

Bulletín of the descendants of Alexandre de K/Voach Witness to Kírouac Activities sínce 1983



René Kirouac and his partner, Sylvie Houde. This year René marks thirty years as KFA treasurer. A real treasure for our Association. (Photo: Sylvie Houde collection)









Kéroack Kyrouac



Breton Burton





#### Le Trésor des Kirouac

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#### **Publisher**

L'Association des familles Kirouac inc.

3782, Chemin Saint-Louis, Quebec (Quebec) Canada G1W 1T5

Legal Deposit, 3rd Quarter 2020

Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec National Library of Canada

**Printing** 

French Edition: 100 copies, English Edition: 50 copies

ISSN 0833-1685

**Subscription Rates:** 

Canada: \$22; USA: \$22. US; Overseas: \$30. Can

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# The President's Word

his year, 2020, is a special year in the life of René Kirouac, he turned 70 and for the past thirty years has been the Kirouac Family Association's treasurer. His first active part in the KFA was at the annual general meeting (AGM) on 5 November 1989. At the time, his uncle. Sarto Kirouac, treasurer and a Board member since the very beginning in 1978, was planning to retire. He was convinced that his nephew was the perfect candidate to replace him. Obviously, he was right! Absolutely right!

Indeed, René took the on challenge and has been looking after every penny he was entrusted with for the past thirty years. A good treasurer is extremely important for an association, it is vital. The stability afforded the KFA over 42 years is particularly amazing and having only two treasurers is quite special; the uncle was - and his chosen nephew is - truly professional. It means our Association benefits from really enviable financial health. The KFA is debt-free and funds are available to finance whatever projects the Board considers important and worthwhile to further our family association's life.

This being said, there was no way we could keep quiet about René's thirty years of exemplary service. It is an achievement worthy of praise. Hence, discretely, some close relatives were asked to provide texts, photos, testimonies in order to present the persona behind the quiet KFA board member, a true friend to all Board members past and present. So, RENÉ, in the pages of the present *Trésor des Kirouac* - THIS IS YOUR LIFE.

On behalf of everyone, René, we offer you much gratitude for thirty years of faithful services to the *Kirouac Family Association*. We hope very much that, for many more years, you will keep an eye on the dollars and cents to make sure that our Association remains on the straight course as it has been since 1978, when the KFA was launched.

#### **COVID-19 Pandemic**

In the previous *Trésor*, no. 132, we announced that the board, after serious consideration, decided to cancel this year's KFA annual gathering, including the AGM, due to the pandemic. In early May, the board members, by emails, voted to postpone it until 2021. All recipients of the *Trésor-Express* were notified and the news was posted on the KFA website.

As we must keep administering our Association, in the present Trésor, no. 133, we publish the president's annual report, normally presented at the AGM. As well as the Treasurer's report about the 2019 financial results and the state of the Jacques Kirouac Fund. these reports Normally approved at the AGM before being printed, this year, it is different, so please read them at home, and send us your comments and/or questions by email, or regular mail. It will be a pleasure to answer you, either by email, and/or print answers in the next *Trésor*, as you wish.

As for the elections normally taking place at the AGM, our Laws and By-Laws, Article 6.04 deals with this situation as follows: The length of a mandate for an elected position is twenty-four (24) months or, when a



François Kirouac

person needs to be replaced during a mandate, that mandate lasts until the end of the initial mandate for the position concerned. However, a mandate will be extended when exceptional circumstances prevent an election to be held. Then, the Board (or executive committee) must arrange for an election to take place as soon as possible.. [...]

Consequently, as soon as we can gather safely, we will convene a general meeting to proceed with the renewal of the mandates. This year, two persons have completed their terms and must be re-elected: Marie Kirouac and René Kirouac. Three other positions are still vacant and should be filled ASAP or at the next AGM. In the meantime, do not hesitate to let us know if you wish to be a candidate.

To conclude, let me repeat the old saying: *Better be safe than sorry*.

Enjoy reading and looking forward very much to seeing you.

François Kirouac

# Ancestry of René Kirouac

#### Generation 1



### HOMAGE TO RENÉ KIROUAC FOR HIS 60<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY IN 2010

by his sister, Marie-Paule

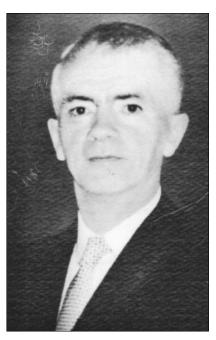
### AND GLADLY REPRINTED IN 2020 FOR HIS 70<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY

# **M** y dear brother René,

On a beautiful Saturday morning, on 6 May 1950, during the Holy Year, for some unknown reason, our father woke us up, children, very early and soon after we were attending holy Mass in the school's chapel. Afterwards, we went to our grandfather's house for breakfast. And a little later our father came to take us back home.

I can still see our mother in bed, sitting up with a lovely baby boy by her side. We were all delighted and surprised, so surprised indeed that nine-year old Rachel, the youngest sibling, when hearing the baby's small cry, looked under the bed... Only one thought crossed my mind, I was twelve then, *finally I would be able to play with a real doll*. During his first year, every older sibling, there were eight of us, in turn looked after our baby brother, giving him a drink, consoling him and putting him to sleep.

Papa bought a baby carriage, the best kind available, blue-grey with chrome wheels, the true British pram which we called: the Cadillac. There was a blue and white satin pillow and coverlet for our adorable baby. Winter and summer he would sleep outside. During



Armand Kirouac (1904-1968) (Photo: Pierrette Kirouac collection)



Two-day old René with his mother Marie-Ange Couillard-Després (Photo: Pierrette Kirouac collection)

the nice summer days, in turn, Pierrette, Mariette, Lise, and I, would proudly push the "Cadillac" through the village to show off the latest addition to the family of Armand and Marie-Ange (Couillard-Després) Kirouac.

The Kirouacs were well known in Saint-Cyrille de l'Islet as our grandfather, Wilfred, was the general merchant <sup>1</sup>. Our father, Armand, worked at the store and inherited it in 1952 when his father died.

One thing we particularly enjoyed doing was watching the Cadillac, the pram, slide down by itself on the sidewalk! It was one of those crazy things we did with our baby brother. There was a gentle slope in the road from our home to the garage, so the pram would gather speed; however, Rachel was always close at hand to stop it. Baby René was the driver! He loved it and laughed his head off, unaware of the crazy and slightly dangerous ride. And we did it over and over again but, of course, making sure neither mother nor, our oldest sister, Pierrette, saw us.

See *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 59, March 2000, pp. 33-36, and number 96, summer 2009, page 22.



The Kirouac general store in Saint-Cyrille-de-Lessard created by Wilfrid Kirouac in 1899, and owned, for many years, by his son, Armand Kirouac, René's father. (Photo: Courtesy of Michel Chassé, editor of L'Oie blanche newspaper, Montmagny, Quebec)

When our grandfather Wilfred died, we moved into his house, attached to the general store. René was two years and four months old then. The eight older children needed all the bedrooms, so there was none left for number nine! As a result our parents accepted to share their bedroom with baby from birth and still then! Can you imagine?

Nevertheless at home, with nine children, life was harmonious. We liked to go to school, to study and play with our little brother. René grew up surrounded by a lot of TLC. watchful eves and understanding. But, believe it or not, of all the siblings, he is the only one who sniffed, not coke, nor drug, please hold your judgment, but tobacco. Of course, you young people have never heard about that. But in the store at the time, tobacco powder was sold to people who liked to sniff for fun in their free time. Imagine the small 'sniffer' who was only 2½ to 3 years old! While he 'sniffed', four of us used to witness his repeated "at-chum" with delight. But we always made

sure it happened behind the back of our father, mother and Pierrette?

Baby grew up, became more sure of himself, ran, skipped, jumped and turned around. How he loved spinning, laughing and giggling when "twisting". The twist was the Fifties' most popular dance. Would René like to twist today?

How about the kissing dance? Our little baby brother would be placed in the middle of a bed sheet; four of us would grab a corner each and swing baby! No names mentioned here, so the culprits do not get into trouble.

Really, René, let me assure that the pleasure and joy you gave us was real and precious. There are tons of great souvenirs we could list from the day we welcomed the surprise baby. It was so wonderful that mother and later Pierrette saved "relics" of baby René. Yes, of course we call them relics that nephews and nieces, great-nephews and great-nieces enjoyed in the family house! Didn't everyone, including Francis, Pierre, Richard, François, Michel, Ivan, Yves, Martine,

Dominique, Guillaume, Catherine, Sébastien, Gabrielle, Geneviève, Sophie, Ariane, Émile and perhaps even Rosemarie, sat in René's wooden highchair to eat? Didn't you all use the blue knife, fork, and spoon with the white rabbit inlay? And tried on René's sunglasses? And ride his tricycle? We all so much enjoyed our "number nine", our delightful baby brother, that we made sure to keep "in perpetuity" his treasures so every member of the family can remember him by.

Years went by but the youngest family member was always at the centre of all our family memories. Humbly, slowly, our baby grew older, but for us, Pierrette,



Three-month-old René Kirouac (Photo: Pierrette Kirouac collection)



Eighteen-month-old René Kirouac (Photo: Pierrette Kirouac collection)

Mariette, Lise, Jacques, Fernando, Rachel and I, René holds a special place in our hearts. We think of him as sensible, hardworking, patient, stable, respectful, stable, kind, perfectionist, discreet... I stop at that because I think that René, a really worthy man, is simply perfect.

Today, we celebrate your birthday, we celebrate you and we want to tell you that we, your brothers, sisters, nephews and nieces, greatnephews and great-nieces, we love you and we are ever so grateful for this famous and wonderful gift our parents gave us many years ago...

HAPPY BIRTHDAY RENÉ



Eighteen-month-old René Kirouac (Photo: Pierrette Kirouac collection)

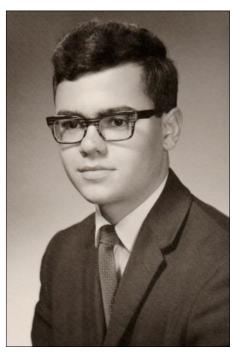
# CONGRATULATIONS, DEAR RENÉ,

FOR YOUR 30th ANNIVERSARY AS KFA TREASURER! by Sylvie Houde, his partner<sup>1</sup>

René was born in Saint-Cyrille-de-Lessard, a charming village in L'Islet County, in the Chaudière-Appalaches region <sup>2</sup>. He is the youngest of nine siblings, Pierrette, Yvon, Mariette, Lise, Jacques, Marie-Paule, Fernando, Rachel and the unexpected, René. His father was the general merchant, like his grandfather. René was not interested in working behind the counter in the family business. He was a rather solitary type and discreet. He learned how to put together and repair bicycles, televisions, radios, etc. Even today, he is still Mr. Fix-it for all immediate family members including in-laws, friends, etc.), if a new electronic device needs installing, he is your man. Here is one more proof of his remarkable dexterity and drawing talent: Years ago he drew the plans and built a special display cabinet for the family store.

René studied at *Polyvalente de Montmagny*. During his first year of high school he was a boarder but did not like it, so for the next four years, he travelled by bus, morning and evening. He enjoyed living at home with the family and do his part whenever he could. Through his personal and professional life, even in his free time, he has always been most helpful. All those who have had the chance to work with him for the KFA could certainly attest to that.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Chaudière-Appalaches, Quebec region named for the Chaudière River and the Appalachian Mountains.



René Kirouac at Collège Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pocatière. (Photo: René Kirouac collection)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> I met René at Laval University, when he was studying geography (DGUL) for his master's degree and I was studying for my bachelor's degree.

In his last year of high school, René had to decide on a career. He considered becoming a notary but opted for a teachers' training programme at Cap-Rouge (Greater Quebec City area), in order to teach geography at the high school level. After doing his teaching internship, he lost his initial motivation. So he and other colleagues decided to register for a Bachelor of Education at Laval University. Studying closely the rules, they found a loophole enabling them accumulate other credits besides the geography ones and that meant obtaining two diplomas at the same time: Bachelor of Education and in Eventually, geography! University got wise to this and modified the regulation to make sure it would not happen again. Let's say that René and his colleagues were rather proud of this master stroke ...

After that, René started graduate studies for a master's in geography (type B, including a research essay). Once completed, he invited me to the commencement ceremony at Laval University, which takes place in June every year. There I met some members of his family, except his brother Yvon and his father. Armand, who had died in 1968. within four months of each other. The whole family was traumatized by these two losses, and René was even exempted from the year-end exams by the Department of Education. He worked at the general store for a whole year before resuming his studies, this time at the College in La Pocatière<sup>3</sup>. The education system was in transition then, i.e., the traditional cours classique was morphing into a more general course provided in CEGEP. Again René had to live on campus.

Now René decided to work for a doctorate. Two professors, Paul-Yvon Villeneuve and Dean Louder, greatly appreciated his work and arrange for him to get many contracts <sup>4</sup>. He lived on campus at

Laval University and regularly used the tunnels linking various campus buildings. In need of something to relax and change his mind, he bought a movie pass. In the evenings he often went to see films presented in the (FSA) Business Administration building auditorium.

Soon after we met, we both bought movie passes to enjoy seeing the latest films. Even today, René has a large film collection at home and it is his favourite way to relax.

I was privileged to attend his thesis defence for his doctorate. Of course, he was nervous, but it went very well. His mother, Marie-Ange Couillard-Després Kirouac, was present too. She was ever so proud of her youngest son; she was so devoted to him and so involved in his life. She cried for joy as he reached that level of personal achievement. Afterwards we went to a restaurant and enjoyed chatting and eating a delicious meal.

René enrolled into a post-doctorate programme at Laval University. It took a great deal of perseverance on his part. Here let's point out that he asked for scholarships and received many awards of excellence from various known institutions, depending of the research subject, his professors' recommendations, as well as his academic record. The



René Kirouac at Laval University, Quebec. (Photo: René Kirouac collection)

acquired expertise enabled him to combine social dimension to spatial statistics, quantitative methodology,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> René obtained various teaching and research contracts for the Geography Department at Laval University (DGUL) and also at University of Québec at Trois-Rivières (UQTR). His expertise was greatly appreciated, particularly as part of the Research Methodology course (2nd and 3rd cycles), from 1987 to 1993, at DGUL.



René Kirouac was also an avid fisherman. (Photo: René Kirouac collection)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> La Pocatière, town in Kamouraska County in Lower St. Lawrence region of Quebec.

to the surveys and social changes he studied including, among others, retirement mobility or mobility during retirement, for older people 5.

It is certainly because of his research work that René obtained a contract from the (Quebec) Department of Health and Social Services (MSSS). Following the precious advice from Ms. Lucie Roberge-Duranceau, a friend of ours, he became indispensable to his immediate superior and to his colleagues so, finally, he obtained his permanency.

Even today, René greatly appreciates the work climate in his office; it is teamwork and everyone works very hard and enjoys doing so. You may have noticed his dry sense of humour. He never misses a chance to make people laugh but usually he does it with a deadpan expression.

As sports go, René plays badminton with both hands and has done so for many years. Well, yes, he is ambidextrous. Another of his numerous talents! Better be his partner than play against him. He uses a number of strategies<sup>6</sup>, in order to destabilize his adversaries. A few years ago, he also started to play volleyball. Having not played since high school he needed extra practice to get back into it; however, he improved so much that he is now the proud member of a private club called The Volleyboys. Before COVID-19, he used to play with them every Saturday morning, as well as playing with other groups two or three times weekly. René only learned to swim as an adult, but he soon earned his lifeguard certification and became a certified Red Cross instructor. He was also a member of Laval University's Master-Swimmers' Club. Intensive training was needed to be part of that club and it was an excellent way to keep in top physical shape during some of his student years.

From very early on, reading, including comic books, was always one of his favourite leisure

activities. When still very young, suddenly the family would hear someone laughing, then they knew it was René, who was deeply involved in the multiple adventures of *Tintin*, *Milou* and friends. Right now he is reading the latest *Astérix*. He also enjoys reading biographies of the great Montreal Canadiens hockey players like Maurice Richard and Jean Béliveau.

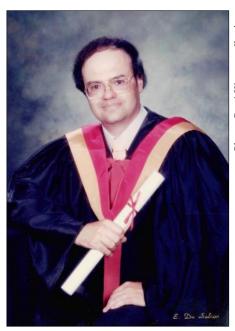
# **CONCLUSION Looking back on thirty years**

René has been involved in the Kirouac Family Association for thirty years already. He replaced his uncle as treasurer. I saw him blossom over the years. He asked for advice from those auditing the KFA accounts. He prepared an MS-Access database to be more efficient. He is conscientious. His work is always rigorous. René is a real *treasure* for the Kirouacs and the KFA is in good hands ...

The KFA board members really appreciate his excellent work, which includes the Treasurer's annual reports presented at the KFA Annual General Meeting.

Above all, René is appreciated for his marvellous emotional intelligence, by that I mean, he has reached a balance between his intellectual expertise and managing his emotions. I often encourage him to keep his dry sense of humour and cultivate it. Who does not need a good laugh? Particularly nowadays given the present pandemic.

My dear René, in the name of the Kirouac Family Association, I want to thank you for your work as treasurer over the last thirty years. It is indeed demanding, exacting and long-term work. Your ability to distill complex notions into simple terms as well as answering the KFA members' questions every year at the end of the AGM, you are priceless.



René Kirouac, proudly holding his doctor's degree

My dear René, please rest assured that all of us are most grateful for your excellent work and your unstinting commitment to our Association over so many years. Once more, you have shown that you are indispensable...

# Thank you for everything, dear René!

Sylvie Houde René's partner 2020-06-18 Photo: René Kirouac collection

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Doctoral thesis title: Residential mobility at retirement age in Quebec City's urbain region.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> It is important to note that René works at the strategy level within the Department of Health and Social Services (MSSS). Hence his employer benefits from his special strategical expertise, something inherent to his personality and much developed with time.

# 20th Anniversary of the Return to the Sources in Brittany

Use 2020 marks the 20th anniversary of the return to the sources KFA journey to Brittany made from July 3 to 18. The trip was organized following the discovery of the place of origin of Alexandre de Kervoach, our Breton ancestor, after intensive research done between 1996 and 1999.

To mark this event, we decided to enrich the KFA website photo galleries. From 28 to 289 photos you can now better enjoy this journey and virtually relive the official ceremonies. To see the photos presented in four albums please copy this link of a search engine:

http://kirouacfamilies.com/photos/ gatherings/ReturntothesourceBrittany.html

Here are two photos to whet your appetite.

Enjoy your visit!

The Editor



8 July 2000. Clément Kirouac, then KFA President and Jean-Luc Fichet, Mayor of Lanmeur, unveiling the plaque "Rue Jack Kerouac" on the Kervoach land in Lanmeur. (Photo: Pierre Kirouac)

Below, 9 July 2000. After Mass at Saint-Yves Church, the mayor of Huelgoat, Robert Cleuziou, in spite of the Breton drizzle, officially unveiling the plaque honouring the North American Kirouac ancestor who hailed from that village. Beside him is Kofi Yamgnane, Finistère Dept. deputy; also present were local official representatives, many citizens and the 32 KFA travellers.

(Photo: Pierre Kirouac)





# The Ancestor of the Chalifour Families

## by Madeleine Gagnon

In the previous Le Trésor des Kirouac (no. 132), we printed extracts from a book written by Madeleine Gagnon<sup>1</sup> about the family of Gabriel Kirouac and his wife Jeannine Simard from Quebec City. There are two branches in the K/ family and Gabriel belongs to the younger branch, Louis married to Catherine Metot.

In the former Petit-Village<sup>2</sup>, also lived the ancestors of the Chalifour family, Paul Chalifour and his wife Jacquette Archambau, who were the great-grandparents of Élisabeth Chalifour, wife of Simon-Alexandre de Keroack, the head of the older branch of the K family; therefore, all Ks belonging to the older branch have a Chalifour ancestor originally from the Aunis region of France.

And, there is at least one descendant from the younger branch of the K family who is also a descendant from the first Chalifour in New-France, this is none other than our KFA first vice-president, Céline Kirouac, whose mother was a Chalifour.

Thus we are pleased to offer you one more extract from Madeleine Gagnon's book about Paul Chalifour and his wife Jacquette Archambau, and Céline Kirouac's ancestry showing the links between Élisabeth Chalifour, wife of Simon-Alexandre and Marie-Anne Keroack, Chalifour, Céline's mother.

This comes with much gratitude to Madeleine Gagnon for authorizing us to reprint a second chapter from her very interesting book about the inhabitants of what is now a suburb of Quebec City.

The Editor

Chalifour, Paul-Charles (Chalifou, Chalifoux) (1612-1678) and Jacquette Archambeau (circa 1634-1700)

aul-Charles Chalifour was the first one to own land in the Petit-Village<sup>2</sup> of Charlesbourg - in fact, he owned two properties - however, he lived on the lot located exactly halfway between the roads going to Beauport and the St-Lawrence River (Canardière Road<sup>3</sup>). He settled there in 1647 at the age of 35. It is said that he was baptized in a Calvinist temple at La Rochelle, France, but abjured that religion to become Catholic. He was born in the Aunis province in France. Three years before crossing the Atlantic he married Marie Jeannet, daughter of Claude Jeannet and Marie Mallebault. Could that be the reason why he changed his religion? They will have a daughter. But the mother soon died, so Paul-Charles decided to start life afresh in New-France, and came over on La Marguerite, a sea-going vessel.

At Quebec, on 28 September 1648, he married another French woman also from Aunis, Jacquette Archambau, who was only fifteen years old. She was the daughter of Jacques Archambau and Françoise Toutault. But only eight years later the marriage contract was signed in front of a notary. They had fourteen children. He was a very capable carpenter and his talents were much needed to build many houses and barns. In no time his skills were well-known. So he built a windmill for Sieur Jacques Le Neuf de la Poterie and, later, for Intendant Jean Talon, the colony's French administrator, who asked him to build a windmill at Bourg-Royal (land located between Charlesbourg and Beauport.

On 16 July 1652, the Jesuit Fathers ceded some land, three argents of front by



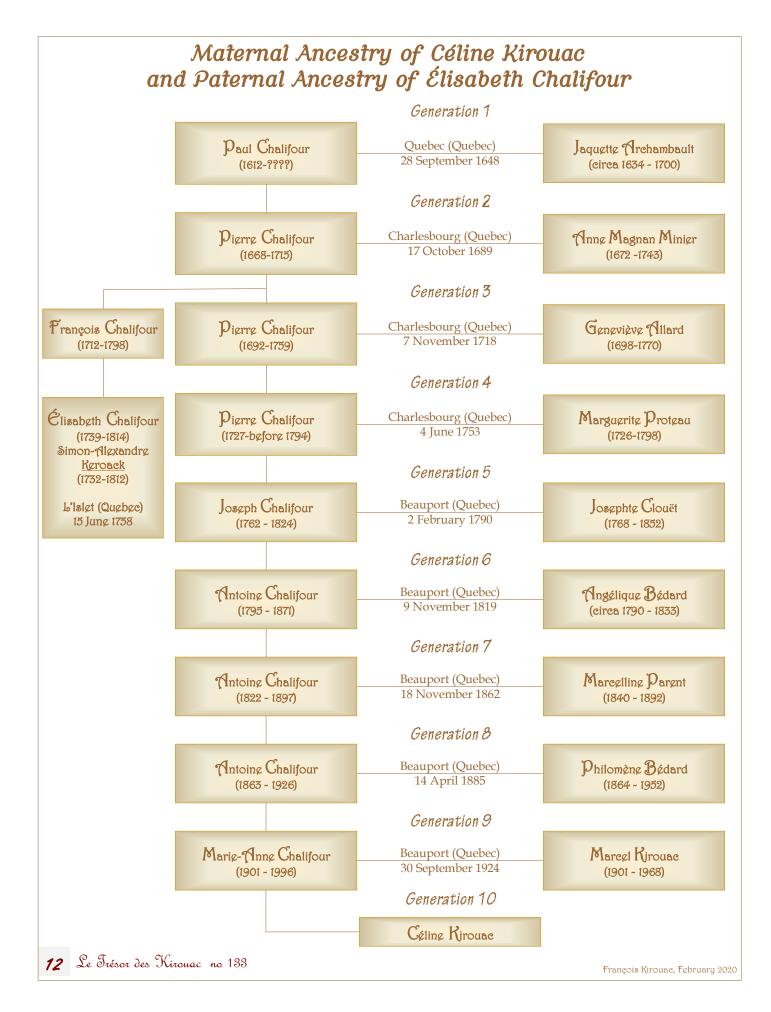


Marie-Anne Chalifour (1901-1996), wife of Marcel Kirouac (1901-1968); right: her daughter, Céline Kirouac, KFA first vice-president and, for the past ten years, interim meeting secretary. (Left photo: KFA collection; right photo: Pierre Kirouac, 2018)

 $^1$ Le Petit-Village d'autrefois, Beauport, Charlesbourg, Giffard, du XVII $^e$  siècle au XX $^e$ siècle, by Madeleine Gagnon, published in 2012.

<sup>2</sup>Petit-Village, was an area located around a crossroad linking three villages: Charlesbourg, Beauport and Giffard.

<sup>3</sup>Chêmin de la Canardière is an important access road linking agricultural land during the French Regime and secondary/country homes and institutions built during the 19th century.



40 arpents in depth, in the Seigneurie of Notre-Dame-des-Anges at La Canardière (today's Domaine de Maizerets). Two years later, he rented two cows from Seigneur Jean Bourdon<sup>4</sup> for three years, at a yearly cost of 25 pounds of butter. On 25 April 1654, he hired Jean Bourdon's servant to teach him carpentry. A man called Louis Brassard admitted owing 75 pounds for his boat-passage to New-France. He was in a legal battle with Sieur Denys de la Trinité, who let his cattle wander all the way to his stream to drink because there were no fences around his land. In 1690, The English burned his house and barn.

At the death of his mother-in-law, Françoise Tourault, Paul Chalifour sold his wife's part to Mr. Jean Gervais. Paul could not read of write so he signed the contract by drawing an axe. His daughter, Marguerite, aged 13, married Jean Badeau, and they had eleven children. Paul's wife, Jacquette Archambeau was buried on 17 December 1700. The Chalifoux-Chalifour's ancestral home, located at 415 Sainte-Thérèse Avenue, remained in the family until 1975; it was always lived in by descendants of the original ancestor.

Here, in the right order, is the known children of the Chalifour-Archambeau couple:

Marie Chalifour married Joachim Martin in 1662;

Marguerite Chalifour married Jean Badeau in 1665;

Jeanne Chalifour married François Bibeau in 1671;

Simone Chalifour married Julien Brosseau dit Laverdure in 1668;

Françoise Chalifour married Jacques Nolin Deschatelets in 1671;

Jeanne-Anne Chalifour married Germain Langlois in 1675;

Louise Chalifour married Joseph Vandandaigue dit Gadbois in 1678;

**Paul-François Chalifour** first married Catherine Huppé in 1685; then Jeanne Philippeau in 1668; and third, Marie-Madeleine Brassard in 1711;

Marie-Madeleine Chalifour 24 March 1665;

Étienne Chalifour married Claudine Bourbeau\* in 1687;

Pierre Chalifour<sup>5</sup> married Anne Magnan\* in 1689;

Anne Chalifour first married Jean Lenormand in 1686, then Jean Delage in 1692:

Claude Chalifour born 30 January 1673.

\*Interesting note: two Chalifour sons married girls from Charlesbourg families: Bourbeau and Magnan, two surnames still found in this area part of today's greater Quebec City.

NOTE: Around 1900, Antoine Chalifour, Céline's grandfather, bought some land at Beauport, at 11 avenue du Moulin (i.e., Mill Avenue) (today called Avenue des Cascades). It was farmed during eighty years, but in 1970 the land was victim of urban expansion when it was cut in two by the highway Autoroute de la Capitale. A Drive-in theatre was also built there at the time but was sold in 1983 for a housing development.

#### VACANT POSTS - LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

Regional Representative – Montréal, Outaouais, Abitibi Regional Representative – Mauricie, Bois-Francs, Eastern-Townships



Promote the Kirouac Family Association to all descendants of our Breton ancestor and to all persons keen on history and genealogy;

Help with the annual updating of the KFA member list; encourage all past members and present one to renew their membership;

Two Board members are responsible for KFA gatherings and need help from the regional rep when a reunion is to be held in their area; The regional rep can also suggest a place and time to hold a gathering;

Consult social media as often as possible to find births, marriages and death notices in their area, and news linked to a K descendent whether belonging trough the paternal or female line.

#### Three more Board Members are really needed

#### Functions:

Take part in the 2 or 3 annual KFA board reunions as well as in occasional functions furthering the KFA objectives.

Should you wish to apply, contact us at: association@familleskirouac.com



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> During our genealogical research, we discovered the 18th century fashion of moneyed middle-class, wanting to identify with nobility, as did our K ancestor, Alexandre de Kervoach. As Marcel Trudel (1917-2011) explained in his book "Du "dit" au "de": noblesse et roture en Nouvelle-France, Mythes et réalités dans l'histoire du Québec, pp. 180-181, myths and realities in Quebec's history): people changed "dit", meaning known as, by "de", meaning of, even modifying the spelling of their name to give one's surname a 'noble' connotation; For example, Jean Bourdon became Dombourg! (SEE: L'Ancêtre des familles Kirouac, son épouse et leurs fils, François Kirouac, 2013, p. 31)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Pierre Chalifour and Anne Magnan are the parents of François Chalifour, who married Élisabeth Gamache on 18 November 1737 at L'Islet; their daughter Élisabeth Chalifour married the ancestor's eldest son, Simon-Alexandre de Keroack, on 15 June 1758 also at L'Islet.

### Dennis Kirouac

### published his first book in 2020 FINDING AGATES

ennis Jacques Kirouac, first son, third born to Jacques and Mathilde Kirouac on January 28th, 1951 in Detroit, Michigan)<sup>1</sup>.

Denny, as the family refers to him, graduated in 1969 from Ontonagon Area High located on the shores of Lake Superior. He attended Ferris State College where he met his wife of 49 years, Kathleen Marie Tavis. They have two children, Jason John and Kaitlin Joy. Jason is married to Holly McNaughten and have three children. Kaitlin is married to John Joseph and are expecting their first on December 18, 2020.

Denny is a retired administrative pastor and active elder of Riverside Church located in Three Rivers, Michigan. Riverside is a church of about 1,100 members in a town of 8,000. Riverside's mission is Know God; Get connected; Discover a Purpose and Make a Difference.

Denny and Kathie began working at their mission in the early '70s as State Certified Child Care workers at Eagle Boys Village in Hersey, Michigan. As house parents they were totally responsible for eleven boys. In 1981 they joined a small church in Three Rivers where Denny became an administrative pastor in 1982. He and Kathie worked with children for almost 24 years as leaders of Sonlight, a program much like Awana, offered for 5-10 year-old children, based on the Bible.

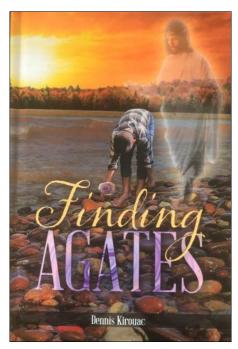
Dennis was later involved with Celebrate Recovery, a twelve-step Christcentered program where he taught and baptized in the Saint Joseph County jail where he got to spend a night in the West Wing with 30 inmates.

Growing up at a motel-restaurant on the shore of Lake Superior exposed Dennis to many people and allowed him to gain insights, all useful experience for his life's mission. Finding Agates is based upon life growing up on Lake Superior and the small truths that God revealed to him then. As Dennis says: It is about the most precious stone of all, the chief corner stone, Jesus, and all the truths that God let me find over the years of searching. Some are rough around the edges, some are not, but all are to the glory of God. To me the definition of glory means the invisible made visible. The invisible nature of God made visible to you and me. Dennis hopes God will bless all who read his book. One of his many cousins loves the way he talks about his childhood and relates things back to the Bible; and enjoyed learning more about the family life.

<sup>1</sup> TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS KIROUAC FAMILY FROM MICHIGAN, read the article written by Dennis's four sisters about their parents: Jacques Pierre Kirouac (1920-2001) and Mathilde Poeschl (1925-2005) published in *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 114, July 2014, pp. 9-15. It is a wartime romance with a wonderful beginning and ending. How a French-Canadian soldier met and fell in love with a lovely fraulein in Austria where he was stationed during the WWII ... and their family life in Michigan, some years on the shores of Lake Superior. Jacques and Mathilde were happily married for fifty-four years, had six children, eleven grandchildren, and eleven great-grandchildren as of 2014 and more since.



Dennis Kirouac (photo: courtesy Dennis Kirouac)



Finding Agates, Dennis Kirouac's first book published by Christian Faith Publishing, USA (photo: courtesy Dennis Kirouac)

### President's Annual Report for 2019 presented on behalf of the Board Members

Exceptionally printed in *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 133, summer 2020

#### for approval by the KFA members

# PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020

Exceptionally this year, because of COVID-19 pandemic and the sanitary restrictions imposed, there will be no Annual General Meeting (AGM); therefore the annual report to the KFA members is printed in the present issue of *Le Trésor des Kirouac* for general approval. Normally the report is printed after being approved as information only.

Please email or write your comments and/or questions about any subject in this report and we will answer you personally or publish the answer in the next issue of *Le Trésor*, as you wish.

#### **MEETINGS**

Since the last AGM held on 13 July 2019 at Shawinigan, the board held two meetings in Ste-Foy, on 7 September 2019 and 22 February 2020. The third reunion was scheduled in early May but was cancelled due to the pandemic, so the Board members conferred by email.

#### KFA ADMINISTRATION

#### **KFA Board Members**

Last year in my report, I mentioned Association's difficulties. particularly trying to fill three vacant positions on the Board and finding two more regional representatives, one for Greater-Montreal-Outaouais-Abitibi and one for Mauricie-Bois-Francs-Eastern-Townships. We are sad to note that the situation is the same even after arranging for board meetings to be attended by video-conference and preparing a list of easy tasks for the regional representatives.

In addition, we urgently need people to look after the media, the archives and a meeting secretary. Believe it or not, at 75, Céline

accepted to fill in by interim but is still at it ten years on.

So the invitation is still open: new blood and new ideas would breathe new life in our family association. The KFA's sustainability depends on it. Since 1978, it has been such an extraordinary adventure we cannot imagine calling it quits now because no one is willing to carry on!

Right now would be an excellent time to start while some experienced people are still in place. It would be to everybody's advantage to join now and benefit from the experience of those who have been around for a few decades. Why hesitate any longer, at least try! Make yourself known!

# KFA VISIBILITY & PRODUCTIONS

Again this year, in 2019, our window to the world was mainly through our Website. 2,220 people visited the KFA website 9,936 times and consulted 20,224 document pages. It is no surprise that with the English website put online in 2019, the American cousins make up the largest number of people to visit the KFA website reading 18,491 pages our of a total of 20,224.

This year, the document most often downloaded was the history of Saint -Malachie parish written by Abbe Jules-Adrien Kirouac, at the end of the 19th century. The second position goes to Conrad Kirouac's genealogy. Last year, these two documents were also the most popular but in reverse order. The third position goes to Jack Kerouac's genealogy and the fourth to the historical and genealogical tour of Warwick and surrounding area, prepared in 2012. Next are pages from the 1991 genealogical dictionary, the Special Edition about Brother Marie-Victorin, *L'Album* published in 1980 and the Special Edition about Chevalier François Kirouac.

As usual, the annual report is the occasion to thank our webmaster, Réjean Brassard, for his excellent work. I also want to underline his availability when asked to quickly correct or add items online. We are very grateful to you, Réjean.

# PROJECTS – COMPLETED OR UNDERWAY

#### **KFA** Website

The year 2019-2020 was no exception, just like previous years, our popular photo gallery was greatly enriched thanks to Lucille Kirouac's patient work. Photos from the July 2019 KFA annual gathering at Shawinigan are online, as well as that from the September 2000 gathering at Cap-Saint-Ignace and Lucille plans to add others during 2020. Many thanks, Lucille.

To mark the 20th anniversary of the July 2000 return to the sources trip to Brittany, the photo album was completely redone. Over 250 photos were added online showing the various official ceremonies honouring the 32 KFA members who took part in this historical journey. In addition, many photos taken during the touristic part of the trip were added. Thanks to the remarkable descriptive captions to the photos prepared and translated by Marie Lussier Timperley, all visitors to the KFA website can enjoy a first, or second, tour of Brittany comfortably sitting at home. It was a memorable historical journey in our ancestor's country. Many thanks, Marie!

In the KEY FIGURES section, a new special addition about Jacques

Kirouac, our KFA founding president, was added last summer, soon after his passing. It is a welldeserved homage and only a small thanks for all he did for the Association.

A sub-section had been added in the KEY FIGURES section about writer. Janet Michele Kerouac, our "cousin" Jack Kerouac's daughter. We are convinced that Jacques would be proud of that section. This sub-section includes a Trésor des Kirouac special edition audiovisual documents. We owe much gratitude to Gerald Nicosia and Jacqueline Arruda Soarès for their help to obtain audiovisual photos and documents available on our website.

Much gratitude to Marie Lussier Timperley, Céline Kirouac, Lucille Kirouac, Marie Kirouac and Mark Pattison for their precious collaboration in creating, rewriting, proofreading translating, and editing these two Special Editions of Le Trésor for the KFA Website.

#### Genealogy

Our genealogical dictionary increases daily! Between June 2019 and 2020, 550 descendants were added as well as 5,117 documents covering baptisms, marriages, burial, censuses, death cards, tombstones, photos, etc. To the 2,764 names listed in the first (1991) dictionary, 10,135 have been added. The database now comprises over 37,820 files. As of now, the of Alexandre descendants Kervoach. number 5,431 for Simon-Alexandre, and 7,538 for Louis, for a total of 12,969, and counting!

Please send me any information you may have about your family and do not hesitate to contact me to find out what we already have to improve it and make sure it is up to date. If you have photos of family members, please send them along (scan them and email them), they could be added in the next edition. The more you contribute to our database, the more interesting and useful it will be for you and your descendants.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Lastly, I want to express my deepest thanks to all those who, directly or indirectly, contributed to our Association during the past year. Our Regional Representatives: Marie Kirouac, Lucille Kirouac, Mercédès Bolduc, Georges Kirouac, Mark Pattison and Greg Kyrouac; permanent committee members: Le Trésor des Kirouac: Marie Kirouac, Marie Lussier Timperley, Greg Kyrouac and Mark Pattison; History & Genealogy: Lucille Kirouac, Céline Kirouac and Greg Kyrouac; Marie-Victorin Observatory, Lucie Jasmin; Jack Kerouac Observatory, Eric Waddell: Website: Lucille Kirouac: our Wehmaster Réjean Brassard.

Also, our proofreaders for Le Trésor, Lucille Kirouac, Céline Kirouac, Thérèse Kirouac and Robert Kirouac, Mark Pattison and Greg Kyrouac, and our translator, Marie Lussier Timperley, forgetting René Kirouac, St-Constant. Nathalie Keroack. Halifax, and Georges Kirouac, Winnipeg, always ready to help.

It would be impossible for me to fulfill my task without the Board members: Marc Villeneuve, second VP, and his wife Mercédès Bolduc, who together oversee our annual gatherings; Marie Kirouac who produced our very first bulletin, number 0 in 1983, and has been steadily following its growth since; Céline Kirouac, first VP and acting meeting secretary for the last ten years; and our gold standard treasurer, René Kirouac, who has been making sure the KFA finances are perfectly healthy since 1990. This year marks thirty years of faithful service to our Association.

François Kirouac, for the Board members.

1st June 2020



KFA Board at the 2018 Annual General Meeting held in Quebec City. Left to right, Marie Kirouac, Céline Kirouac, René Kirouac, François Kirouac, Marc Villeneuve and Mercédès Bolduc-Villeneuve. (Photo: Pierre Kirouac)

### FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE YEAR 2019 (Unaudited)

René Kirouac, treasurer

The financial results for 2019 show a surplus of \$756.59 over expenses. In 2019, there were only 137 members, unfortunately having lost twelve since last year.

Compared with last year, revenue diminished by \$1,308.49. Three of the five items bringing revenue went down: annual memberships (-\$282.), promotional items (-\$699.) and revenue from annual gathering (-There \$1,253.31). were less. members, hence memberships went down. As for the third one, we need to remember that the revenue from the annual gathering in Quebec City in 2018, was exceptionally high. However, it is important to note that the aim of this event is not to make a profit but to maintain a budgetary balance; this was achieved in 2019. Two items went up, one is exchange on US dollars, which brought in \$146.01; and donations jumped by \$779.81. In 2019, donations were \$1,360. The members' wonderful generosity is very appreciated! Much gratitude to all from the Board Members.

Compared with 2018, expenses went down by \$867.32. One item greatly diminished: various charges (sundry). Including the fact that the new website was finally paid off in 2018, therefore no payment of \$1,485.22 in 2019. Four other items

slightly went up, including the expenses for the bulletin, an extra \$355.40 covering the publication of a special issue marking the death of Jacques Kirouac, our founding president. Finally, we can say that the KFA's finances are very healthy and debt-free.

Please find the financial report on page 20 about the *Jacques Kirouac Funds* since its creation where you can see its impact on the annual financial results as well as for the whole period.

### Expenses related to the publication of Le Trésor

The table below shows the expenses for producing the three issues of *Le Trésor* in 2019

Issue number	129	130	131	Special	TOTAL
				Edition 8	
Production cost	\$857.64	\$654.15	\$893.42	\$699.97	\$3,105.18

### Review of the Financial Report for the Year 2019

#### 17 June 2020

Mr. François Kirouac, president

The Kirouac Family Association's treasurer, René Kirouac, gave me a copy of the Financial Results for 2019. I examined them, I asked some questions as I wanted some information. I also made some comments.

The treasurer answered my questions to my satisfaction.

I certify that the financial results for 2019 are correct and match the extra information supplied by the treasurer and herewith attached.

Jacques Codère,

Financial auditor appointed at the AGM held in Shawinigan on 13 July 2019.

#### **ERRATUM**

In *Le Trésor des Kirouac* number 132, page 31, 3rd column, it wrongly says that Pierre Bourque became Director of Montreal Botanical Garden (MBG) in 1969. In 1969, Pierre Bourque was put in charge of the outdoor gardens at the MBG; he became chief horticulturist for the City of Montreal in 1976 and director of the MBG in 1980 (1980-1994). In November 1994, he was elected mayor of Montreal (1994-2001).

# **REVENUES**

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS	2019	2018
Regular members (98) (102)	\$2,172.00	\$2,260.00
Benefactors (35) (42)	\$940.00	\$1,134.00
Sub-Total	\$3,112.00	\$3,394.00
PREMIUMS AND INTEREST		
Exchange on US currency	\$438.20	\$292.19
Interest earned	\$1.89	\$1.89
Sub-Total	\$440.09	\$294.08
GIFTS AND RECOVERED AMOUNT		
Jacques Kirouac Fund — interest	\$850.00	\$850.00
Gifts towards administration	\$1,186.00	\$526.00
Gifts towards research	\$174.00	\$40.00
Recovered amounts	\$33.08	\$48.00
Sub-Total	\$2,243.08	\$1,464.00
ANNUAL GATHERING		
Surplus from annual gathering	\$9.62	\$1,262.93
Sub-Total	\$9.62	\$1,262.93
PROMOTIONAL ITEMS SOLD		
Le Trésor Bulletins	\$75.00	\$182.00
Buttons and crests		\$17.00
Book — <i>Memory Babe</i>		\$90.00
Book — <i>Mon Miroir</i>		\$20.00
USB cards — Trésors collection	\$20.00	\$440.00
Book — The Last Quarter Century	\$25.00	
Book — The Ancestor & and his family		\$70.00
Sub-Total	\$120.00	\$819.00
TOTAL OF REVENUES	\$5,925.52	\$7,234.01

# **EXPENSES**

ADMINISTRATION	2019	2018
Canada Custom & Revenue (Annual Return )	\$35.00	\$34.00
Insurance, general responsibility (12/12 months)	\$66.00	\$53.50
FFAQ membership @ \$2.00/member/year	\$298.00	\$278.00
Bank book & bank fees	\$160.15	\$135.15
Sub-total	\$559.15	\$500.65
LE TRÉSOR BULLETIN (no 129 à 131 and Special Edition 8) (126 à 128)	<b>#4.007.04</b>	04 457 00
Printing	\$1,807.94	\$1,457.60
Handling  Death and the second (Consider)	\$175.64	\$158.52
Postal expenses (Canada)	\$519.29	\$504.56
Postal expenses (US and overseas)	\$602.31	\$629.10
Sub-total KFA SECRETARIAL EXPENSES	\$3,105.18	\$2,749.78
Postage stamps	\$624.91	\$432.73
Photocopying Photocopying	\$63.97	\$134.86
Stationary, envelopes & cards	\$26.79	\$29.18
Sub-total	\$715.67	\$596.77
GENEALOGY	ψ1 10101	Ψοσοπί
Subsciption (Ancestry, BMS2000 and Généalogie-Québec-Drouin)	\$459.23	\$374.13
Sub-total	\$459.23	\$374.13
SUNDRY (KFA PUBLICITY & PROMOTION)		
Annual fee for Website and name		\$13.66
Amortization of new Website cost (solde \$0)		\$1,480.00
USB keys made of <i>Le Trésor</i> bulletins		\$300.56
Photo rights for <i>Le Trésor</i>	\$20.98	\$20.70
Frais fête de Shawinigan	\$243.72	
Other gifts & expenses	\$65.00	
Sub-total	\$329.70	\$1,814.92
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$5,168.93	\$6,036.25
SURPLUS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSE	\$756.59	\$1,197.76
BANK ACCOUNT		
Balance as of 31 December	\$11,000.33	\$8,239.95
Revenues from 1 January to 31 December	\$7,172.52	\$7,394.13
Expenses from 1 January to 31 December	\$5,336.67	\$4,633.75
Balance as of 31 December	\$12,836.18	\$11,000.33

### Report of the Jacques Kirouac Fund

Investment of \$20,000 at Plateau Montcalm Credit Union, from 8 June 2004 to 31 December 2019

#### REVENUES OF THE JACQUES KIROUAC FUND

#### Note concerning the Jacques Kirouac Fund

Below, please find the financial reports for the Jacques Kirouac Fund since its inception. Its important impact on the KFA's yearly financial results and during the latest period is evident.

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 (Bank) on 30 October 2009, at a rate of 4.25%;

4th investment: share in Capital Fédération from 10 February 2017, at a rate of 4.25%;

N.B.: From 1 January to 30 June 2015, interest rate was 4.5%; from 1 July to 31 December 2015, interest rate was 3.5%; and from 1 January 2017 to 9 February 2017, interest rate was 2.75%.

Year	Interest	Return	Total
2004 to 2010	\$5,362.11	\$361.22	\$5,723.33
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
2016	\$850.00		\$890.85
2017	\$817.12		\$817.12
2018	\$850.00		\$850.00
2019	\$850.00		\$850.00
2020			
2021			
Total	\$12,757.87	\$361.22	\$13,119.09

#### ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE ASSOCIATION

Year	Revenues	Expenses	Revenues - Expenses	Financial Results without the <i>JK Fund</i>	% JK Fund on Total Revenues	Number of members
2004 to 2010	\$42,683.83	\$38,622.14	\$4,061.69	(\$1,661.64)	13.4%	1,135 (average 162/year)
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	\$5,689.93	\$5,656.96	\$32.97	(\$741.42)	13.8%	148
2016	\$5,333.03	\$5,320.08	\$12.95	(\$688.97)	13.2%	131
2017	\$5,529.61	\$5,478.66	\$50.95	(\$766.17)	14.8%	139
2018	\$7,234.01	\$6,036.25	\$1,197.76	\$347.76	11.8%	149
2019	\$5,925.52	\$5,168.93	\$756.59	(\$93.41)	14.3%	133
2020						
2021						
		CUMULATIVE	\$7,231.07	(\$5,888.02)		

# Kervoach Descendants Through The Female Line ÉTIENNE BOULAY

by André St-ARNAUD

André St-Arnaud is relentlessly searching for known personalities with a connection to our common ancestor, Alexandre de Kervoach, through female lines and he is most successful at finding them. He started his quest in 2018, and introduced us to four political ladies, starting in autumn with Valérie Plante, Mayor of Montreal (Trésor 128), Mélanie Joly, Federal Liberal minister in Justin Trudeau's government (Trésor 129), Christine St-Pierre, Provincial deputy in two Liberal governments, that of Jean Charest and later of Philippe Couillard (Trésor 130) and Maxime Bernier, Leader of the Parti Populaire, and former federal minister in Stephen Harper's Conservative government (Trésor 131). In the last Trésor (number 132) he presented the well-known Canadian-American actor, Nathan Christopher Fillion.

These five personalities all belong to the eldest branch of the family, that of Simon-Alexandre, Jack Kerouac's branch, our Franco-American cousin. This time, André introduces us to Étienne Boulay, a high calibre sportsman descended from our ancestor's youngest son, Louis de Kervoach dit le Breton.

We are very grateful to André St-Arnaud for his findings and hope he keeps searching, as this is a great contribution to the descendants of Alexandre de Kervoach and his wife, Louise Bernier.

The Editor

tienne Trépanier-Boulay was born on 10 March 1983 in Montreal's Ahuntsic district. He completed high-school at Collège Jean-Eudes in Montreal's Rosemont district where he excelled at football, which won him a football scholarship at the famous Kent School in Kent, Conn. In 2001, he led Kent School to the New England Class A Championship in football as a running back, defensive back, and team captain. Following that season, Etienne was voted the New England Class A Player of the Year for 2001. After two years he won a four-year full scholarship to New Hampshire University and played for the New Hampshire Wildcats from 2002 to 2005.

In April 2006, he was drafted by the Montreal Alouettes in the second round (16th pick) in the Canadian Football League (CFL) Draft. That season, he finished fifth in the CFL with 20 special teams tackles and won the East Division Most Outstanding Rookie for 2006 and the Alouettes Most Outstanding Rookie, 2006 awards.

On January 18, 2008, he signed a contract with the New York Jets. He was waived on July 24. In August 2008, he returned to Montreal to play with the Alouettes, and won the Grey Cup with his team on November 29, 2009, and again on November 28, 2010, both against the Saskatchewan Roughriders. On June 15, 2012, Boulay was released by the Alouettes and on July 15, 2012,



Étienne Boulay, professional athlete, retired football star, motivational lecturer and TV commentator (Photo: Courtesy Gabrielle Lafond-Joyal, Multiple-Media)

Boulay signed a one-year contract with the Toronto Argonauts, later winning the 100th Grey Cup against the Calgary Stampeders. He was released on December 19, 2012.

#### A New Career

Since retiring in summer of 2013, Etienne has been hosting various television shows at VRAK TV, Canal-Vie, Moi & Cie and Canal D. He also collaborated with Radio Rouge FM. On Radio Canada TV, French-speaking CBC, he hosts a programme encouraging people to do more physical exercise in a happy way. In October 2018, he published his autobiography written with Marc-André Chabot, entitled: Étienne Boulay, le parcours d'un battant, i.e. A Fighter's Road. He is much loved as a motivating speaker. On 9 May 2020, when his 102-year old grandfather died, Etienne Boulay shared a very moving message on social media to pay homage to the man who had been a great source of inspiration to him. Follow him online.

# ANCESTRY OF ÉTIENNE BOULAY

		Louise Bernier
1- Alexandre de Kervoack	1- Alexandre de Kervoack <u>22 October 1732</u>	
(circa 1702-1736)	Cap-Saint-Ignace (Quebec)	(1712-1802)
	, ,	(Jean+ Geneviève Caron)
2-Louis Keroack dit le Breton	<u>11 January 1757</u>	Catherine Metot
	Cap-Saint-Ignace (Quebec)	(1739-1813)
(1735-1779)	oup sums sgame (Quarte)	(Joseph+ Hélène Normand) Marie-Claire Fortin
3- Jacques Kuérouac	<u>15 January 1788</u>	
dit Breton	Cap-Saint-Ignace (Quebec)	(1766-1812)
(1764-1823)	Cap-Saint-Ignace (Quebec)	(Jacques-Timothée+ Louise Bernier)
4- Louis-Marie Kérouack	1st August 1815	Marie-Angèle Gendron
(1793-1870)	Saint-Michel-de-Bellechasse	(1793-1858)
(1773-1070)	(Quebec)	(Jacques+ Thérèse Asselin)
		François Boulet
5- Geneviève Kirouac	<u>26 January 1847</u>	(1816-before 1881)
(1819-1859)	Montmagny (Quebec)	(François+ Élisabeth-Basilisse Campagna)
		Catherine-Marie-Louise Watters
6- Philéas Boulay	<u>13 June 1881</u>	(1856-1946)
(1848-1922)	Les Cèdres (Quebec)	(John-Ramsey+ Marguerite Joassim)
7-François-Joseph Boulay	25 July 1016	Marie-Louise Hamel
(1882-1936)	25 July 1916 Quebec (Quebec)	(1891-1971)
	Quesce (Quesce)	(Moïse+ Émélie Gaudreau)
8- Philéas Boulay	<u>21 May 1945</u>	Judith Caron
(1918-2020)	St-Gabriel-de-Brandon (Quebec)	(1920-1998)
,		(Joseph+ Alvine Plamondon)
9- Gilles Boulay	<u>9 April 1977</u>	Hélène Trépanier
	Quebec (Quebec)	(Fernand+ Jeannine Noël)
10- Étienne Boulay		
(1983- )		Maïka Desnoyers

The names are written here as they were written in the original documents.

André St-Arnaud, May 2020

# JACK KEROUAC AND THE HOUDE FAMILY

by Réal Houde, GFA With help from James and Raymond Houde

Our "cousin" Jack Kerouac's writings profoundly influenced the 20th century. Acknowledged as one of the best American authors of his time, he left an indelible imprint in people's memories.

The following text was printed in **Le Manousien**, the Houde Family Association's publication and its author generously authorizes us to reproduce it in **Le Trésor des Kirouac**.

Enjoy reading!

The Edito

### About Genealogy

few years ago, in 2006, I published a first article about the story of Narcisse Houde and his four wives<sup>1</sup>. Narcisse, my greatgreat-grandfather, was from Saint-Prosper, a village in Champlain county between Trois-Rivières and Quebec City on the Saint-Lawrence north-shore. That article was reprinted in *Le Manousien*<sup>2</sup>.

At the time, my own genealogy was completed: however. surprised that so few people knew our family history. One aunt had kept photos of her mother (my grandmother), but most info about the Houdes and Blanchards I dug up in the public archives between 1999 and 2008. I took the time to write the family history, particularly about the maternal branches of the Houdes and Blanchards, also including the maternal side: Malo and Noiseux. The result was a book<sup>3</sup>. The book launching was a perfect occasion for a great family gathering; however, for most, their interest stopped there.

During my research, I learned that my grandmother, Irène Blanchard, was born in Lowell, Mass., in 1901. Her father, Napoléon Blanchard, worked at the *Lowell Boott Cotton Mills* as a stationary machinery engineer<sup>4</sup>. I also learned that a brother of my great-grandfather Achille Houde, called Théotime Houde, grew up and lived at Lowell,

Mass., but the only info I had was from his baptism record and his marriage record with Marie Anne Bacon. It was also rather strange to read that both brothers, Achille and Théotime, had married two women called Marie Anne Bacon.

#### Discovery

In December 2009, while reading Le Manousien, I found an article about one Robert Pete Houde, a WWII hero and a former Nazi prisoner. I could hardly believe what I was reading in that article written by James Houde, about three of his uncles, sons of Théotime Houde and Marie Anne Bacon, from Lowell, Massachusetts<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> HOUDE, James and Jean-Guy HOUDE. **Robert Robert "Pete" Houde,** in Le Manousien (Descendants of Louis Houde and Madeleine Boucher (1655) inc.), volume 18, number 2, 2009, p. 18-19.



The Lowell Boott Cotton Mills was built in the 1830s and remained in operation until 1955. It was later transformed into a museum. (Photo: Francine Kirouac)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> HOUDE, Réal. "Narcisse Houde and his wives", was published in French in Mémoires de la Société généalogique canadienne française, volume 57, number 4, winter 2006, p. 287-289.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> HOUDE, Réal. Narcisse Houde and his wives", in Le Manousien (Bulletin of the Descendants of Louis Houde and Madeleine Boucher (1655) inc.), volume 17, number 2, 2008, p. 4-5.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> HOUDE, Réal. Un parcours de 400 ans. Essai généalogique. (a genealogical essay covering 400 years. Boucherville, private edition, 2008, 341 pages.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Information taken from a document written by the late Gérard Lacroix on the Blanchard family. I met his widow, Jeannine Blanchard, who provided me with some more details. Her father, Omer Blanchard, was my grandmother's brother, also from Lowell, Mass. (1900).

There is no point here mentioning the content of the article, but the resulting discoveries are important. James Houde, from Herndon, Virginia, and I, from Saint-Bruno, Quebec, with the help of Pierre Desrochers, then responsible for Le Manousien, our family association's bulletin, exchanged emails and quickly discovered that our personal archives matched perfectly like an immense jigsaw puzzle. For years, both James and I had been searching for some missing links. Finally, there it was. So, before even meeting, we decided to write an article together for Le Manousien<sup>6</sup>. Thanks to email! Afterwards we planned to meet in Lowell in 2010, during the summer. James told me that one of our common cousins who lived there might be able to help us.

During that trip to Lowell, in 2010, with the help of cousin Raymond Houde Jr., I saw my greatgrandfather Blanchard's names, among others, written on a wall of the former factory, turned into a museum: Lowell Boott Cotton Mills Museum.

It was very moving.

Raymond took the time to talk to us about the Houde who lived in Lowell, Mass., and to show us the main streets including Houde's corner, St-Jean-Baptiste Church, unfortunately slated for demolition, etc. Together, Raymond, James and I wrote an article about this historic meeting  $^{\prime}$ .

The following summer, in 2011, we had the pleasure to visit James and his wife. Janie. at Herndon. Virginia. near Washington. We also spent a



Saint-Jean-Baptiste Church in Lowell, Mass., where Jack Kerouac was an altar boy as a youth and where his funeral took place on Friday, 24 October 1969.

Photo credit: Wikimedia: Emw/CC BY-SA (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0

few days at Virginia Beach with James' siblings and extended family. Another article was written about this special gathering at Chesapeake Bay<sup>8</sup>.

While talking together, James mentioned some links between the Houdes and Jack Kerouac, also from Lowell, who wrote many books including his famous *On The Road*<sup>9</sup>. According to James, Robert Pete Houde was one of Jack's friends from a very young age and that there was a proof of their friendship in one of Jack's books.

For many, Jack Kerouac was a perturbed man, but for others, he is a hero, the Beat Generation's pioneer.

#### How to prove that friendship existed between Kerouac and the Houdes?

In July 2015, I was searching for some texts and books I needed to write my doctoral thesis when, suddenly, I found a quote by an author about Jack Kerouac's friends when growing up in Lowell<sup>10</sup>. I found that the book was available at the local municipal library. And

a Wandering Canadian?.html

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> HOUDE, James and Réal HOUDE. "When two branches of a family meet through an article published in Manousien, (Descendants of Louis Houde and Madeleine Boucher (1655) inc.)", volume 18, number 3, spring 2010, p. 12-17.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> HOUDE, James, Raymond HOUDE and Réal HOUDE. "When two branches of a family meet through an article published in Manousien, (Descendants of Louis Houde and Madeleine Boucher (1655) inc.), 2nd part", volume 19, number 1, autumn 2010, p. 8-9.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> HOUDE, James, Raymond HOUDE and Réal HOUDE. "When two branches of a family meet through an article published in Manousien, (Descendants of Louis Houde and Madeleine Boucher (1655) inc.), 3rd part" in Le Manousien, volume 20, number 1, autumn 2011, p. 16-19.

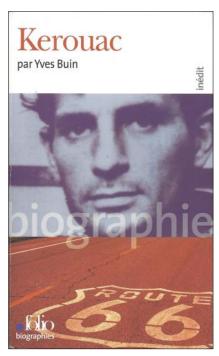
<sup>9</sup> KEROUAC, Jack. On the Road (in french). Paris, Gallimard, 1960, 437 pages.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Via website: http:// www.ameriquefrancaise.org/en/article-650/ Jack Kerouac -

right there was the proof that my grandfather's Lowell cousins were friends with Jack Kerouac. The author, Yves Buin, had written a few lines about Jack's friends:

Jack easily makes friends. He meets them in various places within Lowell, and they will remain his friends (and always remember them) through his whole life. Later on, they in turn, when Jack is famous, will have a lot to say about his and the Lowell years. They are Scotty Beaulieu, Michel Fournier, G. J. Apostolos, Roland Salvas, the Sampas (Charlie, Stella, Nick, Tony, Sammy), George Constantinides, Billy Chandler, Jimmy O'Dea, Connie Murphy, Freddy Bertrand, Mike and Pete Houde. They make up closeknit groups, they are inseparable, reading the same magazines, listening to the same radio stations, enjoying the same popular music, and particularly practising the same sports together: baseball, athletics, swimming, football<sup>11</sup>.

Another extract is even more



Cover of Yves Buin's book published by Gallimard, France, in 2006.

revealing - Kerouac and the Houde brothers as young teenagers:

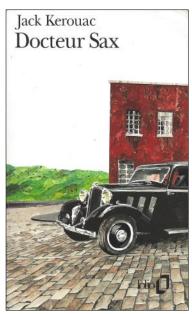
Jack reads voraciously and, at twelve, discovers <u>The Shadow</u>, a very popular weekly magazines, and also <u>The Green Hornet</u> and even <u>Phantom Detective</u>. He is so taken by the <u>Shadow</u> character, Lamont Cranston, that in the early evenings, with the Houde brothers, he walked Lowell's back streets wearing a dark cape. He will remember that when penning Doctor Sax<sup>12</sup>.

Over and over, Kerouac mentioned his life in Lowell in his books. Those years were some kind of oasis for Jack. In Doctor Sax, he talks about his youth although changing names. At the end of page 41 and the beginning of page 42, Kerouac tells the story of a boy named *Zap Plouffe* and his last painful days:

Zap's foot was dragged under a milk wagon, he caught an infection and died, I first met Zap on a crazy screaming night about the third after we'd moved from Centralville to Pawtucketville (1932) on my porch (Phebe), he came rollerskating up on the porch with his long teeth and prognathic jaw of the Plouffes, he was the first Pawtuck boy to talk to me... «Mon nom cest Zap Plouffe mué – je reste au coin dans maison là» – (my name it is Zap Plouffe me - I live on the corner in the house there) $^{13}$ .

Roland Houde was the real name of Zap Plouffe, brother of Robert *Pete* Houde and Henry Mike Houde. Roland Houde indeed died from an infected leg wound, as Jack wrote in his book. In *Dr. Sax*, Kerouac gives a street map of the area he writes about: Moody, Riverside, Sarah, Gershom and Phebe.

Kerouac - mourning his friend -



Cover of the French edition of Jack Kerouac's *Docteur Sax*, published by Gallimard in 1962.

wrote this about him:

"... Zap's ghost is in that goddam park," G.J. said, and never walked home across the field, instead went Riverside-Sarah or Gershom-Sarha, Phebe (where he lived all those years)..." I started seeing Zap's ghost when walking back home carrying a copy of Shadow. I had to face my duty. In Centralville, I learned not to cry and I was determined not to start crying in Pawtucketville<sup>14</sup>.

Here is part of Roland Houde's obituary published in Lowell in 1938:

Son of Theotime and Marie Anne

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> BUIN, Yves. **Kerouac**. Paris, Gallimard, 2006, p. 27.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Ibid., p. 28.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> KEROUAC, Jack. **Doctor Sax**. New York, Groove Weidenfeld, 1987, P. 41-42.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 43.

(Bacon) Houde, died earlier today at St-Joseph Hospital after a short illness, at 17. Besides his parents, he leaves to mourn six brothers, Armand, Raymond, Albert, Henry, Robert and Lionel, and three sisters, Gilberte, Claire and Lorette<sup>15</sup>.

And here is a shortened version of his funeral:

The funeral of Roland Houde, son of Mr. And Mrs. Theotime Houde was held this morning, leaving from his parents' home, 23 Sarah Avenue. relatives, friends acquaintances attended. At 9 o'clock at Ste-Jeanne d'Arc Church a

solemn funeral Mass was celebrated by Reverend Gaston Lehoullier, O.M.I<sup>16</sup>.

#### Conclusion

Reading Dr. Sax and On The Road and Yves Buin's book, simply entitled Kerouac, helped me to better understand the American melting pot and how people from everywhere lived and survived during the industrial period, including French-speaking Canadians from Quebec, among them members of the Houde and Blanchard families.

I found it rather moving to put in

parallel a personal family story and the public writing of a tormented author who wrote a page of American history as he lived it his youth in Lowell. Massachusetts – his glorious years.

Saint-Bruno, 4 August 2015.

# Living through the COVID-19 pandemic

### **CONFINED IN BRITTANY**

by Alain Olmi alias Jean Kersco

On 18 May, in a **Trésor express** sent by email we asked you to let us know how you are coping with the general confinement decreed in March because of the worldwide pandemic Covid-19.

We are very grateful to those who answered and pleased to share these experiences with you

If these testimonies inspire you to write about your experience, please feel free to send them along. It will be a pleasure to publish them in our next 2020 **Trésor**, our Christmas issue.

Thank you very much,

François Kirouac for the KFA Board Mr. President and dear cousin.

This is an excellent initiative asking us to write how we reacted to the general confinement and I congratulate you for doing so. Here is my reaction and actions. First let me say that a few years ago I had the pleasure of welcoming a Kirouac delegation in Lanmeur and Huelgoat\*. This is a wonderful way to get in touch again (\*see photo album on the KFA website about the "Return to the Sources" in Brittany in 2000, photo album).

In early March I left Paris to vote in the municipal election in Locquirec, (a town mentioned by Jack Kerouac in his book Satori in Paris) and I had to remain in Brittany because of the general confinement declared in March. This is my holiday home located (2½ miles) 4 km from Lanmeur, where our common ancestors hail from.

For me it has been simply ideal: splendid weather, luxuriant vegetation, no Covid-19 cases in the area; perfect holiday. Thanks to internet and telephone (of course lines are overloaded due to the pandemic, so a bit slow at times); however, allowing me regular contacts with my family in lockdown in Paris. Gardening and DIY keep me busy.

A good deal of time is taken by expanding the association Pour l'Union des Méditerranéens I co-founded with my friends, Bernard Dorin, French Ambassador, Honorary State Councillor and well known in Canada as councillor to General de Gaulle<sup>1</sup>, and Chamyl Boutaleb, President of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Roland Houde, in The Lowell Sun, Friday 15 July 1938, p. 2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Funeral. Roland Houde, in The Lowell Sun, Monday 18 July 1938, p. 3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> About General de Gaulle's visit to Québec in 1967: De Gaulle et le Québec - https:// www.youtube.com/watch?v=BO02Ts0zbEw

Fondation Émir Abd el Kader, one of his ancestors. The association is supra-national and confederal, it is for all people living in all the countries around the Mediterranean Sea. It is neither political nor commercial, but strategic and cultural, and designed to promote future world peace for our children. It is really needed because of the daily growing danger of a serious conflict erupting between the countries north of the Mediterranean and south of it.

In 1961, as a French officer in Algeria during the war, I was involved in the peace talks. The important French-language Algerian newspaper El Watan wrote about it in 2012 in their last full coverage marking the 50th anniversary of Algeria's independence. To find out more, type Alain Olmi on Google, or other search engine.

Since then, I created a website<sup>2</sup> which is consulted in 114 countries and counting over 205,000 "views". Regularly I add articles, including six about the quarantine. The Association's site is very recent (2018), but has already been consulted in 84 countries<sup>3</sup>. One of its projects is launching a Pedagogical south-Mediterranean game for colleges in all countries where we have delegations: Algeria, France, and Mauritania. Contacts now exist with key persons in other countries like Morocco, Mongolia, Serbia and the USA.

And soon, why not with Canada? All it needs is a dozen persons singing the Canadian National Anthem to be added to the Association's welcome page. May I suggest, writing an article about Jack Kerouac, who is not much known in North Africa.

The worldwide confinement is having major consequences



Alain Olmi and KFA president, François Kirouac, at the 2008 KFA annual gathering held in Quebec City marking the 30th anniversary of the creation of our family association. (Photo: Pierre Kirouac)

around the globe, some good but mostly bad. We need to face the situation, it is a question of public service.

Well, this is what I have been doing during my confinement. Enjoy reading.

Best regards,

Alain Olmi, President of UDM (alias Jean Kersco)

- <sup>2</sup> https://dakerscocode.blogspot.com
- <sup>3</sup> https://uniondesmeds.com

## COVID-19 PANDEMIC = LOCKDOWN WHEN PARENTS AND CHILDREN ARE CONFINED TOGETHER



Then parents and children are locked down together in an apartment for months, special planning and unusual compromises are needed, angelic patience also helps! Not easy when the living-room/ dining-room becomes daddy's office, a classroom for a six-year old boy taught by his mother and a playroom for his three-year old sister who, sometimes, felt a bit left out. Daddy worked at home until a little hand accidentally toppled his cup of coffee over his computer that choked to death. Fortunately, the data was saved but daddy decided that it was safer to work at the office in peace and quiet.

During confinement, my son and his wife were grateful to spend quality time with their two young ones; although daddy admitted that after four months, a 24-hour-break without children would have been much appreciated. Grandma, also quarantined at home, had to be contended with virtual visits with her new smiling baby grandson and his big sister, a very active 3½, displaying an inherited strong personality, who reacted more than expected to the unusual circumstances. But all credit goes to the parents who managed the situation so well that grandma was very impressed by the nice young lady who visited her recently.

Grandma Marie L. T.

Le Trésor des Kirouac no 133 27

### COVID-19 Pandemic

### Coming out on Top during a Crisis Marc-André Kirouac, president of Club *Jouet*, Quebec's giant toy club

The Covid-19 crisis has reshaped our world, and the whole world. Our habits will never the same. These exceptional times have shaken the retail business world and most have had to rethink the way they do business, the need to quickly - even instantly - adapt, reinvent themselves, adopt new working methods.

This is what Marc-André Kirouac faced head on during his first year as president of Quebec's Club *Jouet*. Having to suddenly lay off half his personnel was an emotional shock he had to weather, particularly being the fifth generation of Kirouacs in the toy business. Was the company he knew while growing up and knows so well suddenly jeopardized? Decisions had to be taken immediately when faced with an unprecedented situation. Business school do not teach what to do in time like this so Marc-André decided to turn the crisis into an opportunity.

When the lockdown was declared in March, it was great for the toy and game business; sales jumped by as much as 186% at peak time.

"For some years now, we have been investing in internet sales using our website to make a difference and become a reference in our field. We faced the challenge and this crisis tested the limits of our system<sup>1</sup>."

To win the battle, Marc-André decided to take time to answer a few tough questions: "What can we do to help parents now working from home. Schools are closed, so children are also at home and can no longer play with their friends? Two generations together at all time!" To face the challenge, Club *Jouet* decided to adapt its message and be even more present on social media.

Video capsules were produced giving parents daily suggestions about ways to get some respite during this rather trying period: games to keep and improve what children have already learned in schools, memory and dexterity games, how to reorganize a playroom, create activities to help children acquire more autonomy, and a lot more. The videos were seen by thousands of people everywhere in the province.

Puzzles flew off the shelves. Consumers wanted to deal with a trustworthy company. Club *Jouet* was ready. Many were those who discovered or rediscovered Club *Jouet*. The personnel was at the ready. Customers



Marc-André Kirouac, 5<sup>th</sup> generation of toy merchants in Quebec City proudly holding his baby daughter, Léa (Photo: Marc-André Kirouac)

appreciated personalized advice and fast delivery and free delivery with minimum purchase.

On 4 May 2020, the government gave permission to reopen retail stores with a street entrance (not those located in shopping malls), again Club *Jouet* was ready: sanitary and safety measures were in place, sanitizers and disinfectants are by the door, floor stickers show the aisles' directions, cashiers are shielded by Plexiglas... At Club *Jouet* clients shop in a safe and sanitary environment.

Will shoppers change their behaviour and adapt? This, we will find out with time but Marc-André and his team have faith in the future: We always managed to adapt. We are Kirouacs after all and this is part of what we are; challenges do not slow us down, they galvanize us to go forward.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Marie Lussier Timperley, from **Le Trésor** editorial team, experienced **Club Jouet**'s system's limits while trying to buy LEGO to be sent to her grandchildren in Nova Scotia: "I chose four items, went to the virtual checkout to learn three were out of stock. Eventually, I found four. Yes, the demand was great and the service up to par!

### COVID-19 Pandemic

# Quarantine

by Mark Pattison

y intent in working from home was to make my life as unobtrusive as possible. I would set up my laptop on the dining room table, play music on the CD player, and go about my business. As a result, my daughter, Cyntia, took all of her high school classes in her bedroom, and my wife, Judith McCullough, streamed all sorts of TV in our bedroom. "It is like you took over the whole first floor, Dad," Cyntia told me.

I am writing this in the 17th week of a shelter-inplace order in the District of Columbia (we are in "stage 2"). If this lasts much longer, I may get exiled into the basement, which is so cool I will not need any air conditioning, but maybe a sweater.

The first day, my wife had to babysit the 2-yearold son of one of Cyntia's friends, and take two cats to the veterinarian at the same time. Fortunately, that has not happened since. But in August, the boy, his baby sister and his mother are moving in with us. So I am exiling myself to the basement.

I have listened to hundreds of CDs (I have thousands), everything, alphabetically speaking, with the Platters. I got all the way to V, including all of the "various artists" collections and anthologies I have, before the CD player went pffft! for ten days. All is well now.

I have also fried my brain writing all sorts of stories for Catholic News Service<sup>1</sup>, most of them on the coronavirus pandemic. No matter where I type words onto my computer, I suspect that is what I will be doing for a long time to come.

Even though I cannot stand watching livestreamed Masses, my prayer life is a bit deeper now than it was in March. It could be the fragility of, and appreciation for, life. I know, at this point, only one person who was stricken with Covid-19, and I met her only at the memorial service of a mutual friend four years ago. Two people who



Mark Pattison with daughter, Cyntia and wife, Judith! (Photo: Ralph Blessing)

work in our building, and they had special permission to enter, they got it. It makes me hesitate to go back to my office when someone can be that unlucky.

There are other benefits. Because I have no commute, I have time to do a predawn walk in the morning (if it does not rain). Today (July 12) marked fifty-three straight days of walking, although in recent days, my 53-minute walk has been shortened because my right meniscus has been acting up. But that is OK, because I also have time in the morning to do twenty-five minutes of physical therapy exercises to strengthen the meniscus and the muscles surrounding it.

Because I stay at home, a lot, I went thirty-two days before needing cash from an ATM. It is not like I have been piling up credit-card debt, either; my last two statements showed me charges in the \$400 range, with more than half of that going to educational expenses for Cyntia. I also went fifty-five days before having to spend \$20 on gas. I imagine that with all of the short trips I made, my mileage must have been terrible.

We have sampled all sort of cuisine: barbecue, two different Italian places, Greek, Tex-Mex, Guatemalan, seafood, a Korean diner near the medical center where my specialists have practices, and "nouvelle American" (oxtail fettuccine!) with the occasional visit to Popeyes, Chipotle and Subway. Have I gained weight? No! In fact I have lost 10 pounds!

Cyntia has ordered fast-food deliveries for lunch, after her

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Catholic News Service, is an American news agency that reports on the Roman Catholic Church. CNS was established in 1920 as the National Catholic Welfare Council Press Department. (Wikipedia)

abbreviated school day is over. Restaurants that ARE open around here offer delivery, but I drive to pick up the orders. That way, I know they are coming home as warm as they can be. Even though delivery drivers and services such as Door Dash are "front line" workers, I think it is only fair that I accept a little bit of the risk.

#### **HOW TO SEPARATE WORK** FROM FAMILY LIFE

Each day at 5 pm, or as close as I can get to it, I turn off the computer and put laptop and cords away in the shoulder bag. That way it does not intrude on family dinner time. I also put the cellphone in my pocket, and the landline back in its stand.

Sometimes, though, other business intrudes in the evening, so I leave things connected but out of sight. When I have evening meetings, I put the laptop on the chair, next to mine, put the mouse on top of it, and put the cords out of sight to show that work is at least temporarily over. I had a meeting yesterday at 7 pm, and I have got another one tomorrow at 7 pm, but this is unusual.

#### PHOTO OP!

Our neighborhood had a contest: The blocks with the highest percentage of sign-ups would have those residents' pictures taken by a neighborhood photographer who has won Washington Post travelphoto contests to show how we have been getting by during the pandemic.

We posed with a sign Cyntia had discarded from her bedroom during a recent repainting that says,

#### "LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL."

While the statement is true, we have it easy. There are all sorts of essential workers who don't get to work from their dining room tables: doctors and nurses, garbage collectors, letter carriers, grocery workers, police officers firefighters, and so many more. They need and deserve protections that our society and governments can give them, in both health and wealth. God knows they have earned it every day.



# 90th BIRTHDAY PARTY CANCELLED DUE TO LOCKDOWN OUR VERY BEST WISHES TO MONIQUE!



photo: Monique Brouillet collection

Nearly all families faced disappointments due to the pandemic, like missing a birthday celebration, a wedding and even facing death. For Monique Hurtubise Brouillet, who turned 90 years young on March 6, it meant being alone on that auspicious day instead of surrounded by her family. But when staying away means staying healthy and alive, it is worth it.

#### Dear Monique,

We wish you health and happiness and a nice party as soon as it is safe to do so. This photo was taken on another occasion of course. Here Monique is surrounded by her daughters, from left to right: Anne-Marie, Martine, Lorraine and Christine.

### COVID-19 Pandenic

## Greg and Nancy Kyrouac coping with the pandemic in Illinois

A ancy and I left our office job at noon on March 19 to work from home. I have actually been working from home most of the time during this pandemic.

Starting in April, I was assigned to be a screener at the door of one of the buildings where one of the medical school's clinics are located Monday-Friday from 2:00 - 4:30 pm. I wear a mask, gloves and protective eyewear, but I do not have to take temperatures. (see photo) I only ask the screening questions regarding Covid-19 regarding temperature, coughs, problems breathing, etc. Since most of the time there are very few patients coming into the clinics, I have little to do, but they want someone at the door at all times.

Shopping for food? In Ashland, we have an old-fashioned grocery (two aisles with a meat counter in back) as well as a Dollar General store which carries some groceries. Since I was going into Springfield every workday, I would pick up things there that we needed as necessary.

The 50% time back in the office began on Monday, May 18, and continued through Friday, June 5. As of Monday, June 8, we are to be 75% time in the office. Nancy has been working from home ever since we went home, and began the 50% time on Monday, May 18. Her group is not going to change to the 75% time in the office yet.

The University offered an early retirement incentive as one of several ways to save money since Southern Illinois University School of Medicine estimates that they lost about \$40 million due to not seeing patients. So I applied for the early retirement. I was planning to retire in early 2021, when I will be 65.



In Illinois, Greg Kyrouac working as a screener outside the building, wearing mask and protective eyewear.

Now, I have been asked to be in the office every day through the end of June so that I can train my staff person on everything that I do, as my final work day will be Tuesday, June 30. And on Friday, June 19, I received notice that my retirement request was granted. Retirement begins July 1<sup>st</sup>!

# Catherine Kirouac Robinson and confinement Home Alone = Ideal Time for Sorting and Clearing

Cathy accepted to share how she spent her time since the lockdown was declared in March. She starts with a word about her sister Jennifer!

Jennifer is very frustrated with the preparation for daughter Meaghan and Sean's wedding and wedding shower. They were supposed to be married on May 30 and now it is postponed to August 15 with the shower on July 11. Because of our governor, it is impossible to know what will be acceptable for the hall in August. We know it is possible to have 250 people at the church although I'm sure there would not be that many attending. We will have to see whether we will all have to wear masks at the church and the venue. This would not be great for wedding pictures but it would be fun to do pictures with and without masks. It should be an interesting couple of months.

As far as me doing things during my confinement, it has given me some time to purge paperwork. As you know, I have worked with about ten different volunteer groups over the last thirty-plus years. To say it has been interesting going through all the paper would be about right. I have been surprised by some things I have found and, in some cases, I think I will take

pictures of many items so I can get rid of the paper.

Because for many years I was in charge of the tour group training at The Parade Company<sup>1</sup>, I could not believe how many duplicates I had of all my training books. Also had a lot of additional papers that I could recycle or shred. Since I have been in the American Business Women's Association (ABWA) for almost thirty years and have held almost all the different offices, again I am getting rid of lots of duplicate papers and things I don't need anymore. I have been a Bereavement Group Facilitator for a little over fifteen years, but it is incredible how much I have learned from that experience. Since I lost three of siblings younger mv November of last year<sup>2</sup>, I am so thankful that they died when they did. It is beyond my wildest dreams on how our family would have been able to deal with this if it had happened during the last few months. I also worked with my cousin, Cheryl Jarzombek, when she was a videographer and was able to purge paper from that too.

Saturday, June 20, 2020, is the virtual walk for the Michigan MS Society<sup>3</sup> and I have been working with them since the very first walk in 1988 when my sister, Diann, was diagnosed. This will be an unusual walk; however, I am going to do a real walk. I have decided to go over to my friend Chris's house and have her do a Facebook Live and take some pictures that can be posted on social media. I can't begin to tell you how many tshirts I have from this group, as well as The Parade Company, Cornerstone Schools

several others. I'm going to donate some of them in the next month or two and I am thinking I may take a picture of the shirts before I donate them. That way I can still have the memories but not the items that have to be stored in my house. For the past years, I have been volunteering with I Heart Dogs Rescue and Animal Haven. I cannot have a dog because it would not be fair to have a fur baby since I am not home much. This is the way I get my puppy fix. It is fun to help out with events and pet adoptions.

#### Clothes, a perm and **Kickboxing**

Still have paperwork to go through since you can't spend every day doing it. My next project is to start purging clothes. When you are not home much, things have a way of getting away from you. Finally can get a perm on June 26 and hopefully we will be able to go back to kickboxing after July 4. Can't believe it will be ten years on July 15 that I started kickboxing at Sidekicks. Where does the time go.

In a few months when we can start meetings with real people and not ZOOM meetings, the Rendez-vous Committee<sup>4</sup> will start planning for our move to Historic Fort Wayne on August 1, 2021. We are really looking



Cathy Kirouac Robinson touring The Parade Company warehouse during the KFA annual gathering held in Detroit in July 2013.

<sup>1</sup> The Parade Company: https://theparade.org

Read about the K's visit during the KFA gathering in Detroit in 2013: Le Trésor des Kirouac, no. 112, Autumn 2013, pp. 4-11

- <sup>2</sup> Diann, Christopher and Daniel Kirouac; read their obituaries published in Le Trésor des Kirouac, no. 131, Autumn 2019, pp. 40-43.
- <sup>3</sup> MS WALK 2020; read the add about MS Walk in Le Trésor des Kirouac, no 131, Autumn 2019, p. 42.



Some of the T-shirts collected by Cathy over a life-time career as a volunteer!

forward to having the Rendez-vous there next year. It is the perfect place and a much bigger venue than we are accustomed to but so looking forward to moving. We will still be raising funds for the **Basilica of Ste.**Anne de Détroit<sup>5</sup>. In July, they will be having their novenas and the French novena is scheduled for Sunday, July 19. **Elizabeth Bourne-Nido** (Rendezvous Chairperson) is making me another dress for the event, more of a Habitant one so I can dress myself, without help! ha, ha, ha.

Dennis sent me a note and said that he was getting you the information that you asked for. I just received Dennis Kirouac' book, *Finding Agates*<sup>6</sup> in the mail from Amazon. Just finished reading the book and it is so inspiring. I love the fact that he shares his experiences from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and relates many things back to the Bible.

Some days I feel like I don't do anything and other days I seem to go on and on. My brother, Gil, was down from Port Austin on June 17 to see his heart doctor. So, we went to the cemetery to check out the family grave markers and then we went out to lunch at Red Robin and had chocolate shakes and clam chowder. It felt good to actually go to a restaurant and eat out. I have been to a few stores and that feels good too. I don't mind ordering things online, but I like to go to the store and actually see things that I might want to buy.

Looks like we still cannot cross the border now until August. The only people who can cross are those who are working in the metro Detroit area or working in Canada. It will be nice when we can cross the border again. For the past three years I have been unable to attend the KFA annual gathering in Quebec<sup>7</sup>, due to





Leresa, a family friend, Cathy K. Robinson and her sister, Jennifer K. Ogonowski, at the MS WALK finish line in 2019. Of course this year it was a virtual walk and Team Kirouac - On the Road Again took part on 20 June 2020 walking in memory of their sister, Diann Kirouac, who died last November 2019.

prior commitments, and this year I was planning to drive with other cousins to Saint-Jean-Port-Joli, but Covid-19 got in the way. So now, hopefully, it will be next year, on 11 September 2021.

<sup>4</sup>Rendez-vous at Sainte-Anne de Detroit Organizing committee; read about the honors received in 2018 in Le Trésor des Kirouac, no. 128, Autumn 2018, p. 27.

<sup>5</sup> Rendez-vous at Sainte-Anne de Detroit; read the history of this annual event and Catherine Kirouac Robinson's involvement in: Le Trésor des Kirouac, no. 128, Autumn 2018, pp. 27-29.

<sup>6</sup> Finding Agates, on page 14 in this issue.

<sup>7</sup> KFA annual gathering in the past three years: Montreal 2017, Le Trésor des Kirouac, no. 125, Autumn 2017, pp.16-22; Quebec City 2018, Le Trésor des Kirouac, no. 128, Autumn 2018, pp.6-22; Shawinigan 2019, Le Trésor des Kirouac, no. 130, Summer 2019, pp.5-13.

#### Organizing Committee of the *Rendez-vous* at Sainte-Anne Church in Detroit

L. to R.: **Stéphanie Potier\***; David Martin, former French teacher; **Catherine Kirouac Robinson\***; Aaron Roy, professional athlete of Acadian ogirin; Barbara Baldinger, retired teacher, and **Elizabeth Bourne\***, \*members of basic team of *Rendez-vous*, photographed at Ste-Anne-de-Détroit Church in September 2018. (see Le Trésor, no. 128, autumn 2018). *The Rendez-vous 2020* was cancelled and postponed to 2021.

Photo: Cathy Kirouac Robinson collection

### COVID-19 Pandenic

### Lockdown in the countryside is Therapeutic and most useful for Marie Kirouac and Marie Lussier Timperley

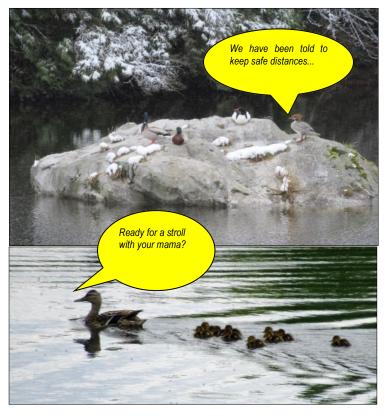
Quarantined in the countryside, Marie Kirouac in the Beauce region and the other Marie in Potton Township, both so happy to live out their confinement in a "paradise" and knowing how lucky they both are. But what do you do when your life and relationships are turned upside down? A lot of thinking to start with.

In the Beauce, Marie is ready, camera in hand, to capture the surrounding beauty; but why keep it all for herself when it is so easy to share it with others? If you are on Marie's list of lucky recipients than you enjoyed reading the ducks' and the Canada geese's love story. Every spring these long-distance flyers stop by. She also sends us funny cartoons by Côté and Ben's take on life during the pandemic; articles on the arts and key subjects, something for everyone.

During the months of lock down even the weather was affected and thermometers played yo-yo like the temperature. Officially, on March 21, winter is over and spring takes over! But not this year. On May 12, a last snowstorm whitened everything, so Marie rushed outside and took a few hundred surreal winter photos. Room for only one here, birds on the rock.

Marie in Beauce writes: At the chalet, I always feel one with nature, everything is calm and relaxing. So the best thing to do is to walk around the two lakes contemplating nature's bounty different with each season. In spring and in autumn, the Canada geese do us the favour of visiting us for a few weeks. Many ducks stay on through most of the summer. So I rush outside with ma camera to capture memorable images of these elegant birds. But as soon as they see someone walking around their try to hide in the bushes, and the females will quack as loud as they can to warn their offspring of danger, a human presence. Isn't nature well organized?

Marie also regaled us with the love story of Mr. Drake and Mrs. Cane who enjoyed the ROCK with and without snow. One day, on a photo, I counted eight ducklings happily swimming behind their mother. A few days later, on another photo, I counted ten! I wondered whether my eyes were playing tricks on me. But no, Marie told me there are two families! However, recently on a Sunday at sunset, Mrs. Cane was heard shrieking; most



unusual at that time of day! But why? A few moments later, Master Fox was seen at the edge of the lake, taking a French leave and running for his life towards the nearest woods to better hide his shame. Now we knew why Mrs. Cane was screaming blue murder. First thing, Monday morning, Marie went to the lake and saw Mrs. Cane followed by only six ducklings. But the other family still has ten out of ten.

Where Marie lives in the Beauce, the grandchildren can thank their loving grandfather for the two lakes and the ROCK. Their grandfather tried everything to move it and take it out while digging the lakes but he gave up. Since then, ducks and geese happily use this natural island in midseason, and, in summer, the grandchildren enjoy reaching it either swimming, in a rowboat or a pedal boat; the perfect spot to sunbathe and even eat lunch.

Much gratitude to Marie in Beauce, who uses her talents and passions to bring some relaxation, smiles and laughs, and happiness to relatives and friends, even acting as a morale booster to some, including yours truly.

The other Marie, home alone, in Potton Township with plenty of time to work on Le Trésor des Kirouac number 133.

### COVID-19 Pandemic

# Hélène Kirouac-Pelletier's Story

### What to do upon hearing of a pandemic while out of one's country!

The New Year finally arrived. But 2020 was not to be an ordinary year. It is easy to say and write 2020. But living it is not so easy here and everywhere. All our plans are turned topsy-turvy, our dreams go up in smoke. Nothing seems friendly anymore when you cannot hug and kiss your loved-ones, children and our five-year old grandson, Thomas.

As we do every year, in October 2019, we left Quebec to spend a comfortable winter in Texas and life was as nice as ever, so enjoyable under warm bountiful sunshine. Then towards the end of February and early March, from family members still in Quebec, we started hearing about "a dangerous virus". They were very worried to hear that we were spending days in Mexico or at South Padre Island without any concern about the virus. Obviously the pandemic was taken far more seriously north of the 49th than

As soon as Luc and I started to be afraid of contamination and even losing sleep over it, we decided to close our house, we gave the contents of our fridge and freezer to friends living in motorhomes. As we travel back home by car, I thought they were very lucky to sleep, eat and use the WC in their own motorhomes. We were the

second couple to leave the camping; many thought we were scary cats! We cut our regular stay by a whole month. Normally we would have stayed until the third week in April. The week after we left, many Quebec campers received notices from their insurance companies warning them that they had ten days to get back to Canada.

So we sped back north, anxiety travelling with us during those four days. Restaurants were closing along the road, so we had to use hotels... We disinfected everything before touching anything in the rooms and even at the gas pump. As we neared New York State, we started to see billboards telling people to say home because of COVID-19.

Stress went up an extra notch each day, so much so that we decided to sleep only three nights in hotels instead of four; therefore, driving seventeen hours on our last day on the road to reach Canada. We never regretted leaving very early. As soon as we reached the Canadian border, we felt our stress level going down a bit. Finally we were out of the United States and safely back home protected by our Quebec health system!

Once home, it was the two-week quarantine but we were privileged, relatives and friends took on shopping for us, groceries and all,

Grandparents meeting their grandson during the pandemic, keeping safe distances, of course. What time we live in!



The grandson explained to his grandma that this flower is growing out of the ground; his gift for mother's day. This was Hélène and Luc's first time seeing their grandson since leaving for spending winter in Texas last October 2019.

so confinement was relaxing. We did not worry as we were so well looked after. What we find most difficult during this pandemic is being unable to hug our one and only grandson and realizing that we are old! Confinement steals quality time from us, time that will never come back. And, we keep getting older!

MAIS ÇA VA BIEN ALLER! This is what I read in windows in almost every home in my district as I go for my daily morning walk.

# EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT!

# Surviving Covid-19 during the first wave

by François Dumulon, Rouyn-Noranda, Abitibi-Témiscamingue, 4 July 2020

he coronavirus has been running wild in the province of Quebec for a while I now. My wife and I live in a senior's residence, as well as my brother-inlaw, Guy Charbonneau. We often take part in the many activities offered, having coffee sometimes in his apartment, sometimes in ours or in one of the building's lounges.

One day last March, Guy was feeling under the weather so he called his doctor, who gave him an appointment at his office on March 26, and immediately transferred him to the Covid-19 unit at the hospital. The next evening, March 27, Guy passed away. Following Guy's death, the public health services immediately began investigating. I was asked many questions because it was important to find out the source of the virus that seems to have been brought into the residence from outside. By March 31, a full inquiry of everyone living at the residence was completed. As lockdown was imposed on all residents after Guy's death, two nurses, a man and a woman, came to my apartment to test us. Everybody was then fully informed about Covid-19 symptoms.

During the evening, my temperature went up to 38 degrees Celsius and I had trouble breathing. My wife called the resident nurse and told her what my symptoms were. She immediately called the ambulance service to take me to the hospital with all due precautions. Upon arrival at the hospital, a doctor briefly examined me and sent me pronto to the special Covid-19 unit. Tests after tests were done but there was a three-day waiting time to get the results. The following evening as my breathing was even more difficult they did an intubation and I was put into an artificial coma.

By April 3, the Covid-19 test came back positive and my breathing being more and more difficult, it was decided to transfer me by air-ambulance to Laval University's Heart and Lung Institute in Quebec City (Institut universitaire de cardiologie et de pneumologie). In the intensive care unit, I was still intubated, and remained so for nine days. On April 10, they started waking me gradually.

On April 12, I was transferred to another unit where I no longer needed constant supervision. Rehabilitation started. I had lost fifteen pounds, most muscle tone, and sense of smell; I had a hard time walking, swallowing was hard, memory loss was evident and I felt rather confused. Days went by and gradually my health improved and finally I could get in touch with my family. More testing was done and finally going back home to Rouyn-Noranda was possible. However, before my transfer was authorized, two negative tests at a 24-hour interval were needed. One last night in the hospital and I was on my way home to start with a two-week quarantine.

After being severely affected by Covid-19, and intubated for many days, patients need a much longer recuperating period, and many weeks (even months) to recover completely.

Important message: Public health rules must be respected: wearing a facial mask, keeping two-meter distances, frequently washing hands, and limiting contact with other people to a minimum.

I deeply and sincerely thank all the health professionals who looked after me, those from the public sector, from CISSSAT (Integrated Health & Social Services Centres in Abitibi-Témiscamingue), and the specialists at the Heart & Lung Institute in Quebec City, for their high quality service.



François Dumulon, husband of Raymonde Kirouac (GFK 01313)

#### Various positions held by François Dumulon

- General Director of Health and Social Services for the Abitibi-Témiscamingue Region;
- President of Quebec Association of Retired Public & Para-public Employees, Rouyn-Noranda;
- · President AQRP Abitibi-Témiscamingue Region;
- Member of AQRP Financial Committee.

#### **Direct Cost of Treatment of Covid-19 Infection**

Ambulance Rouyn-Noranda to hospital: \$135.00 CISSSAT 3 days at \$1900:

\$5,700.00

Air-Ambulance Rouyn-Noranda to Quebec City: **\$1,194.00** Heart & Lung Institute, Quebec

City, 18 days at \$4,094, \$73,692.00

Ref: Internet Institut cardiologie RAMQ – Doctors-pharmacists: \$5,780.00

Air-ambulance Air-Médic (return) Quebec City to Rouyn-Noranda: \$1,194.00 CISSSAT days at \$1,900:

\$3,800.00

**GRAND TOTAL: \$91,495.00** 

# Photo from his passport

### The Path of Saul S. D'Avignon, part one

Greatness and Misery of an American Navy Veteran Account prepared by René Kirouac (from Saint-Constant)

**S** aul Samuel D'Avignon<sup>1</sup> was **O**born on June 13, 1896<sup>2</sup> in Norwich, Connecticut. Both his parents were born in Canada (in the province of Quebec, close to the Vermont border): his father, Louis Davignon Notre-Dame-dein Stanbridge, and his mother, Kéroac<sup>3</sup> Joséphine in Saint-Alexandre, Iberville County. As a teenager, Saul studied at the Saint-Hyacinthe Seminary, confirming that he spoke French. He also reported that he received some military training there.

Early in 1917, twenty-year old Saul works as an electrician at the American Brass Co. in Waterbury, Conn., where he lives. He is also a professional baseball player, and is about to join the Waterbury Baseball Club, part of the Eastern League. But his plans are cut short when the United States officially joins the ongoing World War on April 6, 1917.

### Two years in the American Navy (1917-1919)

Saul Samuel D'Avignon joins the U.S. Navy as a reservist on May 5, 1917 in New Haven, Conn., for the duration of the war<sup>4</sup>. Official papers indicate the following physical characteristics: height 5 feet 7 inches tall, weighs 144 lbs, blue eyes, brown hair, ruddy complexion. From June 5, he is based at the Training Station at Newport, Rhode Island, assigned to Barracks C West Wing, and holding the ID number 130-01-14. Taking advantage of his elements of military training received in St-Hyacinthe, he is appointed Junior Petty Officer (non-commissioned officer), drilling companies of untrained men. For his apprenticeship as a seaman, he is sent to the Sea Gunners school and the examinations passes

Gunners Mate. His rating allows him to become official with 2nd active service on July 10, 1917. He is also a baseball pitcher.

Based in Newport until March 2, 1918, he is then transferred to the Receiving Ship Base Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The day before, he was officially promoted Seaman first class. On April 20, he is transferred on the USS William Rockfeller<sup>5</sup>, a tanker built in 1916 and recently bought by the American Navy to carry fuel from the United States to Great-Britain. For his duties and station on board, he is appointed initial range finder for a 5-inch gun<sup>6</sup> on the forward upper bridge. The tanker leaves the American East coast on April 29 and joins a convoy on its way to Scotland. On May 16, the ship stops over at the Scottish village of Lamlash, on the island of Arran. Three days later, she sails towards the city of Rosyth, on the east coast of Scotland.

On May 21, around 7 pm in the North Sea, the German submarine UC-58 torpedoes the USS William Rockefeller; the tanker sinks in just thirteen minutes. The torpedo hit the ship on the side, in the next compartment where Saul is leaning against. The impact hurls him against some object and he is knocked out. He suffers internal wounds on his spine, his nervous system and his right testicle.

### The crew of the forward gun fires



Saul Samuel D'Avignon (1896-1949)

<sup>3</sup>Joséphine's grandfather was baptized Kérouac, but in other official documents during his life, different spellings were used, as was the case for most of our ancestors: Kirouac, Kerouac and finally Kerouack. Joséphine's father, baptized Maximilien Kirouac, used the name of Aimé Keroack, and Joséphine was baptized Kéroac. In those days, it was common practice to encounter a lack of rigor in maintaining a constant spelling of the surnames, whether in official documents or elsewhere, as indicated by Robert de Roquebrune in his Études onomastiques, chap. II, FIDES, 1966.

<sup>4</sup> D. O. W.: duration of war.

<sup>5</sup> Read the story of the short existence of this ship at <a href="https://historycentral.com/navy/Tankers/WilliamRockefeller.html">https://historycentral.com/navy/Tankers/WilliamRockefeller.html</a>. Details of the itinerary and the dates differ slightly from the information transmitted by Saul S. D'Avignon in a government form completed in 1934. We prefer to use this more formal source.

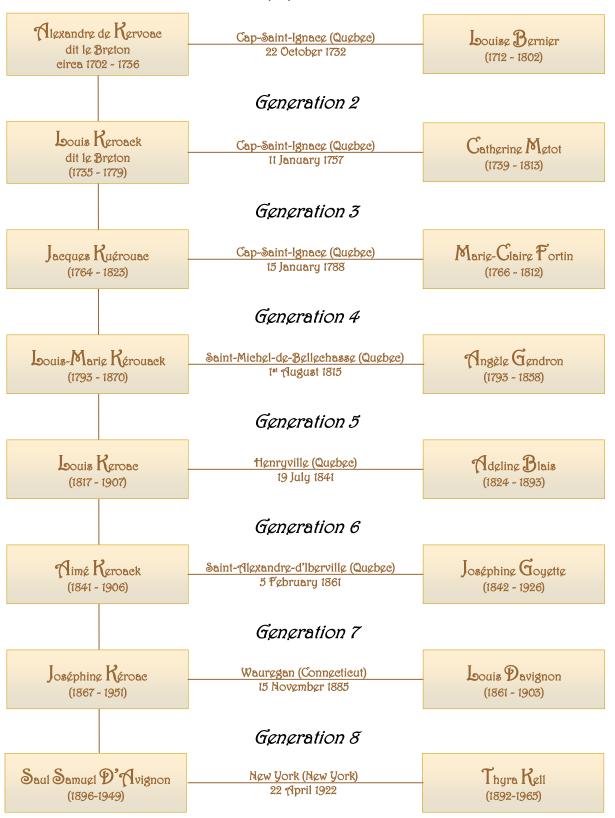
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Although his surname is written Davignon in many documents, Saul signed his name: D'Avignon.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The United States Social Security Index gives January 13, 1896, as his birthday, while all other reliable sources indicate June 13, 1896.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> The 5-inch measure refers to the size of the mouth of the gun, not to its length.

### Maternal Ancestry of Saul Samuel D'Avignon

### Generation 1

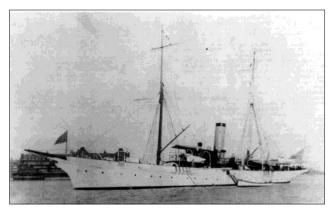


towards the submarine, after Saul has given the range. The tanker's two escorting destroyers subject the German U-boat to a fierce depth-charge attack. The William Rockefeller's whole crew abandons the ship. The shipwrecked are rescued by English trawlers. Forty-eight men out of fifty-one survive. U.S. President Woodrow Wilson will award the Navy Cross for bravery to eleven of these men, excluding Saul, who will endure a long deep deception. Informed about this recognition, after the fact, by Commander Tull, himself granted the honor, Washington answered that he had waited too long to make his request. Still, every year Saul will see men receiving medals for past bravery.

The survivors are quartered in an old hotel in Leith, a harbour zone north of Edinburgh, Scotland's capital. They stay there for approximately ten days. Saul complains that, though many needed medical aid, including himself, there were no medical facilities available. He gets his first treatments on board the HMS Megantic, an ocean liner operated by the British White Star Line, on which he leaves Liverpool on May 18 with his companions of misfortune. He arrives in New York on June 3, and is transferred to the Receiving Ship base at New York. From there, he first stays at the naval hospital for seventy-one days, followed by a second stay of eight days.

On December 17, 1918, he boards the USS Yankton<sup>7</sup>, a reconverted steel-hulled schooner assigned to patrolling territorial waters and escorting ship convoys. The USS Yankton arrives at Plymouth, on the English south-coast, on January 16, 1919. She departs soon after to carry two naval officers to Murmansk, Russia, where they are to serve as American port officers. Newly founded in 1916, Murmansk is ideally located north of the Arctic circle, thirty miles from the ice-free Barents Sea. Destination is reached on February 8. When Rear Admiral N.A. McCully arrives to take command of American forces in northern Russia on 23 February, he takes up temporary residence in the converted yacht.

On board, Saul acts as a steward's assistant from January 3 to March 31, 1919. His job consists mainly in stocking and cleaning food, and helping in preparing and serving meals. Like the other American ships assigned to northern Russia, the USS Yankton takes no active part in the military operations conducted against Bolshevik forces located nearby, though they do, on occasion, provide some measure of support for the forces of other Allied nations. Saul will write in 1934: "I took no part in fighting, but was



USS Yankton, steel-hulled schooner on which Saul D'Avignon sailed from the USA to Russia at the end of 1918 and early 1919.

(Photo: Wikimedia, public domain)



Saul D'Avignon in 1917, the young sailor; photo attached to the file prepared when trying to legally prove that he served in the US Navy during the First World War.

fired upon in Russia with some of the crew on the USS Yankton." The yacht essentially carried out patrols, with duty as radio ship at Murmansk, also serving as military passenger transport between Murmansk and Arkhangelsk, another Russian port located 360 miles southeast.

On April 11, Saul is transferred on board the Scout Cruiser SS Chester. On April 26, the ship leaves the French port of Brest, France, and reaches New York on May 7. Saul is transferred to the Receiving Ship base on June 10. Fifteen days later, he gets his honorary discharge, number C200870, Series C. A second page carries some financial details: his monthly pay is \$38.40; he received a travel allowance of \$92.69 for his trip from New York to Waterbury, along with a \$60 war gratuity.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> See <u>https://www.historycentral.com/navy/yacht/Yankton.html</u>

In a report written in 1934, Saul commented that "the effects of the training stations in the U.S. made a man realize what discipline means, thought him the characteristics of other men, made us broader minded. Physically, the lesson of a clean body, good posture, hardening of body with training." As for his overseas experiences, "It broadened my mind to many worldly things, sailing to so many countries, speaking to these people, learning their ways, etc. Left me with the notion that we Americans can learn a lot from them."

### Return to civilian life 1919-1934

For the following years, we have only access to limited information about Saul's life. We know that he wanted to go to the Brooklyn Electrical School, but he never made it. On April 29, 1922, in New York City, he marries Thyra Kell, four years older than him. Mrs. Kell is most probably of Danish origin, since we find the couple travelling in Denmark in 1929. On March 26, they leave Copenhagen on board the steamship Hellig Holav, a passenger/cargo vessel owned by the Scandinavian America Line; they arrive at New York City on April 7. At the time, they live in Norwich, Conn. On Saul's passport, it is mentioned "Occupation: restaurateur". Is this a consequence of his experience as a steward's assistant during the war? We also know he was a member of different fraternal orders: Knights of Columbus, American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars. In 1934, he belongs only to the latter one.

#### **1935-1941: land owner in Salem**

At a public auction held on July 10, he buys from an estate a 19-acre plot of land in Salem, Conn., at a cost of \$250. He will eventually live there along with his wife, Thyra, and his mother, Joséphine<sup>8</sup>. He names the place "Royal"

Heights". Six years later, on November 1, 1941, by the order of the Common Pleas Court of Norwich, Conn., the occupants are evicted from the property and all their belongings are taken from them. Mr. Thomas B. Woodward, deputy sheriff of Waterford, Conn., is in charge of the operation. We do not know the reasons for this eviction, but one can suppose that Saul was experiencing serious financial problems. Later, we find the couple in Taftville, neighbourhood of Norwich.

### 1934-1948: recognition of veteran status: a long saga

On May 10, 1934, Saul fills out by hand a four-page form entitled Connecticut Participation in the World War. State of Connecticut. Military Service Record. administrative procedure is aimed at having his service records recognized by the state, and eventually at getting financial compensation. The document is completed with a sworn medical certificate dated April 21, 1934, in which Dr. Alphonse Fontaine confirms having treated D'Avignon from August 1919 for severe injuries to the right testicle. On July 28, following reception of the form filled by Saul, the State Librarian and Director sends him two photographs (most likely Saul as a sailor and a group picture of the survivors about to board the HMS Megantic in May 1917), as well as his certificate of service.

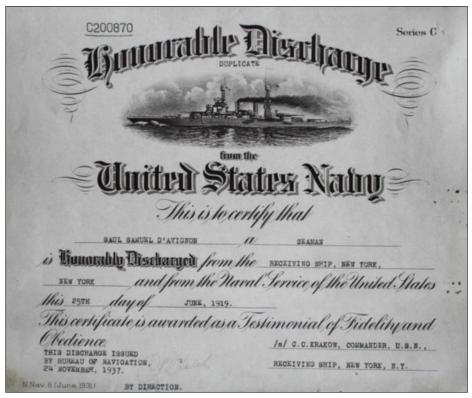
In 1936, a letter from the same Dr. Fontaine, dated February 24, is sent to the Adjudication Officer in Newington, Conn. "I have known Mr. D'Avignon (since) before the war and he was robust and healthy. After examination and considering the history of his case, I believe that he has lost 40 to 50 percent of his working capacity." An undated petition signed by 25 men with family names mostly of French consonance might very well have been produced at the same period. It says: "To whom it may concern,

We, the undersigned, have known Saul Samuel D'Avignon as a professional baseball player, etc., previous to his enlistment in the USN during the World War. We have seen his Honorable Discharge from the Navy Department, Bureau of Navigation, Washington, DC. With C-200870, having been torpedoed on the late USS Wm Rockefeller, we believe he is due a pension from the U.S. Government, as he had to give up said profession."

In 1937, a copy of Saul's discharge certificate is produced on November 24. In 1940, a transcript of his naval service is produced on April 16. On March 30, 1942, before a notary public, Saul appoints Myer Schwolsky, manager of the U.S. Veteran's Hospital, Newington, Conn., as his Power of Attorney with full power and authority. Why? What is his medical condition?

In the Summer of 1945, an active exchange of letters is held with the authorities. On July 23, Saul's wife sends a request to the Chairman & Director, Dept. of War Records, State Library Bldg., Hartford, Conn. She – insidiously – is asking for a death certificate of her husband (still alive!), since, according to the Naval Archives, the latter is presumed to be dead.

The next day, the director answers: "If you will send date of his death and where it occurred, we will try and secure such a certificate for you. In the Department of War Records, we have photostatic copy of his discharge from the U.S. Navy." On July 30, Mrs. D'Avignon writes to James Brewster, State Librarian, Hartford, Conn.: "Dear Sir, Will you please send me certificate no 13006 signed by the late Governor Marcus H. Holcomb<sup>9</sup>, and George S. Goddard<sup>10</sup>; Said certificate given by the State of Connecticut to all honorably discharged veterans of World War No 1. PS Will pay COD for same."



Copy of Saul Samuel D'Avignon's honorable discharge certificate dated November 24, 1937.

On August 3, comes an unsigned letter from the State Librarian office: "Dear Mrs. D'Avignon, In reply to your letter of July 30 requesting a copy of the Certificate of service issued to your husband July 4, 1934<sup>11</sup>, we do not issue duplicate copies of the Certificate unless we have proof that the original Certificate was lost or destroyed. If you advise me as to why you wish a duplicate copy of this Certificate, I will take the matter to the Board of Directors at their next meeting." In her response dated August 5, Mrs. D'Avignon explains that when she was evicted from her property of Royal Heights in Salem on November 1, 1941, all her belongings were taken from her, including the certificate. specifies the name of the deputy sheriff in charge then and declares not having been informed where the belongings were put.

Finally, in May 1946, Saul D'Avignon, then 50 years old, sees the first hope of an answer to his efforts, as described in a newspaper article entitled: "Count

D'Avignon, presumed dead after World War I, seeks to legalize residence." And the text goes on: "After nearly 27 years elapsed before he could get discharged papers rectified, Saul Samuel D'Avignon, of Taftville, a veteran of World War I, today disclosed that he would ask the special session of the Legislature to legalize his status as Connecticut native and resident."

Once presumed dead because of a mix-up in names, Mr. D'Avignon exhibited a file of documents to show he was born in Norwich June 13, 1896, of French royal parents. He is entitled to use the title of Count D'Avignon, according to the papers.

Lt. Commander L.R. Vasey wrote him April 1, enclosing a complete record of the count's naval service in World War I, showing he was honorably discharged June 25, 1919. He was injured while serving on the tanker USS William Rockefeller in the North Atlantic in 1918. When he was processed for discharge, however, the D. before his last name was changed

into an initial, and he appeared as Saul Samuel D. Avignon.

When he began a check of his record later, he discovered there was no record of Saul Samuel D'Avignon having served. This caused him considerable trouble in obtaining employment over the years, with the result that he is determined to have the state legalize his status once and for all. The Taftville man said he would seek an interview with Senator Nicholas J. Spellman of Norwich.

On October 27, 1948, the Bureau Personnel, Naval Navy D.C., Washington department, official issues an certificate confirming the main information relative to Saul's military service, including his date of enrollment and the date of his honorable discharge. It is signed by Lt B.G. Jones, USN, Records Division, Direction of Chief of Naval Personnel.

Saul dies on June 22, 1949, at the age of 54. His obituary published the following day mentions his long struggle "in convincing the United States government that he

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> As listed in the Federal Census of 1940, Joséphine lives with her son, Saul, and her daughter-in-law, Thyra, in Salem, Conn. In 1935, all three are living in Norwich (Conn).

Sixty-sixth governor of the state of Connecticut, from 1915 to 1921.

George S. Goddard, a skilled and recognized administrator, was in charge from 1900 to 1935. Among other mandates, he was in charge of the State's 1917 military census, and served as Director of the War Records Committee of the State Council of Defense in 1918 and 1919. Visit https:// todayincthistory.com/2019/11/28/ november-28-state-librarian-rewrites-the -book/.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> This is not what we have seen in the July 30 letter.

had not been killed in the conflict. (...) During the 27 years, he strove to have his name placed correctly in the Navy Records. D'Avignon made several trips to Washington and sought out shipmates and other acquaintances to have the error rectified. He succeeded in doing so in 1946."

The D' particle that fascinated him so much in his family name caused him not to be recognized by the State as a veteran for 27 years. We do not know if he succeeded in getting financial compensation after the situation was rectified.

In a second article, to be published in the next edition of the Trésor, will present Saul D'Avignon's quest to establish his noble origins in the mid-Thirties, the mercantile maneuvers of his French correspondent, the Count Georges de Morant, archivist, genealogist and expert heraldist, and Saul's appropriation of the title of Count of Avignon.



From two newspaper articles found in the file of the "Comte D'Avignon" and dated May 1946. No source, no reference.

### Count D'Avignon, presumed dead after World War I, seeks to legalize residence

After nearly 27 years elapsed before he could get discharged papers rectified, Saul Samuel D'Avignon, of Taftville, a veteran of World War I, today disclosed that he would ask the special session of the Legislature to legalize his status as Connecticut native and resident.

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### Saul S. D'Avignon

Norwich, June 23, - (AP.) Funeral will be held at Grace Church, in New York, at 4 p.m., Saturday

Norwich veteran of World War I, who spent 27 years in convincing the United States government that he had not been killed in the conflict, died at his home today.

Saul Samuel D'Avignon, who claimed the French title of count, as a direct descendant of the D'Avignons, long prominent in France. Born here in 1896, D'Avignon enlisted in the United States Navy in 1917 and received his honorable discharge in 1919.

After his discharge, D'Avignon learned there was no official record in the Navy Department of his having served in that department. A Saul Samuel D. Avignon was listed as dead in action, D'Avignon learned.

During the 27 years, he strove to have his name placed correctly in the Navy records. D'Avignon made several trips to Washington and sought out shipmates and other acquaintances to have the error rectified. He succeeded in doing so in 1946. He leaves his wife, Thyre Kell D'Avignon, and his mother, Mrs. Josephine D'Avignon of Norwich.

# IN MEMORIAM

### BOIVIN, JEANNE-D'ARC (1920-2020)

At the Jeffery Hale Hospital in Quebec City, on 21 April 2020, 99, died Jeanne d'Arc Boivin, widow of Georges Laberge; daughter of Ozilda Blais and Pierre Boivin. She leaves to mourn her four children including Jean-Guy and his wife Élisabeth Kirouac (GFK 00531), grand- and great-grandchildren. Due to the pandemic, burial was private. A commemoration of her life will take place at a later date.

### BURTON, MARY ELLEN RAICHE (1933-2020)

Mary Ellen Burton, 87, of Bourbonnais, Illinois, died June 7, 2020 at home. She was born Feb. 27, 1933, in Kankakee, the daughter of Clement and Macel (Caillouette) Raiche. Mary Ellen married Gordon R. Burton on May 16, 1953, at St. Patrick Catholic Church Kankakee. Surviving are her husband, Gordon Burton (son of Roosevelt Burton GFK 02736); two sons, Michael Burton and Gary & Joan Burton; three daughters, Debra Burton, Judy Burton & Jim Walters, and Sandra & William Trubach; grandchildren, seven Michelle Crandell, Bethany Foster, Matthew Burton, Barrett Burton, Katie Burton, Nathan Walters, and Grant Trubach; four great-grandchildren; two sisters, Nancy & Jim Reising and Carol & Carlos Caleron; and one brother. David & Madonna Raiche. Mary Ellen is preceded in death by her parents; one son, Steven Burton (Le Tresor 132, spring 2020); and two sisters, Rita Legacy and Phyllis Longtin. Funeral Mass in June at Maternity B.V.M. Catholic Church, and burial A11 Saints Cemetery Bourbonnais.

### GIFFORD, FREDERICK D. (1933-2020)

Frederick D. Gifford Sr., age 86, of Bourbonnais, Illinois, died June 20, 2020 at AMITA Our Lady of Victory Nursing Home in

Bourbonnais. He was born December 27, 1933, in Huntington, W.Va., son of William & Violet Atkins Gifford. Fred married Theresa Kyrouac (GFK 00265) on June 19, 1954, at Maternity B.V.M. Catholic Church in Bourbonnais. He retired from Bradlev Bourbonnais Community High School; also worked at Bradley Roper as a machinist and former union steward for Local 1212. Fred was a former Little League coach for 25 years and helped build the Slater Field. Surviving are his wife, Theresa Gifford; seven sons, David & Alyssa Gifford, Fred Jr. & Robin Gifford, Mark & Patti Gifford, Donald & Denise Gifford, Bruce Gifford, James & Karla Gifford, and Daniel & Sherri Gifford; two daughters, Cynthia Gifford and Marie Ozturk; one brother, Bob & Sheila Gifford; 31 grandchildren; and 22 great-grandchildren. Fred is preceded in death by his parents; one brother, William; three sisters, Elizabeth Boudreau, Doris Blake, Velva Wilhoyt; and one granddaughter, Miranda Gifford. Private family funeral service was on June 25, 2020, followed by burial at Maternity Cemetery in Bourbonnais.

### NASH-KEROUACK, RITA (1927-2020)

Rita Nash Kerouack, 92, passed away June 16, 2020, in West Melbourne, Florida. She married Omer Kerouack (son of Henry Kerouack, GFK 00038) on April 17, 1948. He died in 1995. She was a talented musician, played the trombone in bands, piano and the church organ for several years at St. James Church, her parish. She and "Mike" were members of the Wally Byam AirStream Club enjoying many trips around the U.S. and winters in Florida. Rita is survived by her sister Evelyn Chmura; her son John "Jack" and Pam Kerouack; daughter Jane Davis: grandchildren Michael Davis and Susan Hutton. one great-



granddaughter Eastlyn. She was predeceased by her parents George and Ethel Nash, and her brother George Nash. Services and celebration of life at a later date.

### **KIROUAC, ELMER** (1941-2020)

died, 78, on March 26, 2020, at the Grand Falls General Hospital. Born at Ste-Anne-de-Madawaska, New Brunswick, Canada, in 1941, he was a son of late Emile and Doria (Michaud) Kirouac and a grandson Marie-Anne Bernier Alphonse Kirouac (GFK 01586). An avid hunter and fisherman, he loved the outdoors. He enjoyed animals and was a pet whisperer. He was an auto bodyman and a mechanic by trade. He owned Portage Garage in Grand Falls, NB, and Pine Street Auto and Forestville Autobody in Bristol, Conn. He had a sideline called Townline Treasure in Terryville, Conn., where he sold antiques and collectibles. He had an eye for old treasures, loved to fix watches and clocks and collect coins. Elmer loved and admired his four children, who were involved with his business and hobbies. He is survived by children Rachel (Jesse), Glenn (Shelly), Lisa, Angel (Tony), as well as step-daughter Patsy Rossignol (Robert), eight grandchildren, one great-granddaughter, step-grand- and step great-grandchildren; thirteen siblings and many relatives. He was predeceased by wife, Rosemarie second Cormier Michaud, his parents, four brothers, one sister and one sisterin-law. A graveside service will be held at a later date in the St-Michel Roman Catholic Cemetery in Drummond, NB, Canada.

### KIROUAC, JOANNE (1957-2020)

At the Saint-Sacrement Hospital in Quebec City, on 18 April 2020, at 63, died Joanne Kirouac, wife of Yvon Richard, She was predeceased by her parents Gisèle Bédard and Antoine Kirouac (GFK 02312). Besides her husband, she leaves to brother, Philippe mourn. her (Danielle Marchand) Kirouac; her sister, Nancy and Daniel Boucher; her brother-in-law, Denis Dionne (the late Sylvie); a sister-in-law, Marlène Richard (Hélène Wong), and Jay. Her ashes will be placed in Notre-Dame de Belmont Cemetery in Ste-Foy at a later date.

### KIROUAC, KARIANNE (1991-2020)

Karianne Kirouac, died suddenly on 6 May 2020 at 29. She leaves to mourn her children: Maybellee Jane, Jessy James, Jordan Lee, Loup-ka and Élyjah Kyle; her father Jacques Kirouac and his wife Alexandra Bergeron; her mother, Line Heroux; her sisters Vicky Balleux, Stephanie Heroux Balleux, Tara and Bella Chamberland, her brother Jacksun Lee Kirouac, fifteen nephew and nieces, her exhusbands, many relatives friends. Due to the pandemic, there was only a very private ceremony.

### KIROUAC, MARK (1962-2020)

Mark Kirouac 57, of Dover, Del., passed away April 8, 2020, at home with his family. Mark was born August 20, 1962, in Lewiston, Maine, to Roger Kirouac (GFK 02042) and Loretta Drouin Kirouac. Mark spent his entire career as a truck driver, which enabled him to travel the country. He moved to Delaware in 2004. Mark loved being with family and friends. He enjoyed riding his Harley-Davidson. Mark was a fan of NASCAR. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Roland and Cecile Kirouac. He is survived by his father, Roger Kirouac and his wife Joyce; his girlfriend Dawn Clark; his ex-wife, Carmen Cote their daughter, Kymberly

(Adam) Roberge; his and grandchildren, Brylee and Corbin. Sister, Donna Shaw Kirouac. Service will be at a later date due to health restrictions.

### KIROUAC, ROBERT (BOB) (1945-2020)

Robert "Bob" Ernest Kirouac, 75, passed away on May 29, 2020, after a long, battle with respiratory illness. Ever the jokester, it is apt that he was born on April Fool's Day in 1945, the son of Jeannette (Albert) Kirouac and George Duplessis of Lewiston, Maine. He was a founding member of The Dad Joke. He held a variety of eclectic jobs. Fishing, camping, canoeing at Allen Pond Campground in Greene, later proudly showing off his catch in photographs. He loved to tell stories of his travels and celebrity encounters. He is survived by two brothers, David (Bridgit) Kirouac, Ron (Kathy) Kirouac; one sister, Linda Allard. He leaves five children, Debra Kirouac, Laurie Ford and Brian Kirouac, Tina Caron, and Ken Kirouac; seven grandchildren and four greatgrandchildren. He was predeceased by his stepfather, Laurien "Larry" Kirouac (GFK 02306), mother Jeannette Kirouac, father George Duplessis; and brothers, Paul "Sonny" Kirouac. George Duplessis, and (baby) Joseph Paul Duplessis.

### KIROUAC-MORIN, **ROSE-MARIE (1937-2018)**

Rose-Marie (Kirouac) Morin (GFK **00412**) died on 9 November 2018 at home in Morrisville, N.C. Rose-Marie Kirouac was born in Leeds, Mass., second of three daughters to Marie-Rose (née Chagnon) and Henri Kirouac. She leaves to mourn her children: Peter; Cam (Mike) Kelly; David (Susan); and Scott; her grandchildren: Sean, Ryan and Dana Kelly; Marc and Andrea Morin: her sisters: Lorraine LeDuc and Carol Kirouac. Funeral was held at St. Elizabeth-Ann-Seton Church on 6 April 2019, with Rites of Committal and interment with her husband Ed in Saint-Mary's Cemetery, Northampton, Mass.

### LARAMÉE, MICHELINE (1945-2020)

At Châteauguay (Quebec), on 28 April 2020, at 74, died Micheline Laramée, widow of Gilbert Kirouac (01393). She leaves to mourn her children: Claude, Linda grandchildren: and Stéphane; Nicolas, Claudia, Cynthia, Fanny, Julie and Kirk, a great-grandson, Hayden and a great-granddaughter, Liana; her sisters: Sylvie, France, Henriette, Claudette, Nicole and Lise; her brothers: André, Mario and Normand. Due to the pandemic, a commemorative ceremony will be held at a later date.

### MARKIN, DAVID (1941-2020)

David Markin died 7 May 2020, at 78. Born on 2 July 1941 at Saginaw, Michigan, son of Samuel and Elsie (Schauman) Markin. He leaves to mourn, his wife of 59 years, Janice Gushen; his son: Craig (Antoinette) Markin; Robert (Sheri) Markin; his daughter. Rebecca and Kenneth Kerouac (son of Armand, grandson of Armand and Grace Sullivan, and great-grandson of Joseph Kerouac and Léontine Rouleau - GFK 01362); his grandand great-grandchildren. Private service and burial will be at Roselawn Memorial Gardens in Saginaw, at a later date.

### POULIN-KIROUAC, RACHEL JEAN (1926-2020)

Rachel Jean (Poulin) Kirouac, 93, died on 29 March 2020. Born on 18 March 1926 in Northampton, Mass., daughter of Annette (née Campbell) and Romeo Poulin, grew up in a Canadianlarge immigrant American family with eleven siblings. She met and married the love of her life, Guy Kirouac (GFK 00401), in Northampton. They built their home in Leeds and raised their three children. She is survived by her husband of 70 years and her children: Daniel (Bev Pomerov). Diane (Steve Mongeon), and Denise (Greg Linscott); her grandchildren: Melanie, Steven, Jenny, Hillary, Greg, and Timothy, Robert Mitchell; her great-grandchildren: Joe, Paige, Emily, Liam, Henry,

Molly, Brice and Grace; also one brother Romeo (Karen) Poulin, Jr. Because of the pandemic, there was a private Christian burial at the graveside. At the right time, a gathering to celebrate her life in proper "Rachel-fashion" will take place; a party as she would have wanted.

### PELLETIER-KIROUAC, **ALDINE (1927-2020)**

At Hôtel-Dieu Hospital in Lévis (Quebec), on 20 May 2020, at 92, died Aldine Pelletier, widow of Roland Kirouac (GFK 01440). She was the daughter of Ludger Pelletier and Aurélie April. She leaves to mourn her children: Berthier (Francine Malenfant). Diane (Nive Beaulieu), Clermont (Denise Boulianne) and Damien (Lise Dion); her grandchildren: Cathy (Mikaël Beaudoin), Yvan, Valérie (Grégoire Pineault), Jonathan, Jérôme (Amélie Lincourt), Cindy (Jean-Christophe Martin-Morin) and Dave; her greatgrandchildren: Vincent, Méghan, Yoan, Lucas, Jacob, Loïk, Raphaël and Coralie and many relatives of the Pelletier and Kirouac families. Due to the pandemic, a private ceremony was held at the Jean Fleury & Son Funeral Home in Trois-Pistoles (Quebec) followed by private interment in St-Cyprien Cemetery, County of Rivière-du-Loup.

### PROVENCHER CARON **HUGUETTE** (1944-2020)

Hôtel-Dieu Hospital Arthabaska, on 19 May 2020, died at 76, Huguette Provencher, widow of Jean-Noël Caron. She was predeceased by her parents Marcelle Kirouac (GFK 00963) and Rodrigue Provencher. She leaves to mourn her son Alain and his wife, Danielle Giguère and her grandson, Thomas; her brothers and sisters: Raymonde, Louise (Denis Rochette), Claudette, Danielle (Jean-Claude Verville), Gilles (Nicole Bilodeau), Gaétan and Jean (Annie Paquette); her brother-inlaw Yvan Caron and his wife Lecomte. A private Colette ceremony was held on 24 May 2020 in Marcoux & Dion Chapel at Grégoire & Desrochers Funeral Home in Victoriaville (Quebec).

### ST. AMANT, ALBERT PAUL (1933-2020)

Albert Paul St. Amant, 86, of Leominster, Mass., died on April 10, 2020, at UMass Memorial Health Alliance in Leominster. He was born in Nashua, N.H., on May 29, 1933, son of Hermase and Diane (Lambert) St. Amant. Albert grew up in Nashua and later lived in Hudson for over 30 years and in Leominster, Mass., for the past ten vears. He was an auto-body technician and painter with several local businesses. In addition to his parents, Albert was predeceased by his wife, Patricia Kerouac (GFK 01551) St. Amant who died in 1969; his two sisters and a brotherin-law, Lorette St. Amant and Gertrude T. and Leo Caron. Albert is survived by four children, Paul St. Amant and Henry Thibodeau, David St. Amant and Linda, Mike St. Amant and Cathy, and Cathy and Ken Steinberg; his longtime companion, Abi Letourneau; six several grandchildren. greatgrandchildren; many relatives. Due to the pandemic, there will be a graveside service at St. Patrick Cemetery in Hudson at a later date.

### TOBENSKI, GERALDINE A. (1929-2020)

Geraldine A. "Gerry" Tobenski, 91, of Irwin, Illinois, died at home, 12 June 2020. She was born 2 May 1929, in Goodrich, the daughter of Alfred and Rosalie Morin Denault. Geraldine married Floyd Tobenski (son of Aldea Kerouac, known as Aldea Burton, and grandson of Philip Kerouac GFK 02732) on 7 February 1948 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Goodrich. He died on 6 July 1996. She was devoted to her family and her community. She belonged to many groups, including St. James CCW (Council of Catholic Women), where she served as president and was honored to be their "Woman of the Year". She is survived by her two sons and their spouses: Dennis and Janice Tobenski, and Randy and Jill Tobenski, two daughters and spouses, Pam Kennedy, Connie and Rex Dionne, and Robert Hensley; four brothers and five sisters-in-law; 13 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; three greatgreat-grandchildren, and two more on the way. In addition to her husband and her parents, she was preceded in death by two daughters, Vicki Hensley and Bonnie Draper; one son-in-law, Bill Kennedy; two sisters and three brothers. Funeral Mass was celebrated at St. James Catholic Church followed by interment in St. James Cemetery in Irwin.

### WARPET, BETTY J. (1923-2020)

Betty J. Warpet, 96, of Bradley, Illinois, died on 6 June at the Illinois Veterans Home at Manteno, due to complications of COVID-19. She was born June 18, 1923, in Kankakee, the daughter of Ralph and Laura (Beckhelm) Shaw. She was among her fellow veterans and the heroic staff, on the front lines, who cared for her the past year and a half. Betty served four years in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II. She is survived by her four children including her son Mark and his wife Claudia Moody duaghter of Charles Moody and Alice Kerouac, GFK 02744). A celebration of life will be at a later date followed by inurnment at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, Illinois.

Our Deepest Condolences to the Bereaved Families

# THE HONORABLE JEAN F. GIROUARD 16 March 1925 —13 March 2020

Girouard, hardware store owner, and Sylvia Patenaude, teacher. He studied at Académie Saint-Michel in Saint-Lambert and high school at the College at St-Jeansur-Richelieu; then graduated with a BA from College de Salaberry-de-Valleyfield. Afterwards, he studied at Laval University in Quebec City, obtained a bachelor's in social sciences and a master's in economics, followed by a law degree, LL.B. at Montreal University.

During his studies in Valleyfield, he was director of *Le Cécilien*, the student newspaper, as well as founding-president of the Valleyfield Catholic Youth Association (A.J.C.). At the time, Radio-Canada, French-speaking CBC (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation), ran a very popular televised student contests, where Jean F. Girouard represented Valleyfield as semifinalist and finalist, on the programme called *Nos collèges au micro* (i.e. college students at the mike). At Laval University he was the first director of the University Cooperative.

### **Professional Life**

At the Provincial Work Department, he was conciliator and secretary for the Conciliation and Arbitration Service. Admitted to the bar in 1952, he became the first legal adviser for the Canada National Ports Council, located in Montreal.

In 1958, he joined the Montreal legal cabinet of Maurice Riel & Clermont Vermette; then in 1961, the Trois-Rivières legal cabinet of François Nobert & Pierre Garceau. Later on, other lawyers joined this important cabinet including: Alfred Vigeant, Marcel Beaumier, Michel Richard, Jean Normand, etc.

During his career, he was regularly called upon to arbitrate or to sit on various arbitration councils either as prosecutor or employer negotiator for different workplace conflicts. Representing employers, he was a member of the *Conseil supérieur du travail* (CST) (*upper labour council*) (today called *Comité consultatif de la main-d'œuvre*, i.e., *Workforce Advisory Committee*). At the Provincial Bar Office he was often asked to sit on various committees: legislative revision. permanent training, disciplinary board, etc.

He was a member of the Work Legislation Committee of the Canadian Bar Association; president of disciplinary committees for different professions, including optometrists and dietitians; legal adviser and negotiator for many service enterprises and businesses, associations and employers alliances. He was an honorary life member of the Quebec Chartered Order of Human Resources Counsellors and Industrial Relations (CRIA).

He was also founding-president of Saint-Lambert's *Caisse populaire* in 1958 (now Desjardins Bank); president of the Young Bar Association in Trois-Rivières in 1964; founding-president of the Seminary of Trois-Rivières's parents association in 1968; president of the regional council of parents associations for the Vieilles Forges area (part of greater Trois-Rivières) in 1968-69; founding-president and secretary of Pro Organo Mauricie Region, from 1971 to 1976; Board member of Trois-Rivières Seminary, 1970-1975; Board member of Quebec Music Contest for Trois-Rivières, 1972-1975; First councillor of Trois-Rivières Bar Association and member of the Bar General council, 1973-1974; was named QC, Queen Council, in 1976

On 1st March 1976, he was appointed judge at the Quebec Court and Work Tribunal



Honorable Jean F. Girouard (1925-2020) (Photo: Danielle Girouard collection)

in Montreal. He sat on the Board of Judges Conference, 1981-1982, sometimes also deputizing at the Montreal Youth Chamber (Chambre de la jeunesse.

Honorable Judge Jean Girouard married Cécile Drolet, daughter of Arthur Drolet, Quebec City industrialist, and Blanche Kirouac, one of Brother Marie-Victorin's five sisters. They had four children: one son, François, who died accidentally 17 June 1973); and three daughters: Danielle, Andrée and Chantal. He later remarried Andrée Bérard, daughter of Philippe Bérard, school officer in Trois-Rivières, and Berthe Rochefort.

honorable Jean F. Girouard died on 13 March 2020. Due to restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic, a private ceremony of inurnment was held on 20 June 2020 at St-Lambert cemetery.

If you would like to learn more, a slideshow of family, friends, travels, and events, is available upon request at:

association@familleskirouac.com

### HOMAGE TO MY FATHER

by Danielle Girouard read at the cemetery in Saint-Lambert (Montreal south-shore) on 20 June 2020

**f** or children growing up in a harmonious family, the father is the super-hero, the man afraid of nothing, able to protect them from all dangers, and slays the bad guys.

My father, my paternal hero, showed me how to forge ahead in life thoughtfully and cautiously, to overcome difficulties with fervour and fight against adversaries respectfully. He was a model of rectitude, discipline, work ethic and moral authority. His extremely active life proves it all. Let's not forget that for a little girl, her first love, the first man in her life, is her father.

Of course his financial means enabled me to do all I wanted: piano, ballet, ski, travelling, arts, superior studies, all in a quality environment, but he demanded that whatever was started, be completed. That lesson I never forgot. Without pushing or over-worrying I always felt his support and encouragement and he also always showed he was very proud of my achievements.

Papa, now you are reunited with those you loved so much while you were on earth: your parents, your brothers and sisters, and François, your dearly beloved son, who has been waiting for you right here for the past 47 years almost to the day, and whose passing so deeply shattered your life. Mother too, I am sure, is happy to lie here beside you. She was the love of your life and especially the mother of your four beautiful children, for you this was priceless and always warranted the greatest respect.

In every way, yours was a very full and successful life. Today we are very few to bid you adieu and wish you au revoir but many more join us in thought. You have always been a man of action and in the thick of the action, rest now at long last and, please, do keep watching over us.

Dear papasito, as you used to affectionately sign family greeting cards, I love you. I am so proud of you.



20 June 2020, photo taken at the Cemetery in Saint-Lambert (Montreal south-shore). Left to right: Celi and Jean-Pierre Girouard, Chantal Girouard, Gabrielle and Benoit Girouard-Sauvé, Guy Sauvé, André Girouard, Lucas Girouard-Stranks, Danielle Girouard. (Photo: Danielle Girouard collection)

### GENEALOGY / THE READERS' PAGE

n this Trésor, number 133, we are publishing the last answers received from Richard Fréchette, husband of Michèle Kirouac, and genealogist par excellence. He found answers to a lot of the questions published under this heading since 2007. We started printing his answers in Trésor number 128. We hope you have enjoyed reading the fruit of his search as much as we are happy to have all this extra information in our Kirouac database.

As ever, we wish to express our deep gratitude to Mr. Richard Fréchette for his priceless contribution family to our genealogy and our data bank.

The Editor

### Ouestion 640 (Le Trésor des Kirouac, number 126, spring 2018)

What are the names of the parents of Joanne Kirouac, spouse of Guy Laforge? They were married on 26 March at Montreal (Quebec). Where exactly were they married and what year? What are the names of the parents of Guy Laforge?

Joanne Kirouac's parents are Léopold Kirouac and Bernadette Méthot. Guy Laforge's parents are André Laforge and Colette Cantin. They were married on 26 March 1983 at the Montreal Court House, Montreal (Quebec).

### Ouestion 641 (Le Trésor des Kirouac,

number 126, spring 2018) What are the names of the parents of Joanne Kirouac, spouse of Laval Lapointe? They were married on 29 November at Montreal (Quebec). Where exactly were they married and what year? What are the names of the parents of Laval Lapointe?

Joanne Kirouac's parents are Lucien Kirouac and Gisèle Couture; Laval Lapointe's parents are Louis-Joseph Lapointe and Magella Trépanier. They were married on 29 November 1985 at Montreal Court House, the Montreal (Ouebec). **Before** marrying Joanne, Laval Lapointe was first married to Marie-Thérèse Bernier, daughter of Roméo Bernier and Gabrielle Trempe on 27 June 1970 at Saint-Arsène Church in Montreal (Quebec).

### Question 642 (Le Trésor des Kirouac, number 126, spring 2018)

What are the names of the parents of Guylaine Kirouac, spouse of Réjean Blanchette, son of Napoléon Blanchette and Laurette Desmeules? They were married on 27 October at La Tuque (Quebec). Where exactly were they married and what year?

Guylaine Kirouac's parents are Rosaire Kirouac and Monique Migneault; Réjean Blanchette's parents are Napoléon Blanchette and Laurette Desmeules. They were married on 27 October 1979 in Saint-Zéphirin Church in La Tuque (Quebec).

### Question 643 (Le Trésor des Kirouac,

number 126, spring 2018) What are the names of the parents

of Germaine Kirouac, spouse of André Thibert? They were married December at Montreal (Quebec). Where exactly were they married and what year? What are the names of the parents of André Thibert?

Germaine Kirouac's parents are Gilbert Kirouac and Lucille Marier: André Thibert's parents are Henri and Marie-Thérèse Thibert Lalonde. They were married on 5 December 1981 in Saint-Jean Church in Montreal (Quebec).

### Ouestion 645 (Le Trésor des Kirouac, number 126, spring 2018)

What are the names of the parents of Cathy Kirouac, spouse of Guy Dallaire? They were married on 14 May at Jonquière (Quebec). Where exactly were they married and what year? What are the names of the parents of Guy Dallaire?

Cathy (Kathy) Kirouac's parents are Larry Kirouac and Jacqueline Bourbeau; Guy Dallaire's parents are Gaston Dallaire and Huguette Fortin. Kathy Kirouac married Guy Dallaire on 14 May 1981 in Sainte-Cécile Church at Jonguière (Quebec).

### Question 646 (Le Trésor des Kirouac, number 126, spring 2018)

What are the names of the parents of Carmen Kirouac, spouse of Mario Leclerc, son of Lionel Leclerc and Hélène Bernier? They were married on 22 August at Drummondville (Quebec). Where exactly were they married and what year?

Carmen Kirouac's parents are Lucien Kéroack and Germaine Lacharité; Mario Leclerc's parents are Lionel Leclerc and Hélène Bernier. Carmen Kirouac married Mario Leclerc on 22 August 1981 in Saint-Frédéric Church Drummondville (Quebec).

### Ouestion 662 (Le Trésor des Kirouac,

number 128, autumn 2018) What are the names of the parents of Yvette Kirouac, who married Charles-Eugène Lefebvre? They were married on 16 November in Saint-Laurent (Montreal). Wedding year? What are the names of the parents of Charles-Eugène Lefebvre?

Yvette Kirouac's parents are François-Xavier Kirouac and Maria Beaulieu; Charles-Eugène Lefebvre's parents are Jean-Baptiste Lefebvre and Anne Sauvé. Yvette Kirouac married Charles-Eugène Lefebvre on 16 November 1957 at Saint-Sixte Church in Ville Saint-Laurent (Montreal).

## Question 665 (*Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 128, autumn 2018)

What are the names of the parents of Lucille Kirouac, who married Joseph Berthiaume? They were married on 23 August at Montreal (Quebec). Wedding year? What are the names of the parents of Joseph Berthiaume?

Lucille Kirouac's parents are Georges Kirouac and Alvina Dubé; Joseph Berthiaume's parents are Albert Berthiaume and Marguerite Gariépy. Lucille Kirouac married Joseph Berthiaume on 23 August 1969 in Saint-Étienne Church at Montreal (Quebec).

### Question 674 (*Le Trésor des Kirouac*,

number 128, autumn 2018) What are the names of the parents of Mireille Trudeau, spouse of Christian Manny, son of Camille Manny and Marcelle Kéroack?

Mireille Trudeau's parents are Richmond Trudeau and Rolande Provost. They were married on 18 August 1984 in Sainte-Julie's Parish Church (Montreal southshore, Quebec).

# Question 675 (*Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 128, autumn 2018)

What are the names of the parents of Ginette Jobin, spouse of Daniel Manny, son of Camille Manny and Marcelle Kéroack?

Ginette Jobin's parents are Raymond Jobin and Gabrielle Séguin.

### Question 676 (*Le Trésor des Kirouac*,

number 128, autumn 2018) What are the names of the parents of Gilbert Bédard, spouse of Ginette Manny, daughter of Camille Manny and Marcelle Kéroack?

Gilbert Bédard's parents are Isidore Bédard and Cécile Lessard. They were married on 29 July 1972 in Sacré-Cœur Church in McMasterville (Quebec).

# Question 680 (*Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 128, autumn 2018)

What are the names of the parents of Edward Petterson, spouse of Thérèse Maranda, daughter of Albert Maranda and Bernadette Kirouac?

Edward Petterson's parents are Harold Thomas Petterson and Nora Vigneault. Edward Petterson and Thérèse Maranda were married on 12 February 1955 at Montreal (Quebec).

# Question 684 (*Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 129, spring 2019)

What are the names of the parents of Rock Dubé, spouse of Monique Raiche, daughter of Réal Raiche and Christine Kirouac?

Roch Dubé's parents are Jacques Dubé and Aurore Gauthier. Monique Raiche married Roch Dubé on 5 August 1962 at Sainte-Séraphine (Ouebec).

# Question 685 (*Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 129, spring 2019)

What are the names of the parents of Louise Routhier, spouse of Luc L'Heureux, son of Raynald L'Heureux and Gaétane Kirouac?

Louise Routhier's parents are Cyrille Routhier and Jeannine Breton. Raynald L'Heureux and Louise Routhier were married on 27 June 1987 in St-Charles-de-Bellechasse Church (Quebec).

# Question 687 (*Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 129, spring 2019)

What are the names of the parents of Jeanne Langlois, spouse of Julien Blanchet, son of Emmanuel

Blanchet and Marie-Rose Émérentienne Kirouac?

Jeanne Langlois's parents are Ernest Langlois and Yvonne Paul. Julien Blanchet and Jeanne Langlois were married on 27 August 1949 in Nativité-de-la-Bienheureuse-Vierge-Marie Church in Montreal (Quebec).

# Question 688 (*Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 129, spring 2019)

What are the names of the parents of Berthe Loiseau, spouse of Gustave Blanchet, son of Emmanuel Blanchet and Marie-Rose Émérentienne Kirouac?

Berthe Loiseau's parents are Henri Loiseau and Lydia Langlois. Gustave Blanchet and Berthe Loiseau were married on 16 May 1942 in Très-Saint-Rédempteur Church in Montreal (Quebec).

# Question 689 (*Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 129, spring 2019)

What are the names of the parents of Alice Simoneau, spouse of Yvon Gaudreault, son of Alfred Gaudreault and Oveline Keroack?

Alice Simoneau's parents are Adélard Simoneau and Stella Bourget. Yvon Gaudreault and Alice Simoneau were married on 29 December 1958 in Saint-Cœur-de-Marie Church in Quebec City.

### Question 693 (*Le Trésor des Kirouac*,

number 129, spring 2019) What are the names of the parents of Marielle Collins, spouse of Roger Lacroix, son of Léopold Lacroix and Simonne Kirouac?

Marielle Collins's parents are Elphège Collins and Gratienne Denoncourt. Roger Lacroix and Marielle Collins were married on 2 September 1963 in Saint-Cyrille-de-Wendover Parish Church (Quebec).

### Question 695 (Le Trésor des Kirouac, number 129, spring 2019)

What are the names of the parents of Gilles Lefebvre, spouse of Brenda Leclerc, daughter of Clément Leclerc and Irène Kirouac?

Gilles Lefebvre's parents are Arthur Lefebvre and Aurore Bussières. Brenda Leclerc and Gilles Lefebvre were married on 28 November 1970 in Saint-Roch Church in Quebec City).

### Question 696 (Le Trésor des Kirouac, number 129, spring 2019)

What are the names of the parents of René Drolet, spouse of Irène Leclerc, daughter of Clément Leclerc and Irène Kirouac?

René Drolet's parents are Joseph Drolet and Yvonne Giroux. René Drolet and Irène Leclerc were married on 30 September 1973 in Notre-Dame-de-la-Paix Church in *Quebec City).* 

### Question 697 (Le Trésor des Kirouac,

number 129, spring 2019) What are the names of the parents

of Fernand Riverin, spouse of Shirley Leclerc, daughter of Clément Leclerc and Irène Kirouac?

Fernand Riverin's parents are Alexandre Riverin and Elise Shirley Leclerc and Bédard. Fernand Riverin were married on 24 June 1967 in Saint-Louis-de-France Church in Sainte-Foy (Quebec).

### **Ouestion 698** (Le Trésor des Kirouac,

number 129, spring 2019) What are the names of the parents of Peter Mauriades, spouse of Lola Leclerc, daughter of Clément

Peter Mavraides' parents (Mauriades) are Léo Mavraides and Catherine Christakow. Lola Leclerc and Peter Mavraides were married on 17 September 1960 in Saint-Patrick Church in Quebec City).

Leclerc and Irène Kirouac?

### Ouestion 700 (Le Trésor des Kirouac,

number 129, spring 2019)

What are the names of the parents of André Gignac, first spouse of Roxanne Moquin, daughter of Laurent (Larry) Moquin and Marthe Kirouac?

André Gignac's parents are Lucien Gignac and Éva Gravel. Roxanne Moquin and André Gignac were married on 29 June 1984 in Saint-François-Xavier Church in Pointe-Fortune, County of Vaudreuil-Soulanges (Quebec).

### Ouestion 701 (Le Trésor des Kirouac,

number 129, spring 2019)

What are the names of the parents of Sylvain Krief, second spouse of Roxanne Moquin, daughter of Laurent (Larry) Moquin and Marthe Kirouac?

Sylvain Krief's parents are Georges Krief and Yvonne Berrebi, both were from Algeria.

### **NEW QUESTIONS**

### **Question 704**

What are the names of the parents of Colette Lévesque, spouse of Raynald Giroux, son of Charles-Auguste Giroux and Élizabeth Kirouac?

#### **Question 705**

What are the names of the parents of Olivette (or Yvette) Bélanger, spouse of Roger Beaulieu from Nashua (NH), son of Charles Beaulieu and Jeanne Kerouac?

#### **Ouestion 706**

What are the names of the parents of Raymond Duval, spouse of Patricia Ann Auclair from Nashua (NH), daughter of Aimé Roméo Auclair and Laura Kerouac?

### **Question 707**

What are the names of the parents of Patricia McKenney, spouse of Raymond Beaulieu from Nashua (NH), son of Charles Beaulieu and Jeanne Kerouac?

#### **Ouestion 708**

What are the names of the parents of Alfred Lajoie, spouse of Cécile Beaulieu from Nashua (NH), daughter of Charles Beaulieu and Jeanne Kerouac?

#### **Ouestion 709**

What are the names of the parents of Ella Schaeffer, second spouse of Donald Albert Auclair from Nashua (NH), son of Aimé Roméo Auclair and Laura Kerouac?

#### **Ouestion 710**

What are the names of the parents of Dorothy Marion Hallet, first

spouse of Donald Albert Auclair from Nashua (NH), son of Aimé Roméo Auclair and Laura Kerouac?

#### **Ouestion 711**

What are the names of the parents of David Harold Buckley, spouse of Carter from Florida, daughter of Curtis Emerson Carter and Blanche Kyrouac?

#### **Ouestion 712**

What are the names of the parents of Allen Bruce Walker, first spouse Jacqueline Doran, Pawtucket, Rhode Island, daughter of Joseph Doran and Gloriette Kirouac?

#### **Ouestion 713**

What are the names of the parents of Marlene Thompson, spouse of Victor Doran, son of Joseph Doran and Gloriette Kirouac?

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Alexandre Le bris de Roach

Clere and the Duck voach

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Please send us photos of your younger treasures for our next edition, no. 134

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