French. (*Stella Sampas died on 10 February 1990)

Dr. Eric Waddell: Is it true that Jack was nicknamed *Memory Babe*?

Father Morissette: Yes, he had a great memory; he knew all the names and so many details. In fact, some say that he was not a writer, but that he was a... secretary, a... recorder". He remembered everything, no detail escaped him. So this was his nickname* here: *Memory Babe*... (Translator's note: he was given this nickname when a small boy!)

Dr. Eric Waddell: But in English?

Father Morissette: Yes, in English.

Dr. Eric Waddell: Not in French! Was there a French nickname for him?

Father Morissette: In French, he was called Ti-Jean! (Editor's note: in French 'Ti' is short for 'petit'; meaning little, as in *Little John*.)



(Photo: François Kirouac, Autumn 2015)

Jack Kerouac's grave in Lowell is for ever popular with visitors. It is always evident that people keep paying their respect; some leave poems, others bottles of all shapes and sizes.

FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE YEAR 2015 (Unaudited)

René Kirouac, Treasurer

Financial results for 2015 present an excess of revenue over expenses of **\$32.97**. The number of members has increased by 14 and reached 148 in 2015.

Revenue over expenses for 2015 are \$680.23 more than

the previous year because of the increase in the number of memberships as well as the US exchange and gifts from members. We noted that sales of promotional objects have slightly decreased.

Expenses decreased in 2015 (some \$3,656.96) thus enabling us to amortize the costs of our Website and François' book by \$2000.00 and still maintain an excess of revenue over expenses.

REVENUES

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS	2015	2014
Regular members (119) (101)	\$2,634.00	\$2,230.00
Benefactors (25) (26)	\$675.00	\$702.00
Sub-total	\$3,309.00	\$2,932.00
PREMIUMS AND INTEREST		
Exchange on US currency	\$407.71	\$57.02
Interest earned	\$1.88	\$1.87
Sub-total	\$409.59	\$58.59
GIFTS AND RECOVERED AMOUNTS		
<i>Jacques Kirouac Fund</i> - Interest	\$774.39	\$850.00
Gifts towards administrative expenses	\$729.69	\$445.00
Gifts towards research expenses	\$35.00	\$55.00
Recovered amounts	\$12.15	\$70.20
Sub-total	\$1,521.23	\$1,420.20
ANNUAL GATHERING		
Surplus from annual gathering	\$199.11	\$190.61
Sub-total	\$199.11	\$190.61
PROMOTIONAL ITEMS SOLD		
Genealogy 1991 edition (2) (0)	\$20.00	
Le Trésor Bulletins (1) (3)	\$5.00	\$15.00
K/ Crests (5) (1)	\$19.00	\$2.00
Book - Memory Babe (1) (0)	\$30.00	
Book - Mon Miroir (0) (1)		\$20.00
Book about Jan Kerouac, A Life in Memory (0) (0)		
Book - One and Only (0) (0)		
DVD - Le Trésor collection(0) (0)		
K/ Buttons (2) (1)	\$2.00	\$1.00
New book about Ancestor by François K (5) (10)	\$175.00	\$340.00
Notepads (0) (0)		
Sub-total	\$221.00	\$408.00
TOTAL OF REVENUES	\$5,689.93	\$5,009.70

EXPENSES

ADMINISTRATION	2015	2014
Canada Custom & Revenue (2012 Annual Return)	\$34.00	\$36.56
Insurance, general responsibility (12 months)	\$16.00	\$12.00
FFSQ membership @ \$1.75/member/year	\$262.00	\$271.25
Bank book & bank fees	\$188.64	\$98.45
Sub-total	\$500.64	\$418.26
LE TRÉSOR BULLETIN (no 117- 119) (114 - 116)		
KFA Secretarial expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00
Printing	\$721.41	\$657.53
Handling	\$165.21	\$193.73
Secretarial expenses at FFSQ	\$0.00	\$0.00
Postal expenses (Canada)	\$324.70	\$271.17
Postal expenses (US)	\$345.51	\$299.96
Sub-total	\$1,556.83	\$1,422.39
KFA SECRETARIAL EXPENSES		
Postage stamps	\$406.73	\$440.41
Photocopying	\$129.89	\$110.51
Stationery, envelopes and cards	\$112.71	\$122.85
Sub-total	\$643.33	\$673.77
GENEALOGY		
Genealogical research	\$35.79	\$74.54
Subscription to Ancestry	\$368.39	\$289.40
Sub-total	\$404.18	\$363.94
SUNDRY (KFA Publicity and Promotion)		
Annual fee for Web Site and name 2015 ; 2014		\$64.56
Amortization of cost for new Web Site (balance \$995)	\$1,000.00	\$850.00
Amortization of cost of FK's new book (balance \$1,068.60)	\$1,000.00	\$250.00
Kiosk rent at Salon FFSQ (2015) (2014)	\$350.00	\$307.83
Purchase of 11 volumes of <i>Marie-Victorin à Cuba</i>		\$220.00
Purchase of 4 volumes of <i>Mon Miroir</i>		\$80.00
Microsoft Hotmail plus 2015 ; 2014	\$34.00	\$34.44
Purchasing commercial cheques at Caisse/bank		
Other (gifts and equipment for <i>Salon du patrimoine familial</i>)	\$167.54	\$277.13
Sub-total	\$2,551.98	\$2,083.96
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$5,656.96	\$4,962.32
SURPLUS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	\$32.97	\$47.38
BANK ACCOUNT		
Balance as of 31 December 2014	\$6,728.72	\$6,666.81
Revenues from 1 January to 31 December 2015	\$6,161.54	\$5,536.70
Expenses from 1 January to 31 December 2015	\$3,195.84	\$5,474.79
Balance as of 31 December 2015	\$9,694.42	\$6,728.72

Expenses related to the publication of *Le Trésor*

This table shows the expenses for the three bulletins published in 2015

Bulletin number	117	118	119	TOTAL
Production cost	\$510.48	\$534.98	\$511.37	\$1,556.83

Report of the *Jacques Kirouac Fund*

Investment of \$20,000 at the Caisse populaire Plateau Montcalm from 8 June 2004 to 31 December 2015

REVENUES OF THE *JACQUES KIROUAC FUND*

Note concernant le *Fonds Jacques Kirouac*

The report below shows the impact of the *Jacques Kirouac Funds* on the yearly KFA financial results over the past decade.

1st investment: five-year term deposit, from 8 June 2004 to 11 June 2009, at a rate of 4.25%

2nd investment: convertible term deposit from 12 June 2009 to 30 October 2009, at a rate of 1.5%

3rd investment: permanent shares issued by Caisse populaire Desjardins on 30 October 2009, at 4.25%

Note: For 2015, from 1 January to 30 June, the rate was 4.25% and from 1 July to 31 December, the rate was 3.5%.

Year	Interest	Return on investment	Total
2004	\$425.00		\$425.00
2005	\$850.00		\$850.00
2006	\$850.00	\$106.49	\$956.49
2007	\$850.00	\$91.78	\$941.78
2008	\$850.00	\$86.66	\$936.66
2009	\$687.11	\$35.44	\$722.55
2010	\$850.00	\$40.85	\$890.85
2011	\$850.00		\$850.00
2012	\$852.33		\$852.33
2013	\$850.00		\$850.00
2014	\$850.00		\$850.00
2015	\$774.39		\$774.39
Total	\$9,538.83	\$361.22	\$9,900.05

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE ASSOCIATION

Year	Revenue	Expenses	Revenue - Expenses	Financial Results without the <i>JK Fund</i>	% <i>JK Fund</i> on Total Revenues	Number of members
2004	\$6,085.57	\$5,694.78	\$390.79	(\$34.21)	7.0%	167
2005	\$5,990.91	\$4,404.87	\$1,586.04	\$736.04	14.2%	171
2006	\$6,887.64	\$7,424.34	(\$536.70)	(\$1,493.19)	13.9%	163
2007	\$5,667.63	\$5,275.23	\$392.40	(\$549.38)	16.6%	165
2008	\$6,767.90	\$6,710.98	\$56.92	(\$879.74)	13.8%	161
2009	\$5,218.30	\$4,484.59	\$733.71	\$11.16	13.8%	152
2010	\$6,065.88	\$4,627.34	\$1,438.54	\$547.69	14.7%	156
2011	\$6,173.67	\$5,282.47	\$891.20	\$41.20	13.8%	178
2012	\$7,399.94	\$7,256.21	\$143.73	(\$708.60)	11.5%	178
2013	\$8,563.59	\$8,527.74	\$35.85	(\$814.15)	9.9%	158
2014	\$5,009.70	\$4,962.32	\$47.38	(\$802.62)	17.0%	134
2015	\$5,615.54	\$5,606.96	\$8.58	(\$765.81)	13.8%	148
		CUMULATIVE	\$5,188.43	(\$4,711.62)		



IN MEMORIAM



GAUDREAU - KÉROUAC, ÉVELYNE (1946 - 2016)

In Alma, Quebec, on 13 March 2016, aged 69 years and 11 months, died Évelyne Gaudreault, daughter of the late Cyrille and the late Marguerite (Pilote) Gaudreault, **wife of Gilles Kérouac (son of Gérard and Gracia (Simard) Kérouac, GFK 02033)**. A memorial ceremony was held on 26 March 2016 in the chapel of Lac-Saint-Jean Funeral Parlour. The ashes were placed in the Columbarium Lac-Saint-Jean. She is survived by her son François (Nadia Simard), her granddaughter Julianne Guay-Kérouac and her mother Nathalie Guay. She was the sister of: Doris (Charles Castonguay), Roger (Micheline Blackburn) and the late Ronald (the late Gabrielle Poulin); and sister-in-law of André (Lucille Nadeau).

KIROUAC, ALBERT JOSEPH (1963- 2016)

Albert Joseph Kirouac, Jr. passed away unexpectedly at home on 20 April 2016, aged 53. Born on March 24, 1963, in St. Albans, Vermont, to **Albert J. (GFK 02754) and Bernice (Provost) Kirouac**, he studied at Vermont Technical College and received an associate degree in business from Vermont Community College in 1996. He was a long-time employee as a boiler operator at Perrigo Vermont in Georgia. Albert was a devoted father. He coached many middle school sports teams, including his daughter's (softball, soccer, basketball) and son's (baseball, soccer), and supported his son's love of hockey. He is survived by his daughter, Katelynn (Matthew McDonald) and son Hunter; two sisters, Anita Brown (Donald); Karen Gonyeau; nieces and nephews: Charlotte (Brown) (Jason) Beaton, Aaron Brown, Christopher Gonyeau (Heather), and Heather Gonyeau (Ed Putzier); several great-nieces and great-nephews, and very

close friends. In addition to his parents, Albert was preceded in death by a brother, Brian; a brother-in-law, Gary Gonyeau; and "Special Parents," Margaret and Arnold Pelkey. Funeral service was at the Heald Funeral Home Chapel on 30 April 2016, Reverend Maurice J. Roy officiating. Interment was in Mount Calvary Cemetery.

KIROUAC, GOLDA MARIE (1954- 2016)

Mrs. Golda Marie Kirouac, 62, of Petal, Mississippi, died 26 June 2016. Mrs. Kirouac was a homemaker and member of Trinity Heights Church of God. She was preceded in death by her mother, Violet Guidry, and one brother. She is survived by her husband, **Gerald Kirouac (GFK 00432)** of Petal; four sons, Chad Trondsen, Robert Thompson, Stephen and Joel Kirouac; three daughters, Wendy Lambert, Kristen Threat and Heather White; eight sisters, Lois Howell, Faye Ann LeBlanc, Gay Cheramie, Cornelia, Plaisance and Alison Moliniare and Catina Mason; two brothers, Carol Molinaire and Andrew Addison Molinaire, Jr.; seventeen grandchildren, Stephen Ladner, Shelby Neal, Austin Lambert, Darren Lambert, Jonah Kirouac, Emma White, Cole White, Dylan Trondsen, Devan Trondsen, Violet Trondsen, Claire Trondsen, Quinn Trondsen, Jaden Thompson, Logan Thompson, Alex Cloy, Autumn Thompson and Yadin Kirouac; and two great-grandchildren. A service was held at Hulett-Winstead Funeral Home Chapel in Hattiesburg, MS, followed by interment at Full Gospel Jesus Name Cemetery.

KIROUAC, JEAN-LUC (1927 - 2016)

At Laval Hospital in Quebec, on 14 May 2016, age 88 years and eight months, died Mr. **Jean-Luc Kirouac (GFK 00552)** widower of Georgette Garneau. He was the son of the late Marie-Anne (née Chalifour) and Marcel Kirouac; he was also the grandson of Joseph-Arthur

Kirouac, the founder of the renowned Kirouac toy stores, a tradition he carried forward. The funeral was on 28 May 2016 at Très-Saint-Sacrement Church, in Sainte-Foy, Quebec. Interment of ashes was at Saint-Charles Cemetery. He was the father of Monique (Paul Labadie), Richard, and Simon (Maria-Helena Resendes), and the late France (Paul Provencher). He is also survived by his grandchildren: Jean-Daniel and Guillaume, his Labadie grandchildren: Marijo (Jason Martel), Sophie (Denis Leblanc) and Catherine (Étienne Demers) as well as his great-grandchildren: Arnaud, Charlie, Jacob and Evelyne. He was the brother of Céline* and Gilles, and the late Claude, and the late Paul (Thérèse Lapointe). He was the brother-in-law of Germaine (Léopold Garon), the late Madeleine (the late Jean Jaillet), Jacques (the late Jeannine Deblois), Yolande, André (the late Marguerite Lebel) and Jeannine (the late Denis Gagnon) Garneau; numerous nephews, nieces, relatives and friends. (*Céline is a long-time KFA Board Member.)

KIROUAC-DESROSIERS, SIMONE (1928 - 2015)

At the Anjou Centre in Saint-Pacôme, Quebec, on 31 July 2015, aged 87 years and four months, died **Simone Kirouac (GFK 01468)**, widow of Edgar Desrosiers. She was the daughter of the late Georges and Marie Kirouac. Funeral was on 8 August 2015 in the Cathedral in Sainte-Anne-de-La-Pocatière followed by interment in Cimetière de la Montagne (cemetery). She is survived by her children: Richard (Nicole Lagacé), Réal (Sylvie Ramsay), and Rolande; her grandchildren: Jean-Yves, Denis and Johanne Hudon; her great-grandson: Mathis Hudon; brothers and sisters-in-law: Gérard (Réjeanne Bélanger), Lucien (Isabelle Dionne), and Roland (Murielle Fortin). She was preceded in death by her sisters and brothers: Jean-Baptiste, Ovil, Georges, Anita, Annette and Lucienne.

UPDATE ABOUT OUR K/ GENEALOGICAL DICTIONARY

As mentioned before in a previous issue of *Le Trésor*, I am looking for more information to help me carry on the updating of our K/ genealogical dictionary first published in 1991.

Among useful sources of information are the notices, often including a photo of the deceased, printed on small cards handed out to relatives and friends particularly during the 19th and 20th centuries. Photos of tombstones also provide important data. It would be most appreciated if you could forward

me such documents, either scanned and emailed or photocopied and sent by postal mail. Information about your family: father, mother, uncles, aunts, grandparents, great-grandparents, etc. would prove most useful not only concerning all who share our family surname but info about their spouses, too. And, as this revised genealogy will also include the descendants who lost the K/ surnames through marriage, descendants through the women, the data concerning the female lines would also be much appreciated.

Please remember to send us photos of family members, past and present, in order to illustrate our new K/ genealogical dictionary. The more we have, the better.

Our heartfelt thanks for taking the time to answer our call for help in updating our genealogy, we do the work but you will benefit from this updated edition and so will those who come after you.

François Kirouac



In Memory Of

Gustave P. Kirouac

August 30, 1915

July 29, 2005

PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

*Lord make me an instrument of Thy peace;
where there is hatred, let me sow love; where
there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt,
faith; where there is despair, hope; where
there is darkness, light; where there is
sadness, joy.*

*O Divine Master; grant that I may not so
much seek to be consoled as to console; to be
understood as to understand; to be loved as to
love; for it is in giving that we receive, it is in
pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in
dying that we are born to eternal life.*

NATIONAL CREMATION SOCIETY

About Quebec Cemeteries - did you know?

Le Soleil (Quebec City's main daily), on 28 May 2016, reported the creation of a government body to keep cemeteries alive. Presently, more than 2,000 cemeteries in Quebec are more or less abandoned. Therefore the Quebec government has recently created the Quebec Funeral Heritage Institute in order to bring together people interested in promoting, protecting, and conserving cemeteries. This new non-profit organization will also help create a reference centre concerning Quebec funeral history and heritage. The institute will be financed by those involved in the funeral sector namely, funeral companies and morticians, monuments retailers, cemetery administrators. The new government body "also intends to establish a repertory of all artworks and sculptors who contributed to the artistic wealth and architectural legacy" of Quebec's cemeteries. According to Mr. Yoland Tremblay, the organization's president, out of 62,000 people who died annually in Quebec only one third are buried in cemeteries. Thus, two thirds are now cremated and their ashes, usually in an urn, are either stored at funeral homes or kept at home by relatives; sometimes buried in their garden or scattered.

GENEALOGY / THE READERS' PAGE

The KFA's computerized genealogical database 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 551

What are the names of the parents of Louiselle Kirouac, spouse of Jean Dauphin? They were married on a 4 November in Montreal; but in what year? Also, what are the names of the parents of Claude Dauphin?

Question 552

What are the names of the parents of Huguette Nicole Kirouac, spouse of James Michael Sweeny? They were married on a 14 July in Val-des-Lacs (Quebec); but in what year? Also, what are the names of the parents of James Michael Sweeny?

Question 553

What are the names of the parents of Gemma Éliza Kirouac, spouse of Lucien Martel? They were married on a 4 December in Laval (Quebec); but in what year? Also, what are the names of the parents of Lucien Martel?

Question 554

What are the names of the parents of Éva Kirouac, spouse of Paul-Émile Rainville? They were married on a 7 February; but in what year? Also, what are the names of the parents of Paul-Émile Rainville?

Question 555

What are the names of the parents of Hyman Omri Tannenbaum, husband of Elsie Kirouac (Elenor Athalie Kirouac), daughter of Albert and Katleen (née Hugues) Kirouac? They were married in Montreal (Quebec) on 8 August 1952.

Question 556

What are the names of the parents of Della Kirouac, spouse of Jean Aldéric Bertrand? They were married in Montreal (Quebec) on a 28 March; but in what year? Also, what are the names of the parents of Jean Aldéric Bertrand?

Question 557

What are the names of the parents of Cécile Kirouac, wife of René Comtois, son of Eugène and Rose-Anna (née Guimont) Comtois? They were married in Montreal (Quebec) on 1 December 1956.

Question 558

What are the names of the parents of Thérèse Donalda Kérouack, wife of Jean Ringuet? They were married in Sainte-Foy, Quebec on a 6 July; but in what year. Also, what are the names of the parents of Jean Ringuet?

Question 559

What are the names of the parents of Hélène Rosa Kérouack, spouse of André René Pilon? They were married in Lachine (Montreal, Quebec) on a 30 August; but in what year? Also what are the names of the parents of André René Pilon?

Question 560

What are the names of the parents of Suzanne Kirouac, spouse of Réjean Brouillette? They were married in Quebec City on 27 December 1986. Also what are the names of the parents of Réjean Brouillette?

Question 561

What are the names of the parents of Marcelle Keroack, spouse of Kenneth Francis Crook? They were married in Montreal (Quebec) on 3 January; but in what year? Also, what are the names of the parents of Kenneth Francis Crook?

Question 562

What are the names of the parents of Linda Keroack, spouse of Jean-Guy Lavoie? They were married in Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville (Quebec) on 5 October, but in what year? Also, what are the names of the parents of Jean-Guy Lavoie?

Question 563

What are the names of the parents of Marco Kirouac, spouse of Marie Rita Arsenault? They were married in Saint-Raphaël-de-Bellechasse (Quebec) on 5 September 1987. Also, what are the names of the parents of Marie Rita Arsenault?

Question 564

What are the names of the parents of Carle Dubreuil, second husband of Suzanne Kirouac, daughter of René and Paula (née Renaud) Kirouac? They were married on 12 September 1987 in Laval (Quebec).

Question 565

What are the names of the parents of Richard Gibeault, second husband of Anne Kirouac, daughter of Maurice and Monique (née Labbé) Kirouac? They were married on 1 August 1987 in Montreal (Quebec).

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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Our motto

Pride Dignity Integrity



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*Alexandre
Le Bihan*

*Maurice Louis
Le Bris De La Voach*

CC Alexandre De La Voach

RENEWAL

**It is now time to show your fidelity
by renewing your annual membership to our family association.**

**Your contribution prolongs your subscription to *Le Trésor*,
and it also concretely supports the volunteers who work at enriching
the genealogical data concerning the close cousins who bear our beautiful family name
and the distant relatives who used to bear it.**

**Renewal period extends from September to December
so please renew ASAP.**

To contact us or to receive information about our activities

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