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Le Trésor des Kirouac

Bulletin of the descendants of Urbain-François Le Bihan, sieur de Kerboach



Crèche by Maryvonne Giroux, artist, from Hélène Bhérier-Pelletier's collection, presently exhibited at *L'Institut Canadien de Québec*, as part of the exhibition entitled *Crèches d'ici et d'ailleurs* (Local and International Crèches). Photo credit: Louise Leblanc.

Kérouac ✠ Kéroack ✠ Kirouac ✠ Kyrrouac ✠ Kérrouack ✠ Kirouack

Le trésor des Kirouac (English Edition)

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From the President

During the last Board meeting, the directors started discussing about our annual family reunions. All felt that, because the number of people attending in the last two years has been declining, it was time to rethink how we plan these gatherings, location, timing, length, contents, etc.

Some ideas were put forward, for example to hold the Board meetings in various regions and invite the local Kirouacs to meet with Board members afterwards. It was also suggested to hold some smaller gatherings, therefore demanding less planning, like corn-on-the-cob party, sugaring-off party, etc. Such gatherings can vary according to the season and the region and be held more than once during the year.

Nothing has been decided yet and the Board Members will discuss the matter further at their next meeting in January 2006. As a gathering means getting together and having the chance to meet, talk, exchange and have fun, it would be interesting and very helpful indeed if you, our readers, took the time to pass on your ideas because after all these gatherings are meant for you the members.

It is almost Holiday Time and the occasion to meet with our respective families. Why not take the opportunity to talk about the Association and find out what your close relatives think about it all and, please, pass on your ideas to the regional representatives or directly to the Board Members.

We would love to hear from you and we are inviting you to let us know of your taste, your preference and your ideas. You have nothing to lose as we wish to plan activities that you would like to attend, events that you would be interested in participating because it is 'up your alley'. Why not? If you like something, there must be other people who will enjoy it also or will be glad to discover something new to them.

One more thing that can be done during family gatherings is take the chance to collect family stories and anecdotes and talk about the possibility of passing them on to the *Trésor* Editorial team. One of the aims of our Association is to preserve and pass on our family heritage. We believe it is important that achievements of our family members be recorded in order to be preserved for posterity. What makes up history are the many stories of various and

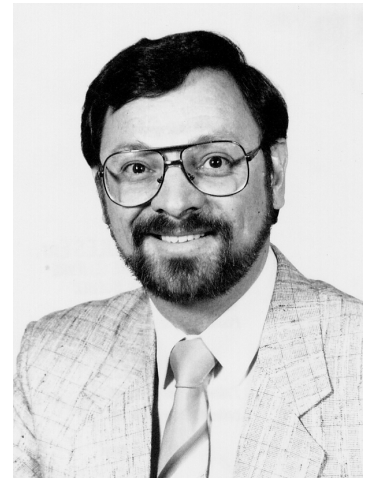


Photo : Studio Les Saules eng.

François Kirouac

numerous family members so why not write them down and publish them? Taking the time to write up stories for posterity, someone's life story or just one particular event in a person's life, is it not a nice way to show appreciation?

Please contact Michel, our secretary, his address, E-mail and snail mail, are at the back of the *Trésor*.

To conclude, I take this opportunity to wish you, in my name and in the name of the Board Members, a very Merry Christmas and Happy and Healthy New Year.



Gracieuseté du Frère Gilles Beaudet

Quote from Brother Marie-Victorin written on December 23, 1936:
"This is the Holy Night when the important words of peace will flow through the calm atmosphere: Peace on earth to men of good will!"

This Christmas card represents Brother Marie-Victorin just stepping out of the Church after Midnight Mass. He is standing alone gazing at the sky, admiring the stars. His conductor is waiting ... writes Brother Gilles Beaudet.

Inside the card the greetings reproduce Brother Marie-Victorin's own comments of December 23, 1936: *"This is the Holy Night when the important words of peace will flow through the calm atmosphere: Peace on earth to men of good will!"*

These coloured cards are available (\$20. for eight with envelopes) by contacting Brother Gilles Beaudet, 5714 Darlington Avenue, Montreal, Quebec, Canada - H3S 2H7. Telephone: (514) 737-1545.



From the Secretary's Desk

THE JACK KEROUAC STELE IN LANMEUR RELOCATED

We have just been informed by Mr. Jean-Luc Fichet, Lanmeur's Mayor, that the Jack Kerouac memorial will soon be moved to a more attractive location because, following the recent construction of a rotary, the stele is hardly visible and no longer easily accessible being in a dead-end street and below the main road level. We thank Mrs Maryvonne Le Coat who graciously offered to be the link between the AFKFA and the Lanmeur municipal authorities.

VACANT COUNCILLOR'S SEAT 2005-2006

One councillor's seat remained vacant after the general assembly on September 18; a candidate willing to fill in for a one year interim mandate would be most welcomed. If you have ever thought about taking an active part in our Association why not tell us about it. Please contact the Secretary.

LES BRETONS EN AMÉRIQUE FRANÇAISE (BRETONS IN FRANCOPHONE AMÉRICA)

A NEW BOOK BY
MARCEL FOURNIER

After many years of research on both sides of the Atlantic, this book clearly presents the historical links between Brittany and Francophone America over five centuries. Of course the ancestor of our extended family is mentioned and Clément Kirouac, who personally contributed the information to the author, confirms the book gives the latest data on our ancestor according to the most recent discoveries

concerning his identity. The book (in French only) can be ordered directly from the *Société généalogique canadienne-française* at 3440 Davidson Street, Montréal, (Quebec) Canada H1W 2Z5. Cost: \$42.90 Can. (plus S&H + tax). For US orders: price in US\$ + S&H). For info see: <http://www.sgcf.com/>

SHORTER PRODUCTION DELAY FOR *LE TRÉSOR'S* ENGLISH EDITION

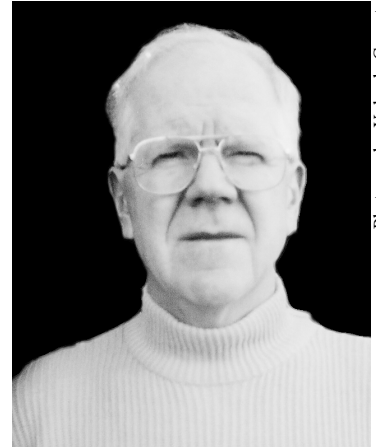
Glad to announce that using the Internet will cut down production delays of the English *Trésor* by half, one week instead of two. This is good news for you our readers. As you can see, your name is on the English list so, if you wish to change for the French *Trésor*, please notify the secretary as soon as possible.

PRESS REVIEW in *LE TRÉSOR*

The Press Review in *Le Trésor* wants to highlight K/ related events and K/ descendants making news. The editorial team rely upon all its readers to be kept informed. Instead of thinking that 'someone else' is sending it, it is wiser to believe 'if I do not do it, no one else will'. We much prefer to receive the same information ten times over than never hear about it.

KFA'S WEB SITE

We very much hope to have our new Website before the end of the year. To speed things up, it has been agreed to postpone revising the English texts, as well as posting a picture gallery and an express monthly newsletter. As soon as our new Website is ready, all those in our e-mail address book will be notified. Please note



Michel Bornais

Photograph : Yolande Genest

that to register an e-mail address at afkirouacfa@hotmail.com, no membership in the AFKFA is required, simply provide us with your name and family name as well as your e-mail address.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

May we remind you that giving an annual subscription to *Le Trésor*, as a Christmas gift for example, is better than killing three birds with one stone: at only \$22 (US or Can.), it is a really good deal as well as four gifts a year for the beneficiary. It is also a valuable contribution to the success of our AFKFA mission.



The President's Annual Report

presented at the general assembly
of 18 September 2005 at Trois-Rivières

Board Meetings

Three meetings were held during the past year, two at the Restaurant *Le Bol Vert* in Trois-Rivières, on October 2, 2004, and June 4, 2005, and one at the Restaurant *Le Petit Coin Breton* in Sainte-Foy, Quebec, on January 22, 2005.

Public Relations and Presence

During the past year, the Association was represented at the annual convention of the *Fédération des familles souches du Québec* (FFSQ = Federation of Quebec Founding Families) by the President, Pierre Kirouac, and Jacques Kirouac. The convention was held in Shawinigan, in the Mauricie Region, on April 29-30 and May 1, 2005. It was a particularly notable occasion due to the number of participants and the high quality of the speakers and the chosen topics.

The FFSQ took the opportunity to launch its *Répertoire des plaques et des monuments commémoratifs* (Repertory of Memorial Plaques and Monuments) including six Memorial Plaques and monuments paying homage to members of the large Kirouac family living in France, Canada and the United States.

Last July 31, Mrs. Lucille Kirouac and Mr. Jacques Kirouac took part in the unveiling of a monument at the *Berceau de Kamouraska* (Kamouraska Cradle) where our ancestor, Urbain François Le Bihan sieur de Kervoach is resting. Our family name is inscribed on the monument with those of other pioneers buried there.

Genealogy

Thanks to André Kirouac from Lotbinière, a new column is now featured in *Le Trésor*. Entitled Genealogy/The Readers' Page, it presents questions, answers and/or comments from readers. It is obviously very popular and useful!

To our pleasant surprise, the text on the *Fichier Origine* data base was modified on October 15, 2004. The promoters of this Website have now completed their

twenty-fifth edition. This new version finally takes into consideration just about everything that, between 2001 and 2003, our genealogical researcher, Clément Kirouac, asked those responsible for the *Fichier Origine* to include in the text concerning our ancestor.

A word of explanation about the *Fichier Origine*, which is a data base of family roots and origin. It is a joint initiative of the *Fédération Québécoise des Sociétés de Généalogie* and the *Fédération Française de Généalogie* (Quebec Federation of Genealogical Societies and the Genealogical Federation of France). This data base is freely accessible by Internet to facilitate genealogical research.

Training

During the FFSQ annual convention, I took part in a session entitled "What to look for and where to look" given by a representative of the *Quebec National Archives*. During the plenary session, publishing of a family history was also explained and it turned out to be a very interesting experience for the families who undertook to write their ancestors' history.

Communications

As always, *Le Trésor*, is up to our expectations when it comes to content and presentation. Congratulations to the whole team of writers, translators, designers and editors!

The rebuilding of our Association's Website is progressing. Last spring, the Board chose a Home Page enhancing the opening quote. Photos were chosen and sent to the Webmaster/designer to be included on the site. The existing English texts will have to be edited. Finally the material from the old Web site will be recuperated and, using a server, combine both the old and the new material together.

Finance

Our financial state is still rather fragile and our membership stable in spite of our members not getting any younger. Increasing our membership is essential and

interesting people in their fifties to eventually take over is vital for our Association; it is a question of survival.

As we could not wait until new members are recruited, we decided to take a very close look at our expenses. As *Le Trésor* absorbs nearly all the revenues coming from the membership fees, the Board formed a committee to revise its production and distribution methods. This enlarged bulletin committee met on July 23, 2005. It was a very fruitful time of discussion and planning; recommendations were presented at the October Board meeting.

In the meantime, Gregory Kyrouac from Illinois offered to set up the English edition of *Le Trésor* using the format used for the French edition. With the September issue, *Le Trésor* is published in two separate versions, a French one and an English one. Both bulletins are printed by the FFSQ (Federation of Quebec Founding Families) and mailed from Quebec City. The forty-nine English speaking members will, from now on, receive the English *Trésor* and no longer the French bulletin with the English translations; the additional separate pages used to considerably increase the postage costs.

Gratitude

I am most grateful to the Board Members for their untiring dedication and hard work during the past year. I also wish to thank all the Association members for the confidence you show us by supporting us in our endeavours even if only by renewing your membership.

If the AFKFA did not exist who would be talking about the Kirouacs in Kamouraska, in Lanmeur in Brittany, at the Botanical Garden in Montreal and elsewhere? We are indeed privileged to count among our distant family some famous persons though they do not have direct descendants. The AFKFA has become a spokesperson to be reckoned with when the interest of these two important persons, sharing our family name, are concerned and our opinion is constantly solicited on various matters. Therefore the AFKFA must live on: it is our responsibility!

Pierre Kirouac

A wonderful family story

After fifteen years of dialysis,
his brother turns out to be the perfect donor

By Lucille Kirouac

It is December again, the time of year when nice-ending stories are especially appreciated, particularly if somewhat tinted with the glow of the unexpected. I take great pleasure in telling you this story because not only is it real but also very close to the heart of every member of my family. We lived intensely through it for so many years, especially my two nephews, Yves and Louis Dumulon, their spouses and immediate family. Yves and Louis are the sons of my sister, Raymonde Kirouac (01313) and her husband, François Dumulon, from Rouyn-Noranda, Quebec.

By 1985, they had three children: France (1969-10-17), Yves(1) (1973-09-22) and Louis (1975-08-20). Life follows its course. The parents are working, the children go to school and are busy with various cultural and social activities as well as sports. But one day, Yves needs surgery for a hernia. Nothing really serious to worry about but this incident hides a dark and ominous cloud. The blood tests done before the surgery indicate that Yves suffers from a very serious kidney deficiency.

I will let those involved tell the story themselves as the events unfolded. The Dumulons are not the kind of people to talk about their illnesses and inherent problems, nor proclaim virtues, unselfish feats and human qualities that difficulties bring out in them. So, from Yves' discreet storytelling as he accepted interviews either by himself or with his brother Louis, you will have to read between the lines and guess the extent of the truth. Their wonderful sense of humour and all that is unspoken often hides a great deal of generosity between the two brothers and towards those they love. You also need to read between the lines to grasp the worries, anguish, daily unconditional

commitment and self-sacrifice of Raymonde and François their parents.

First there is a chronology of events, then texts written by Yves for the Bulletin AGIR(2) (*Association générale des insuffisants rénaux - kidney deficiency*); interviews with Mrs. Angèle Coutu for the magazine *Le Lundi* and by Jean-Sébastien Massicotte, journalist for the Quebec City daily *Le Soleil*. Some of these texts tell how, in spite of the fact that the illness was a serious handicap during fifteen years of his life, Yves reacted and fought to lead his teenage years and life as a young adult as much as possible like his friends. Other texts will take us right through to the very positive outcome of this family experience. Finally we discover how youth and love transformed the life of two young couples.

(1) In French, 'Yves' is pronounced 'eve'. To English ears it always sounds odd as 'Eve' is a woman's name. The English equivalent could be 'Ivan'. It is a very popular name in Quebec and also in France as St. Yves is the Patron Saint of Brittany.



Lucille Kirouac

(2) *Association Générale des Insuffisants Rénaux* (AGIR). The French verb *agir* means to act, so it is a play on word in French. AGIR is a comprehensive French-language nephrology information resource for both patients and healthcare professionals. The Web site: www.agir.qc.ca answers questions about renal disease, peritoneal dialysis, haemodialysis, and transplantation, and provides support for individuals and families affected by renal disease. See related Canadian and American Kidney Associations' Websites.



January 1st, 2002 - from left to right, 1st row: Martin Houde, Yves Dumulon, Louis Dumulon, Raymonde Kirouac; 2nd row: Cynthia Leclerc, France Dumulon, Brigitte Lapointe and François Dumulon. (Collection Lucille Kirouac)

Chronology of Yves Dumoulon's Kidney Problems

21 January 1985

– At the age of 11 years and 4 months, Yves undergoes hernia surgery.

22 February 1985

– Blood tests done just before the surgery show a very serious kidney deficiency.

26 February 1985

– Appointment at Sainte-Justine Hospital in Montreal.

27 February 1985

– Diagnostic: Yves has only one kidney, on the right side. In addition, this kidney is in bad shape. His name is put on a waiting list for a donor.

1^{er} May 1985

– Ten days later, a donor is found for Yves.

2 May 1985

– A kidney transplant is performed.

6 May 1985

– The transplanted kidney is not working, therefore an immunosuppressive drug is administered, but because it is too strong it neutralizes the transplanted kidney which, in such a case, is simply left in place to atrophy. Yves needs cortisone for two to three months to prevent his body from rejecting the new kidney.

24 September 1985

– Peritoneal dialysis begins on a daily basis.

8 March 1988

– Peritoneal infection sets in after a 'minor surgery' that would normally have required four days in the hospital but, as it took a turn for the worse, Yves went back home six months later, on September 17, and **he needed haemodialysis from then on.**

From September 1988 until his departure for Montreal to study at the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) in 1994, because there are no haemodialysis services in Rouyn-Noranda, Yves' treatments are done at home. One room in the house is set up for the treatment. Yves is entirely responsible for his dialysis. With the help of a healthcare provider, the machine is set up and he pricks himself. His mother becomes the provider when the official one is not available. She also looks after the

inventory of supplies and orders whatever is needed from Montreal.

September 1994

– While studying administration, pursuing a major in communication, at l'UQAM, Yves received his treatment at the dialysis centre of the Pavillon Louis-Charles-Simard of Notre-Dame Hospital in Montreal. This he does until the end of his studies.

June 1998

– Yves comes back to Rouyn-Noranda. The Rouyn-Noranda Hospital now has its own Dialysis Centre. Besides having to live with his kidney problem, Yves faces another major challenge, i.e. finding a job that will accommodate his four-hour long treatments three times a week.

During the summer of 1999 and until autumn of 2000, Yves' condition deteriorated: finding an opening in a vein to do the dialysis is getting nearly impossible and fails repeatedly. It is a daily battle.

June 2000

– Louis, Yves' brother, comes back from a stage at Isle de la Réunion and offers him one of his kidneys. When first looking for a living-related donor, Louis' compatibility had not been checked because he was too young at the time.

August 2000

– Louis undergoes the compatibility tests and he is a match beyond all hopes. The compatibility rate is 5/6 which is rather unusual for two persons who are not twins (Yves was born on September 22, 1973, and Louis on August 20, 1975) and do not even share the same blood type.

27 October 2000

– **The DAY when, within a few hours, the two brothers successfully undergo the transplantation surgery, Louis as the donor and Yves as the recipient. A perfect match!**



Yves Dumoulon

Conversation with Angèle Coutu ⁽¹⁾



Image Source : <http://www.northernstars.ca/actorsabc/coutu.html>

Angèle Coutu

“FOR THE PAST 13 YEARS, MY LIFE HAS BEEN IN DANGER”

After unsuccessfully undergoing a kidney transplant at the age of eleven, Yves Dumoulon, now in his mid-twenties, is still waiting for a ‘match’, that is the right donor who would change his life. My guest was born in Rouyn-Noranda, a town I know well having often spent the Christmas holidays there. He shares his memories with me interspersed with incredible stories.

It surely has also happened to you, at least once, you meet someone and within five minutes you discover that you have a common friend. Even better, that you were at the same school but not in the same grade, and that you share the same funny memories about a nonconformist professor. Imagine what follows when you even discover that you have family links, like the other person’s aunt Gertrude remarried one of your distant cousins! I can truly say that Yves Dumoulon and I rapidly found ourselves enthusiasti-

cally sharing childhood memories about growing up in this large Abitibi region. We automatically ended up talking about Rouyn, the town where my guest was born. While this young man was being made up for the photo session, I was telling him about travelling to Rouyn for the Christmas Holidays in 1953-54-55. In those days, travelling by train from Montreal to Abitibi was quite an adventure. I used to travel with my paternal grandmother. Once I even found myself at the police station, holding on to a Weston loaf of bread. The neighbour, a young girl, had simply forgotten me at the grocery and I had to find my way back to my uncle Maurice’s house who lived on Latulippe Street in Rouyn-Noranda. Oh! The memories Yves Dumoulon brought back to my mind ... “What a coincidence, he says, my girl-friend’s mother lives on Latulippe Street”.

Your girl-friend’s mother?

-Well, really, she is my fiancée. We have known each other for five years. We are engaged. I met her in Rouyn-Noranda. I really like the region, I should even say that I love it. That is important, is it not?

As the conversation moves along, we talk about the importance of belonging to a clan, a closely-knit community, family spirit and solidarity. Yves then mentions his Kéroac grandfather⁽²⁾. When he was a small boy, it seems that he was very close to him.

How fascinating! On my mother’s side of the family, there are also Kéroac. Two or three generations ago, people used to

tease them a lot because they called themselves Le Brice de Kerouac.

-It is indeed the same clan. The famous Le Brice de Kerouac.

As he speaks, Yves gets up, opens a drawer and pulls a photocopy of a document on the Kéroac grandfather. It is all there. “There you are, Angèle, take this to your mother. An aunt of mine is a keen genealogist.” We even discover that we have a common distant cousin, Zach⁽⁴⁾. I cannot believe it.

AGIR

Yves, I have only known you for fifteen minutes and it seems clear to me that if there was only one word to describe you it would be the verb: AGIR (to act).

-You are absolutely right! And, as if by chance, A.G.I.R. is the acronym of a group to whom I devote a great deal of my time: **A.G.I.R.** (*Association générale des insuffisants rénaux*) (General

(1) Interview done in July 1998 in Montreal, for the weekly magazine *Le Lundi*. The text has been copied as published. The notes are from Lucille Kirouac after verification with Yves Dumoulon.

(2) Albert Kirouac (01293).

(3) Angèle Coutu is the daughter of Magdelaine Morin-Coutu, daughter of Réginald Morin, son of Notaire Victor Morin and his wife Alphonsine Côté, who was the daughter of Philomène-Aurélien Le Brice de Kéroack and Victor Côté from Saint Hyacinthe, Quebec. Philomène was the daughter of Léon Solyme Le Brice de Keroack and Éléonore Létourneau.

(4) Zack? Most likely Jack Kerouac.

(5) On the Web look up *Canadian or American Kidney Foundation*

Association for Kidney Deficients)(5)

You are waiting for a kidney. How long exactly have you been waiting for?

-It will be thirteen years in May.

Why is it so long?

-When I was eleven years old, I received a kidney transplant but my body rejected it immediately. As a result, the level of antibodies in my system shot up, which means that for every ten possible donors, eight would be incompatible for a transplant.

Does the donor's blood type have anything to do with this?

-In my case, yes. Because my blood type is very common it means that there are many potential recipients who are directly competing with me. I recently met a young woman also on a waiting list for a kidney transplant. Since her blood type is extremely rare, she received a kidney from Vancouver very quickly. She is one of the lucky ones...

Are there many conditions required to be a kidney recipient?

-Yes. Because of the high rejection risk, I am not at the head of the list of potential recipients. There are many more candidates who are far more likely to be successful recipients than me.

Do you know how many kidneys are given compared to the numbers transplanted?

-For every hundred kidneys given there are eighty transplanted.

You received a kidney when you were eleven years old. What went wrong?

-I was leading a very normal life, family life was good and healthy and pleasant. My parents were absolutely wonderful. I was ta-



Yves Dumulon and his wife, Brigitte Lapointe, with their son (Collection Lucille Kirouac)

king part in various activities, like the boy scouts, I played the piano, I was very active. But there was a problem that no one knew about: I had only one kidney and it was misshapen.

"I am still waiting for a kidney"

Did something happen that sounded the alarm?

-Yes. One day, I had a hernia and landed in hospital in emergency.

I guess everything happened very quickly, as it usually does in such cases...

-You bet it did! Before the surgery, I was put through all sorts of tests, including, of course, blood tests as is done before any surgery. At the hospital they noted very quickly the abnormally high level of proteins in my blood. Urine accumulating in my kidney was slowly disintegrating it.

DIALYSIS

In such cases, decisions are taken very quickly...

-And how! Indeed at the time, my kidney was functioning at about 15% of its normal capacity. I had reached the limit. I needed dialy-

sis; at 10% they do so almost automatically. I was lucky it was discovered in time.

So, for many years, you depended on dialysis?

-Oh yes and I had to get used to it. It is a tough discipline but it was a question of life or death. My blood was filtered three times a week and each session lasted four hours.

It must have been very difficult for a young active boy.

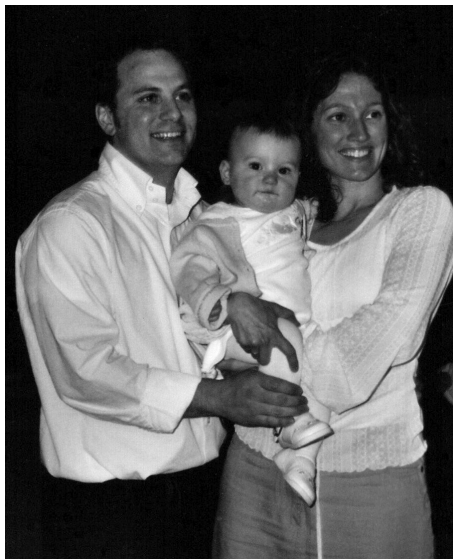
-Dialysis had to become part of my life. During three years, dialysis was done even at night time.

Did it, in any way, help you while you were studying?

-Most likely. I went to school during the day time, I practice some sports, in short, all regular activities for a guy my age. I led a very ordered and disciplined life.

Did you not use another type of dialysis as well?

-Yes, during seven years, I had haemodialysis at home. I was fourteen years old, it was bearable. It gave me the chance to learn to look after myself. To ma-



Louis Dumulon and Cynthia Leclerc with their little Floriane on May 22, 2005
(collection Lucille Kirouac)

ke up my own mind as they say. But one day there was a new problem.

What happened?

-After a previous surgery – I lost count a long time ago as there were so many of them! – there were complications, and a feeding tube had to be installed directly in my stomach. Through this tube a very rich liquid called ‘feeding milk’ was injected in my stomach. Unfortunately the liquid ended up in my peritoneum which produced yeast. To cure this, I had to take a great deal of antibiotics. I got better once more but I could have done without this experience...

Another stay at Sainte-Justine Hospital (6)?

-Oh yes! I went in either on September 8 or 12, but left on the 17th.

Montreal to Rouyn, that was a long and tiring trip (7) ?

-Very very long indeed. Sometimes it was very difficult to bear. I wondered at times whether I would ever finish my studies, ever see my family and my friends again, ever

go back home. It was no laughing matter.

Nevertheless you made it! Your health improved?

-Yes. It is almost a miracle. Once more I made it, in spite of my fragile health. You know, Angèle, I am a rather special case, the average waiting period for a transplant is 970 days. I have been waiting for 2,385 days.

In other words, the longer you wait, the less chances you have of receiving a transplant. Unless...

... Unless the rules are changed, unless the point system is better adapted and that certain things radically change.

What is this point system?

-Very precise questions are asked, like: “Is it for a child? Has the hospital already received a kidney from a donor? Where is this donor?” Each affirmative answer gives so many points. This system is used by *Quebec Transplant*.

Are there any other requirements?

-There is also a grid to be filled, called H.L.A., which is used to evaluate the genetic traits. All this in order to calculate the chances of success.

What would it take after waiting thirteen years, for you to be given a second chance?

-Research brings a great deal of hope, so it is very important to support research. In my case, the problem is the high level of antibodies in my system. If there was a way to considerably lower the level of antibodies then it would be possible for me to be a kidney recipient. Right now, at Notre-Dame Hospital in Montreal, Dr. Saint-Louis, an extraordinary doc-

tor, uses the plasmapheresis procedure. There is also a new treatment called gammaglobulines which reduces the level of antibodies. Unfortunately, in both cases, a high dosage is required in order to be effective, in addition both are rather rare and expensive.

You mentioned a rather important convention due to take place this summer?

-Yes, the Nephrologists (Kidney specialists) Congress to take place in Montreal in July (1998). It is a very important event for research and a great help to people on organ transplant waiting lists.

You are very involved in all these associations involved in the advancement of similar causes. Why?

-For me it is a duty. I believe it is essential to participate, to be involved and to give of my time. I do research work for the *Régie régionale de la santé et des services sociaux* (Regional Health and Social Services Board): I visit all the dialysis centres in Quebec, and I report to the Board in writing.

You are just about to finish your studies. What will be your field of activities?

-I am completing a Bachelor’s Degree in administration at UQAM’s School of Administrative Sciences. It will have taken me four years.

And you are going back to Rouyn, to your roots.

-Yes, I am going back to the sources. For me, it is obvious, it is my path. All the more so now that there are government programmes helping people who wish to go back to live and work in their native region.

“Those treatments are rare and expensive.”

I really wonder how you mana-



The Dumulon brothers: Louis and Yves (Collection Lucille Kirouac)

ge to do everything : studies, research, numerous initiatives, you give so much time to various associations, the dialysis treatments, your girl friend, the music you like to play. How do you manage it all?

-Let's say I am a born manager. It is in me. There is not much that stresses me. In the end, my calm even bothers my girl friend. She gets annoyed because nothing seems to annoy me. I know that sometimes she would like me to react, if I may put it this way.

I really admire you, you would be a good professor. What conclusions do you draw from the research you have done?

-After studying people and their general attitude, it was discovered that 95% of the time, it is the family or the spouse of the deceased who refuse to give a kidney. Consequently the vital issue is how to approach people living through those painful circumstances.

Do hospitals have specially trained personnel responsible to inform people about organ donation?

-No. This is also an obvious void.

Most of the time, there is nobody to answer people's questions. There should be people assigned to this very delicate task.

ORGAN DONATION

Of course it is a delicate subject but there must be a way to learn?

-I am convinced it is possible to learn and it is also a need. So often doctors in emergency say they do not have the time to deal with this problem. If we want an efficient system, hospital personnel must be informed. Also some people must be trained how to artificially maintain alive a potential donor. Contacting families to find potential donors also needs to be done and followed by an analysis to see if a donor can give one or more organs. Furthermore, the organization called *Info don d'organes* (Organ Donation Info) includes various associations of recipients on waiting lists. One of this organization's main goals is to inform the public and promote organ giving. This is one reason why it is so important to talk about it in an interview like this one today.

So it is important to know that

one can save a life simply by ticking the space for organ giving at the back of one's Medicare (Canadian) card. And one has to sign it?

-Yes, it must be signed. But even if it is important to sign the card, it is just as important to talk about it to people around us, to our families and let them know what it really means.

In a few words, why should one do it?

-Because in the past, what has often happened is, though the deceased had signed his/her card, the spouse or a member of the family opposed the organ donation. Here is the phone number of the Canadian Association of Organ Donation: (514) 963-6433. The readers of *Le Lundi* (8) can dial this number to receive more information.

Wow! It is impossible to stop Yves ... During his studies, he took part in plays and local radio shows, he was provincial vice-president of the Quebec Student Federation. He was a stand-up comedian, played the piano. And now, he talks about getting married. "That will happen when I have the money; first many things have to fall into place." Yes, he needs a kidney. After thirteen years, it is a must.

(6) The hospital for sick children affiliated with Montreal University.

(7) According to Map Quest : Montreal-Rouyn. ~~Total Estimated Time: 9~~ hours, 34 minutes Total Estimated Distance: 443.51 miles.

(8) Also valid for the readers of *Le Trésor des Kirouac*.

WAITING FOR A KIDNEY TRANSPLANT WHAT IT MEANS FOR ME

by Yves Dumulon, on haemodialysis in Rouyn-Noranda

WAITING to receive a kidney transplant for the last thirteen years, a very long time indeed, has not been a time sitting around waiting day in day out. However it does not mean that I am not really eager to receive one. For me this long **WAITING** period has meant three months of peritoneal dialysis, ten years of haemodialysis, including six at home. And as a dialysis centre was set up in my hometown of Rouyn-Noranda only two years ago, my treatments had to be done at home.

WAITING also means that just about every possible access-vein has been used so far for

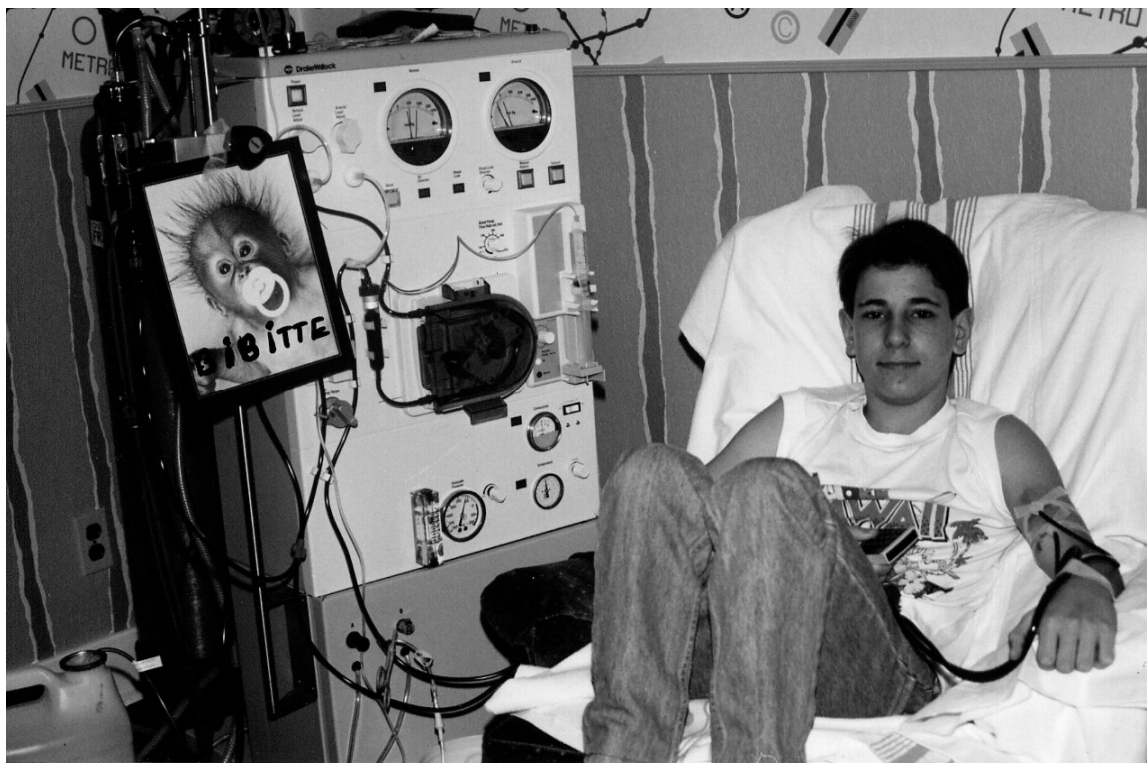
the treatment. Both forearms and my left arm cannot be used anymore as access for the dialysis because my peritoneum is now full of adherences. I have to put a cross on those. Now only the gortex of my upper right arm can be used for dialysis access. Of course, eventually through new techniques (Gortex tubes used in vascular grafts) I will be able to access some veins.

WAITING thirteen years also included many long periods in hospital. For example, it took four months before the kidney problem was discovered and one transplant that went wrong; it took six very difficult months to go from peritoneal dialysis to haemodialysis; one university semester lost because of the loss

and change of access for dialysis and two months to cure a septicaemia (serious infection).

WAITING for a long time has numerous implications and consequences and the longer the wait the more urgent a kidney transplant becomes. To conclude, I hope the day is near when the right kidney can be found and that it will last for many, many years. I believe that I have waited long enough and perhaps it should be my turn. For more than half my life, I have been **WAITING**, e.g. thirteen years and I am not yet twenty-five!)

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Collection Lucille Kirouac

Yves Dumulon during a dialysis treatment

When listening to the Dumulon brothers, Louis and Yves, relating the events of October 27, 2000, as if 'there was nothing special about it' when in fact they lived an extraordinary adventure on that auspicious day. They talk about it all as something 'quite normal', almost banal. Offering a kidney to a sick brother to give him a second chance in life is nothing short of extraordinary. It is no daily occurrence. It is a very important aspect as well and both young men gladly overlook it but now they share far more than family links.

Flashback! At the age of eleven, Yves finds himself with kidney problems, resulting from a birth defect. Dialysis soon becomes a necessity. A 'temporary handicap' that will take fifteen hours every week until he receives a new kidney at the age of twenty-seven. "It is like a voluntary part-time job, no pay and compulsory", quips Yves who can now laugh about it. Notwithstanding the ever-growing complications, reminds Louis. Access to the veins for the dialysis becoming more and more difficult to the point where two tubes were permanently installed in Yves' carotid to counter the problem, but with the inherent risks of infection.

Louis adding "He was on the emergency list of *Quebec-Transplant*. Yes, a family donor had been considered before. Many tests had even been carried out. However, no one in the Dumulon family was compatible. No one? As Louis was too young at the time to even consider such a decision, he was never tested. And time went by. "It is like waves. When everything is fine, doctors do not even think about it", remembers Louis, now twenty-nine years old?

OFFER

"It was Louis' idea and offer" mentions Yves. After spending one year at Ile de la Réunion in the Indian Ocean on

A VITAL GIFT

Louis Dumulon gives his brother, Yves,
a most unusual present: one kidney

Jean-Sébastien Massicotte, *Le Soleil*, 15 January 2005 (1)

a student exchange, and seeing his brother's deteriorating health, Louis, indeed, made the offer. "I made up my mind while I was away. Go, let's go."

He underwent the various exams and tests needed to determine whether he could be a donor. Given the antibodies that Yves had developed during his many years of dialysis, "the chances of being compatible were very slim" adds Louis. Nevertheless the results could not have been more encouraging. Blood tests were used to measure six different factors, and all six were identical! "The doctor said that it was as if Yves had won the jackpot!"

Louis, was also one of the first few Canadians to benefit from laparoscopic surgery, a new minimally invasive technique that, in this case, was done through the groin to take out his left kidney. Louis was back on his feet three days later after, what he calls "only three small incisions". The same day, operated on by the same surgeon, his brother, Yves, woke up from the anaesthetic after a successful transplant. Today, these two men from Rouyn-Noranda are both working fulltime for the federal government. Louis lives in Gatineau while his brother, Yves, has remained in his native town.

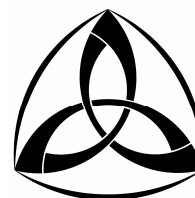
ges that solidly welded the relationship between the two men. The older brother believes that "at first, perhaps it was connivance that made the gift possible". It happened four years ago already so Louis can look back on this adventure with hindsight.

Beyond the inherent risks of such a surgical procedure or the possibility of failure, there was always a priority in the giver's mind. "The relationship with my brother had to remain the same!" This attitude has benefited the family. Today the Dumulons look back on this experience in a remarkable way. "In short, it is no longer my kidney" says Louis. "There is no glory in this" adds Yves. Nevertheless, even if they do not want to make a big deal of it, both of them know well that now they share a very unique sense of family duty. Even not wanting to make a big deal of the situation, it is an ultimate gesture of generosity that changed people's lives. And Yves insists on that point: it is the case for every organ donation: "It changes life".

(1) Written in French by Jean-Sébastien Massicotte, journalist, and published in *Le Soleil*, Quebec City daily, on 2005-01-15. Translated by Marie Lussier Timperley, for *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 82, December 2005.

FRATERNAL CONNIVANCE

For the Dumulon brothers it was a very serious process including meetings with the kidney specialist and the social worker. "I wanted to make absolutely sure that my brother was not doing this out of pity for me but because he really wanted to," explains Yves who also recounts the many discussions he had with his brother. Exchan-



Testimony

Yves Dumoulon

Every time I wrote in the A.G.I.R. Bulletin (Bulletin of the Association for Kidney Deficient), it was to talk about my many years living with dialysis. But this time, it is to say how happy and grateful I am to be, at long last, recipient of a transplanted organ.

The year 2000 was full of challenges and is unforgettable. During that year, twice I developed a thrombosis in a fistula for dialysis (that is two out of six I had in two years). On a happier note, there were two weddings, mine and my older sister's, but what topped it all was my brother Louis' gift of one of his kidneys.

So finally, after fifteen years in dialysis (three in peritoneal dialysis and twelve in haemodialysis) while my name was on a transplant waiting list, my brother offered me *the gift* just as important for him as for me. Some people ask me why it did not happen sooner. First of all, when the compatibility tests were done in my family, my brother was far too young and, at the time, the donor's blood type had to be the same as the receiver's for the transplant to be successful, and my brother's blood type is O and mine is A.

In addition, I wanted the decision to be his alone and not mine. I wanted the choice to be entirely his own. Dialysis had always worked quite well, but

in the last two years, I had a lot of problems trying to find a vein to access and, in the end, there was no more access to do the dialysis.

Thus, if my brother had not been a compatible donor, I would have been put on the emergency list for a transplant with all the dire consequences that it entails because it was impossible to find another access vein for the haemodialysis, and peritoneal dialysis was no longer feasible. However, even on the emergency list, there were no guarantees whatsoever that a donor would be found; because of my extremely high level of antibodies, finding a compatible donor was very difficult.

But in August 2000, my brother offered me a kidney. The compatibility tests were done and the HLA (human leucocyte antigen) was identical therefore we were a perfect match. Identical to the point that the surgeon in residence thought we were twins; which is not the case as I am 27 and my brother is 25. In addition, his blood did not react to any of the many antibodies I had, making it almost impossible to find a compatible donor. According to the doctors we presented an extremely rare case of compatibility even as for the antibodies.

My brother was quite worried about the surgery. Having never been sick in his life, it was

understandable. He is a great sportsman, with a B.A. degree in physical education, now completing his Masters in physical activity at Laval University. Perhaps his great knowledge of the human body enabled him to perfectly understand the implications of his gift and it increased his fears before the surgery.

Finally, the operation took place on October 27, 2000. Doctor Busque used the Laparoscopic procedure and it enabled my brother to leave the hospital three days after the surgery and attend Patrick Huard's show in Quebec City only six days after the operation. The following Monday, he was back at the University for regular classes.

As for myself, the kidney is working marvellously. The level of creatinine is normal, as well as the other blood components. Of course, not everything works out perfectly at all times; seven days after the transplant, I developed septicaemia from golden staphylococcus (a blood infection that can be fatal). Unable to find the cause of the infection, it was decided to treat me with intravenous antibiotics six times a day for six weeks, that was until December 21, 2000.

Fortunately, thanks to technical miracles, I was able to come back home to Rouyn-Noranda with a small portable machine that gave me the antibiotics dosage automatically every four hours. The only thing I had to do was replace the antibiotic bag once a day. That was certainly a great deal better than having to stay at the Hospital in Montreal for another month.

I honestly do not miss the dialy-

sis and feel more energetic than ever. That is normal given my level of haemoglobin. So beware, everyone around here, attach your safety belt and hold on tight, you will see what you will see!

Frankly, this gift has been the most important thing in my life, especially coming at such an ominous moment in my life: wedding bells ringing, end of my university studies and beginning of my working life in a full time job with no constraint due to repeated dialysis.

This gift from my brother gives me the impression of starting my life a fresh where I left it at twelve years old, with, as a bonus, a great deal of experience and maturity. Therefore, with

these tools: a teenager's dynamism and imagination, and wisdom brought on by maturity acquired through test and trials of illness, I fell ready to face new challenges.

Yves Dumulon, transplant recipient from Notre-Dame Hospital (Montreal) but truly from Rouyn-Noranda.

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MOST COMMON FAMILY NAMES IN FRANCE

The family name **Le Bihan** ranks 522nd on the list of most common family names in France.

The French Departments where the name is mostly found are: Finistère (28th), Côtes d'Armor (121st) Île et Vilaine (178th), Pûy-de-Dôme (179^c) and Seine et Marne (203rd). As of January 1st, 2004, there were 8,689 **Le Bihan** in France.

The **Le Bris** are in the 764th place. As of January 1st, 2004, there were 6,489 **Le Bris** in France.

In Finistère, **Le Bris** is the 53rd most common family name, the 62nd in Morbihan and the 86th in the Côtes d'Armor. All three departments are in Brittany.

SOURCE : www.linternaute.com



Louis Dumulon and his wife, Cynthia Leclerc, with their daughter, Floriane (Collection Lucille Kirouac)

CORRESPONDENCE WITH EASTMAN

ON THE ROAD WITH JACK

by Marie Lussier Timperley

For the third year in a row, young and old were invited to a great letter writing event in Eastman in Quebec's Eastern Townships. LES CORRESPONDANCES D'EASTMAN, were held August 18-21, 2005.(1) The aim of the Eastman's Correspondence is to encourage people to turn off their computer and pick up paper and pen to write good old fashioned letters. Isn't this a great idea? Everyone who registered received a nice pen, and a map indicating various writing rooms in and around the village of Eastman, as well as a map of a wider tour of other 'writing' gardens in the Missisquoi Valley. Wonderful gardens, mostly private properties, and cozy rooms to be discovered! Everything to inspire a pro or budding writer!

Over 700 pen aficionados took part in the *Correspondence*. The Canada Post Office even remained opened during the weekend and letters were posted free of charge everywhere in the world: 2,212 letters were written! A special invitation to the 6 to 16 years old convinced nearly 200 young people from the area to take part in a contest for the best letter on the subject of 'dream'. (2)

It is Jack, our cousin, who brought me to Eastman on August 19, for a benefit evening organized to raise money to offset the lack of usual governmental subsidies. The

public was invited to a reading of letters and other texts written by Jack between 1940 and 1956; the programme, entitled ON THE ROAD WITH JACK, was presented at the Eastman Art Centre.

Art Centre? That is, at Saint-Edouard's Church renamed for the duration of the *Correspondence*. The church was full, tickets were \$25 for the performance only; at \$100 it included a reception afterwards. Upon entering you could not miss the larger than life portrait of Jack, young, smiling, carrying a small suitcase; the portrait was hanging from the high ceiling in the sanctuary, in front of a black curtain most likely hiding a cross. In the sanctuary, instead of the traditional altar there were five lecterns.

Looking at this larger than life happy-go-lucky Jack, 'béat' in French, from the Latin word meaning blessed, happy, and in a church as well, the texts, however, presented us a Jack 'beat', 'high-flyer' and rather beaten, in his letters to Neal, Allen and others. We even heard his voice through some tapes made when he was alive.

Congratulations to Claude Poissant, the producer who gave life to an idea and made it really appealing. Congratulations to Jacques Julien for his research and choice of texts; it was a challenge, to say the least, to find the right

material to keep the listeners at the edge of their seat for two hours that went by very quickly.

Behind the lecterns, three young actors put lots of energy and conviction in reading: David Boutin, Maxim Gaudette and Bruno Marcil, there was also Geneviève Alarie who read letters from 'mémère', Jack's mother, and sang very pleasantly some jazzy tunes that, I am sure, Jack would have approved and appreciated. At the fifth lectern, Jean-Félix Mailloux, a wonderful musician, composer/improviser/arranger, whose sober and discreet accompaniment at the double-base underlined perfectly well the various sentiments, attitudes, emotions, creating the right mood from start to finish. This evening must have pleased Jack, wherever he is and, judging by the ovation at the end, the public was obviously delighted.

Very young, Jack was a voracious reader and that is certainly one of the reasons he eventually revolutionized the art of writing. Is this not a characteristic of great writers, regardless of when and where they lived? There is another Kirouac who read avidly throughout his life and wrote just as much, Conrad, better known by his religious name: Brother Marie-Victorin. In his lifetime, he travelled extensively, following 'a remarkable itinerary'. (3).



Reading of Jack Kerouac's texts illustrating the quality of his writing and the influence of Jazz, Eastman, August 2005.
(Photo Credit: Pierre Kirouac)

Therefore, if developing a taste for writing were to awaken a taste for reading, a taste for learning, a taste for expressing oneself in order to better share with others, perhaps the *Eastman Correspondence*' experience should be multiplied. I think Marie-Victorin would applaud such an initiative, he who wrote extensively during his lifetime and whose penmanship was exceptional. He who gave everything and spared nothing for the education of young people, I am sure that he would rejoice in these efforts to make them read and write.

Finally, I wish to thank the Executive Director of the *Eastman Correspondence*, Mrs. Line Richer, who gave me the opportunity to be '*On the Road with Jack*' as correspondent, officially representing the Kirouac Family Asso-

ciation. Many thanks also to Mrs. Katia Deschênes, Public Relations Officer also in charge of promotion, who very kindly supplied me with the pertinent information.

(1) Vincent Cliche, *Le Reflet du lac*, Saturday, July 9, 2005, p. 17.

(2) *Ibid* - Saturday, August 27, 2005.

(3) 'A Remarkable Itinerary' is a reference to Madeleine Lavallée's book published in 1984, in French, entitled: Marie-Victorin – un itinéraire exceptionnel. See *Le Trésor*, no. 80, June 2005. To find out more: www.lescorrespondances.ca - Eastman: Highway 10, Exit 106 North, Eastern Townships.

Marie Lussier Timperley, Potton Township, Highway 10, Exit 106 South.



Merry Christmas

Joseph-Elzéar Bernier

Captain and Extraordinary Seafarer

by Clément Kirouac

When your surname is Kirouac, any new book with the name Bernier on its cover attracts your attention. Last spring, Pierre Kirouac from Trois-Rivières happily let me know about *Joseph-Elzéar Bernier, capitaine et coureur des mers*, i.e. *Joseph-Elzéar Bernier, Captain and Extraordinary Seafarer*, a book written by Mrs. Marjolaine Saint-Pierre and published by Éditions Septentrion in April 2005. This impressive work received the award *France-Acadie 2000* in the Social Science category. The author, using extensive archives, paints the portrait of a giant of the Great Canadian North. A man matching this country's dimension according to its motto: "From sea to shining sea".

To the question: "Were the Bernier ancestors mariners generation after generation?" The answer is "No, quite the contrary." Having settled on *la Côte-du-Sud* (Saint Lawrence's south shore), they were the descendants of Jacques Bernier known as "Jean de Paris" who arrived in New France on October 13, 1651. Joseph-Elzéar was of the seventh generation born in Canada (1852-1934) and lived much later than his distant cousin

who was of the third generation, Marie-Louise Bernier (1712-1802), who, as we all know, married Alexandre Kerouac in Cap Saint-Ignace on October 22, 1732. This small village, part of the Seigneurie de Vincelotte, is the ancestral ground of our two families who, to this day, consider each other as 'neighbours' and still visit when there are special events. On August 21, 2000, the Kirouacs invited the Berniers to a banquet in L'Islet marking the return from Brittany of thirty-two descendants who were just back from a journey to their sources in Brittany, France.

As soon as I finished reading the book, I made a point of letting Mrs. Saint-Pierre know about the close family links between the two families. There was also another reason for contacting her. In the book there is another link mentioned, something very few people are aware of: Cyrille Kirouac, a widower, contracted a second marriage on October 24, 1916 when he married the adopted daughter of Captain Bernier, Elmina Caron, widow of Doctor Joseph-Odilon Bourget.

Something else attracted my attention about the way this marriage is referred to: the author writes that Cyrille Kirouac was the son of François Kirouac "from the line of



Captain JE Bernier
Archives of Carol and Louis Terrien

the Marquis de Keroac". In 1999, the true identity of our ancestor was discovered and made public but today, **five years later**, deep down, people still like to cling to the old legend of "noble lineage", and openly too because a copy of their ALBUM is in the library of the Comte de Paris. Mrs. Saint-Pierre promised me to correct the facts in the next edition of her book.

Another similarity between the Kirouacs and Berniers. Captain Joseph-Elzéar Bernier was inducted as a *Knight of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre* on January 21, 1934, in the Lévis Cathedral. François Kirouac (00474) from Quebec City had also received the same honour but on June 26, 1886.

There is something of interest for every Kirouac in this book. Therefore, holding proper authorizations, I am reprinting certain passages and photos from the volume. I wish to thank Mrs. Saint-Pierre as well as her publisher, Gilles Herman from *Éditions Septentrion*, for allowing me to reproduce the back cover of the book and pertinent photos.

(1) *Bulletin of the Kirouac Family Association*, *Communiqué spécial*, Number 10, June 1987, page 2, a copy of L'ALBUM is presented to the Comte de Paris during his 1987 Montreal visit.



Arctic Scenery: Bernier Collection, Official Report of the 1908-1909 Expedition

Presentation of Joseph-Élzéar Bernier

by Gilles Herman, Publisher

Born in L'Islet in 1852, on the shores of the St. Lawrence River, Joseph-Elzéar Bernier went off to sea at a very young age accompanying his father, a master mariner. At the age of seventeen, he became captain of his first ship, the *Saint-Michel*, and took her to Europe.

His career, navigating the world oceans is quite unique in the history of the Canadian merchant marine. Bernier actually crossed the Atlantic Ocean over 250 times and many of these crossings were done in record time. After sailing for twenty-five years, he took a job on land and became the Governor of the Quebec City prison.

Then he began to pursue a life-long interest in the Arctic particularly in the race to the North Pole. He drafted an exploration plan and tried to interest his contemporaries and the government in reaching the Arctic frontier. Between 1904 and 1911, and again from 1922 to 1925, on board the *Arctic*, he led various expeditions on behalf of the Canadian Government. In 1909, he officially claimed the Arctic Islands for Canada and unveiled a plaque on Melville Island. Bernier led a total of eleven expe-



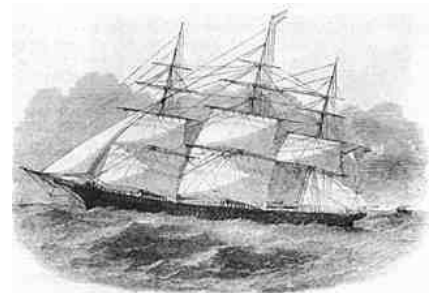
The Eskimos
Archives of Carol and Louis Terrien

ditions in the Arctic and wintered there seven times. His knowledge of navigation in difficult waters was way above that of all mariners of his time. He retired at the age of seventy-five in 1927.

Bernier, considered the greatest Canadian Mariner, gave himself heart and soul to his dangerous vocation and his burning passion for ship and sea. Recognized as the man of the Great Canadian North, Joseph-Elzéar Bernier nurtured a fabulous dream: to conquer the North Pole. On his way there, he discovered an important political mission for himself, i.e. give his country an arctic frontier. As we are now looking towards the possibility of sailing in ice-free polar regions, his long-

ago expeditions on behalf of the Canadian Government currently take a whole new meaning.

Translator's note: On *Google* type in: *Captain J.E. Bernier* to find many related English Websites. Translated by Marie Lussier Timperley.



The two marriages of Elmina Caron, adopted daughter of Captain Joseph-Élzéar Bernier by Clément Kirouac

Elmina married Joseph-Odilon Bourget, the son of André Bourget and Céline Turgeon, on January 10, 1894, in the Parish Church of Saint-Joseph in Lauzon (near Lévis, on the south-shore, across from Quebec City). Witnesses were Onésime Bourget, civil employee and the groom's brother, as well as Captain Joseph-Élzéar Bernier 'relative and guardian of the bride'.

Doctor Bourget was from a very good family and had studied at the Lévis College between 1882 and 1888 and later at the Department of Medicine at Laval University until 1893.

During the first two years of their marriage, the couple probably lived with 'aunt' Rose and Captain Bernier, before renting a house on Saint-Joseph Street in Lauzon between 1896 and 1904. Odilon Bourget would replace Doctor A. A. Marsan as Health Officer for Lauzon between 1901 and 1903. It is a known fact that his was a very demanding work and that Elmina liked to accompany him on his numerous visits. "My grandmother, Mina, was a very sociable person, remembers Suzanne Normandeau. She would look after people and calm them while her husband was delivering a baby or tending to a sick person."

However, their married life did not last very long because Doctor Bourget died on November 10, 1904, after suffering from a kidney infection and a heart attack. He was buried in the Mont-Marie Cemetery in Lauzon. At her husband's death, Elmina inherited the house on Saint-Joseph Street and lived there until her second marriage in 1916.

Elmina Caron's Second Marriage

On October 24, 1916, Elmina married Cyrille Kirouac (son of François Kirouac from the Breton Line of the Marquis de Keroac and Marie-Julie Hamel)(1) in the Parish Church of Saint-Joseph in Lauzon. The witnesses were Alfred Samson and François Kirouac.

Cyrille Kirouac's first wife was Philomène Luneau (daughter of Norbert Luneau, farmer, and Mélodie Audibert). They were married on August 29, 1882, and owned a

business in Kingsey Falls in the Eastern Townships; they had many children but lost some at a very tender age.

"Cyrille Kirouac left the Eastern Townships to settle in Quebec City soon after the birth of Conrad (their only surviving son, born on April 3, 1885). His cereal and flour business was very successful. He owned a warehouse in Quebec's lower-town. He became one of the wealthy citizens of Saint-Sauveur district. He was respected because of his business and his good manners, but he was esteemed because of his good humour and love of life. The Kirouacs lived on Saint-Vallier Street in a large comfortable house."(2)

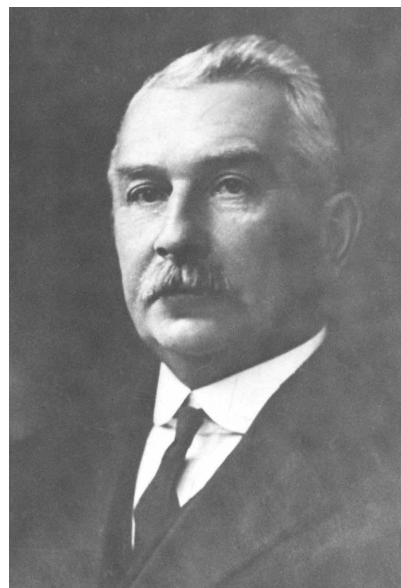
Cyrille Kirouac became a widower in 1915. A year later, Elmina became his wife and moved into his beautiful large house in Saint-Sauveur. They were very happy but their marriage only lasted five years as Cyrille Kirouac passed away in 1921. His children challenged his will because in it, Cyrille left to his second wife, a summer house in l'Ancienne-Lorette, other properties and a rather large sum of money. The Kirouac children won their case. The family inheritance later enabled Conrad, Brother Marie-Victorin, to cover most travelling expenses for his botanical study expeditions around the world.

Elmina lost the properties, but was given a generous allocation. She lived comfortably until her death in Saint-Sauveur, taking care of her mother, Philomène, and her daughter, Marie-Reine.

Her daughter, Michelle Audet, would describe her in the following terms: "My grandmother, Elmina, was a warm-hearted woman, caring and very wise but always with a twinkle in her small blue eyes, as round as pearls; always smiling and with a mischievous look. She had a mother-of-pearl complexion, wore her wavy greyish hair short. My grandmother had delicate ankles and knew how to be elegant at all times even when wearing a simple outfit. Elmina listened to other people, thus inspiring respect and tenderness"(3). Though she had to have a leg amputated at the age of 95, Mina remained an energetic woman, proud and



Elmina Caron
Collection of Michelle Audet



Cyrille Kirouac
Collection of the Montreal Botanical Garden

interested in life around her. She died peacefully and without regrets, on November 28, 1972, while she was repairing the lace of her small pillows.(4)

(1) Translation of the text in Mrs. St-Pierre's book.

(2) Robert Rumilly, *Le frère Marie-Victorin et son temps*, Montréal, Les Frères des Écoles chrétiennes, 1949, page 3. Biography of Brother Marie-Victorin by Robert Rumilly published in Montreal in 1949.

(3) From *D'un coup d'aile*, page 71.

(4) From Marjolaine Saint-Pierre's book: *Elmina Caron's marriages*, pp 335-336.

Alain Kirouac

Member of the jury who selected the *TOP* 25 people of Quebec City

Last October 1st, the Quebec City daily *Le Soleil* presented a list of twenty-five men and women from Quebec City who make a difference through their influence in their respective fields. To select these people, François Bourque, *Le Soleil*'s Information Director, created a nine-member jury including Alain Kirouac, Executive Vice-President and General Director of the Quebec City Board of Trade.

Please see photograph and the newspaper's brief presentation.

We met with Alain Kirouac in his vast office located in an historical building on Saint-Louis Street (leading to the Château Frontenac and lined with old historical houses - translator's note). His office alone could make the subject of an article with its beautiful antique furniture and exceptional interior decor. Surrounded by such treasures, Alain warmly welcomed us and told us about his experience as a member of the jury who chose the **TOP 25** in Quebec City.

It started with a phone call from François Bourque asking him to prepare a list of business people who, through their decisions, influence the economic, social and cultural life of the City. Five other members of the jury were also requested to draw a list of people active in other fields. This resulted in a list of two hundred names. A first meeting with the representative from the newspaper *Le Soleil*, chaired by François Bourque, established the selection criteria and also the

decision to exclude some people from the list, for example, mayoral candidates in the Quebec City municipal campaign.

It was decided to consider mainly people who through their decisions and actions had a real impact in their respective fields no matter whether their interventions were controversial or litigious. A first selection to reduce the list to fifty names followed through a voting process. A second round of voting reduced it again by half. The twenty-five remaining names were then presented to the executives of *Le Soleil* to further identify how these persons influenced the daily lives of people in and around Quebec City.

According to Alain, who knows the business world very well, this whole operation gave him the chance to discover other fields of activities and the people exercising a major influence in those areas. Even if he did not get to know personally the two-hundred people chosen, now he knows all decision makers of the greater Quebec area. Of course this is a great plus for his own work, so much so that perhaps, one day, instead of being on the jury, he will actually be one of the two hundred influential personalities.

Besides, is it not rather significant that *Le Soleil* asked him to be on the jury because of his knowledge of the business world? Time will tell. But judging by Alain's wonderful welcome when we visited and interviewed him, he is obviously car-



Alain Kirouac
Vice-President and General Director
of Quebec City Board of Trade. (Photo :
Magazine Capital-Québec)

Alain Kirouac started working at the Board of Trade as General Director in 1989. He reached the highest post in 1999. He sits on a number of Boards and Committees and, over the past twenty years, he also assisted the twenty Presidents of the Board of Trade during their one-year term of office. (Notes from *Le Soleil*)

Editor's Note: In fact, Alain began working at the Board of Trade in 1987 as General Director of the Business and Industry Regional Division (*Maison régionale industrie commerce*) and he was appointed Assistant General Director of the Quebec City Board of Trade in 1989.

rying high responsibilities with great talent and class. It was a privilege to be received by Alain.

The Editors



Photo Credit: collection of the Association

Claude Kirouac (02450)
1994-2005

Last September, Guy-Claude Kirouac, our regional correspondent for the Saguenay-Lake Saint-Jean region, notified the AFKFA secretary that he wished to give the chance to someone else to take over the position he held for eleven years.

Guy-Claude accepted to be the regional representative of our association in 1994 and immediately set to organize the 1995 Kirouac Annual Gathering in Jonquière.

This was our second Family gathering in the Saguenay-Lake Saint-Jean region. To start off this memorable weekend, Guy-Claude invited all the Kirouacs to join him and his family at home in Jonquière for the Friday evening.

All the "cousins" enjoyed the wonderful and legendary hospitality the people of the Saguenay-Lake Saint-Jean are rightly famous for. We spent the evening exchanging news around a camp fire in the backyard until midnight.

The events unfolded during the next two days as 125 K/s gathered in Jonquière. It was a great success achieved by Guy-Claude and his committee!

Well, Guy-Claude, the Members of the Board and all the members of the AFKFA wish to express their sincere

New regional correspondent for Saguenay–Lac Saint-Jean

gratitude for your implication and your generosity. We all hope very much to see you again at our next gatherings.

The Editors

In the September *Trésor*, our secretary, Michel Bornais, mentioned Guy-Claude's departure and mentioned that we hoped to very soon find someone to replace him. His wish, and ours also, has been granted as, only a few days after the *Trésor* was mailed, Mercédès Bolduc, from Chicoutimi, offered to step into Guy-Claude's shoes and take on the position of regional representative.

Mercédès was born on January 29, 1967, in Chicoutimi. On October 22, 1988, she married Marc Villeneuve and they now have two young sons, François and David. Besides looking after her family, Mercédès has been working in accounting for almost twenty years. She started as a clerk but, for the past three years now, has her own business, providing accounting services to thirteen clients.

Our new Saguenay-Lake Saint-Jean correspondent has a degree in administration from the *Université du Québec à Chicoutimi* (UQAC) as well as a college degree in finances and accounting. She also holds a Paymaster degree from the *Canadian Payroll Association*. (<http://www.payroll.ca>).

Mercédès Bolduc's link to our K/ Family tree is through Marie Kirouac (02480), daughter of Clovis Kirouac (02426) and Philomène Boucher of Jonquière. She has been a member of the AFKFA for many years and we have had the pleasure of meeting her at different annual K/ family gatherings.

Here is a message from Mercédès Bolduc:



Collection Mercédès Bolduc

Mercédès Bolduc

I am very happy and very proud to be part of the AFKFA team. I sincerely hope that the Kirouac descendents from the Saguenay-Lac St-Jean region will not hesitate to contact me to pass on the good news, and the not so good one as well, in order to share them with all the descendents of our common ancestor.

To contact me: telephone: (418) 690-0624, Fax: (418) 690-8982, E-mail: bolducvilleneuve@videotron.ca, and snail mail: 140, de la Victoire, Chicoutimi, (Québec) Canada G7G 2X7.

Greetings to you all – Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

A great welcome to Mercédès and thank you very much for accepting to join our team of regional correspondents!

The Editors

Genealogy of Mercédès Bolduc

I

Urbain-François Le Bihan
Sieur de K/voach
About 1703-1736

Cap Saint-Ignace
22 October 1732

Louise Bernier
(1712-1802)

II

Simon-Alexandre Keroack
dit breton
1732-1812

L'Islet-sur-Mer
15 June 1758

Élisabeth Chalifour
(1739-1814)

III

Simon-Alexandre Keroack
dit breton
(1760-1823)

Cap Saint-Ignace
18 November 1782

Marie-Ursule Guimont
(1765-1820)

IV

Emmanuel Kirouack
dit Breton
(1786-1868)

L'Islet-sur-Mer
24 June 1806

Marie-Anne Cloutier
(1787-????)

V

Emmanuel Kirouack
dit Breton
(1810-1870)

L'Islet-sur-Mer
6 July 1830

Marcelline Caron
(1806-1862)

VI

Clovis Kirouac
(1837-1921)

L'Islet-sur-Mer
7 May 1867

Philomène Boucher
(????-????)

VII

Marie Kirouac
(1870-1927)

Jonquière
13 August 1889

Wilfrid Villeneuve
(1863-1956)

VIII

Léonce Villeneuve
(1905-1991)

Chicoutimi
20 August 1924

Alcey Gagné
(1905-1996)

IX

Charlotte Villeneuve
(1931-)

Sainte-Foy
July 14, 1948

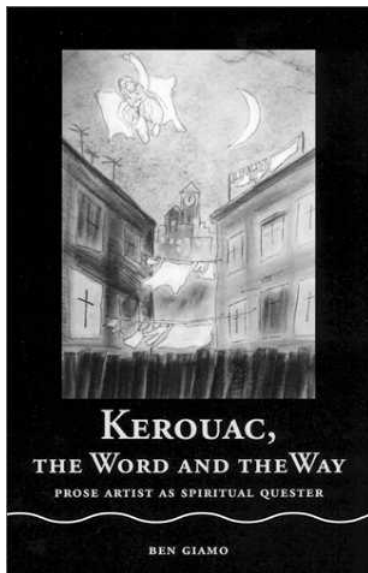
Joseph Bolduc
(1925-1999)

X

Mercédès Bolduc
(1967-)

François Kirouac 7 November 2005





Book cover photo found at: <http://images.amazon.com/images/P/0809324318.01.LZZZZZZZ.jpg>

When reading the fiction and non-fiction -- and the barely fiction -- of Jack Kerouac, I suppose our first instinct is to gasp at the lengthy run-on sentences and page-long paragraphs, all filled with stream-of-consciousness thought but with a journalist's keen eye for observation. What we may tend to overlook is the religious and quasi-religious meaning infused in every tale he tells.

Ben Giamo, chairman of the Department of American Studies at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana, examines Kerouac's religious leanings in "Kerouac, The Word and the Way." It's not as if Giamo had to search far and wide for scraps of religious content or meaning; having read so many of Kerouac's works myself in the past two years, I can tell you personally that Kerouac's religious sentiments are never less than a subtext in the stories he was spinning.

Giamo takes a largely chronological look at Kerouac's work, examining the religious trials and triumphs of Kerouac as played out through his characters.

BOOK REVIEW

When Jack Kerouac was a Catholic -- and more than just a Catholic

"Kerouac, The Word and the Way: Prose Artist as Spiritual Quester"

By Ben Giamo

published by Southern Illinois University Press, Carbondale and Edwardsville, Illinois, 2001; ISBN 0-8093-2431-8, U.S.\$27).

Book Review by Mark Pattison

Regardless of how autobiographical his novels may have been, Kerouac injected religion and faith because that is what he was surrounded with as a child, and it is what he chose to surround himself with as an adult.

Take, for instance, 'Visions of Gerard', in which Kerouac imputes -- at least, according to Giamo -- his own anguish over his saintly brother's premature death, asking why he, a less worthy soul, was not taken instead. "The novel is simple without being simplistic. In his ingenious glorification of Gerard, Kerouac writes a very unusual yet genuine 'book of sorrows', as he put it in a letter to Gary Snyder, one that, despite an account of intense pain and extreme suffering, sows goodness and showers tenderness," Giamo writes. "Moreover, 'Visions of Gerard' reflects the intersection of the belief system he inherited and the one he discovered along the way."

That second belief system to which Giamo refers is Buddhism, which is played out most famously in Kerouac's 'The Dharma Bums'. Kerouac embraced Buddhist philosophy wholeheartedly, yet never shed his Roman Catholic identity as sifted through the colander of his Québécois-American upbringing. Although Kerouac abandoned all pretence of following Buddhism in 1961, he probably helped give rise, and a public face, to two related phenomena. One is a "both-and" sense of religious belonging, which manifests

itself today in the growing number of what used to be known as "mixed marriages" between spouses of different faiths.

The other phenomenon is the personal declaration of many today that "I'm not religious, but I'm spiritual". Few people would label Jack Kerouac a regular churchgoer (he certainly was no altar boy!), but those precepts that he embraced as a youth still clung to him as an adult. As he married for a third time and had his mother living with him, he more often expressed disenchantment with the direction society had taken -- another phenomenon, not that uncommon, that finds people growing more conservative in their worldview as they enter middle age.

Like Thomas Merton, the prolific bon vivant turned Trappist monk, Jack Kerouac, despite his prodigious written output, has had more books written about him than he wrote himself. Despite that, "Kerouac, The Word and the Way" is a highly helpful book that adds to our understanding of him, making him, who for some of us is a distant cousin, a bit less distant.

Note: By typing "Ben Giamo" in www.google.com, you will find many web sites and other reviews of this book.

75th Anniversary of the Montreal Botanical Garden

Preview of the Special Program in 2006

Advanced notice
for the readers of *Le Trésor*

On June 9, 10, 11, the launching of a special program to mark the 75th anniversary of the foundation of the Montreal Botanical Garden will coincide with its birth dates of June 9, 10, 11. Here is a description of various activities as we know at this point in time. If more financial help materializes it will enable us to further enrich this special program. We invite you to regularly visit our Website in order to keep up with the latest news and developments: <http://www2.ville.montreal.qc.ca/jardin/jardin.htm>

François Ouellet, Marketing Agent, Montreal Botanical Garden.

The Montreal Botanical Garden, founded in 1931 by Brother Marie-Victorin, born Conrad Kirouac, will be marking 75 years of existence and evolution in 2006. To highlight this special moment in history, numerous activities have been designed underlining the past, present and future of the Montreal Botanical Garden, and will be enriching the usual summer activities planned for all ages. Through publicity and promotions, Montrealers will be invited to celebrate this anniversary which should revive and strengthen their pride and attachment to their Botanical Garden.

With all this in mind the following programme has been prepared: **25th anniversary plaques** will be installed presenting histo-

rical and botanical anecdotes, curiosities and unknown aspects of the gardens. Volunteer guides will offer special guided tours;

Family Memories at the Botanical Garden will present the best photos taken by our visitors since 1931. They will be exhibited at the Tree House from May 15 until October 31, 2006. Web Site : <http://www2.ville.montreal.qc.ca/jardin/menu.htm>

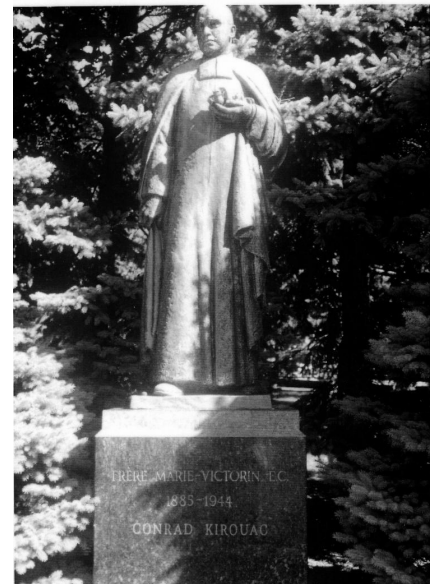
June 9-10-11, 2006:

The inaugural weekend will start on Friday, June 9, with the official opening of the exhibition: **Happy Birthday Garden**. This exhibition, highlighting the great moments in the Garden's history, will be held in the Main Exhibition Greenhouse between June 9 and September 4.

On Saturday and Sunday, June 10 and 11, children and their parents will be able to go behind the scene and discover the production greenhouses, the heating system, etc., areas normally out of bounds to the general public. Musicians and comedians, personifying Brother Marie-Victorin and other historical characters from the foundation era, will be on the site to tell their stories.

Other **special activities** will also take place at the Japanese Pavilion on July 1st and 2nd, in the **Chinese Garden**, to mark its 15th anniversary on July 15 and 16; at the **Tree House** to mark its 10th anniversary on July 22 and 23; and in the **First-Nations' Garden**, marking its 5th anniversary on August 5 and 6.

A special issue of the *Quatre temps* magazine will be entirely



Brother Marie-Victorin, Montreal Botanical Garden (Photo credit: Clément Kirouac)

devoted to the 75th anniversary. 20,000 copies will be printed by the *Friends of the Botanical Garden* and will be on sale in early June 2006. It will be a promotional tool for the medias, the Botanical Garden's partners in the public and private sectors, as well as the horticultural industry and the tourist sector.

On the Web: http://www2.ville.montreal.qc.ca/jardin/en/jardin_virtuel/serres/grande_serre_expo.htm



Charlotte, the Globe-Trotter

Article published in LE JOURNAL DE QUÉBEC, 1 OCT 2005

(VB) — Charlotte is just six months old and loves cold water. She eats four kilos (10 lbs) of herring a day and weighs 61.6 kilos (160 lbs). She also wears a hood. Who is she?

Charlotte left her family in the icy waters of the North-West Atlantic to surf and search the unknown. With no sailing knowledge whatsoever, this young female explorer soon lost her way and ended up hundreds of kilometres/miles from home. She found herself in a rather dire straight last August prisoner behind a dam on the Saint Charles River (near Quebec City). Thanks to the public's watchful eye and concern, this hooded seal was rescued by the Quebec City Aquarium's team.

Weighing only 44.2 kilos (110 lbs) then, the young female was put in quarantine at the Quebec City Zoo in order to give her a chance to recuperate. One month later, this mammal now weighing 61.6 kilos (160 lbs) had recovered so well that it was possible to put her in a pool with her five new 'cousins', Greenland seals, in the Arctic section at the Aquarium.

Charlotte is the very first hooded seal ever welcomed at the Aquarium. No one knows if there will ever be others in the future. Though rather shy, she seems quite happy in her new surroundings.



Photo : Karl Tremblay) Journal de Québec

Catherine Kirouac, animal trainer, with Charlotte, a curious young seal, only six months old, so eager to see the world, she became a prisoner on the Saint Charles River. (Photo credit: Karl Tremblay)



Catherine Kirouac at the Quebec City Aquarium (Photo : Marie Kirouac)

SPECIAL COLLABORATION CATHERINE KIROUAC

Catherine Kirouac, daughter of Jean Kirouac and Marie-Thérèse Girard, is the niece of Marie Kirouac, an AFKFA Board Member. Presently living in Quebec City she enjoys a rather unusual career as caretaker of the marine mammals at the Quebec City Aquarium.

Her work involves looking after the animals, cleaning the enclosures, caring for their physical and psychological health. Catherine mainly looks after the polar bears so she cleans their enclosures, feeds them and does other daily chores but she also trains these giant mammals, the kings of the Arctic.

The training of polar bears is always carried out within sturdy see-through fenced enclosures. This makes it easier to observe their sanitary and medical conditions for the attending veterinarians but, here

Catherine's role is important as she teaches them to show their teeth or their paws, and to obediently sit or lie down.

At the Aquarium, Catherine also takes care of the seals, the walruses and organizes activities for the visitors. However, this rather specialized work is about to come to an end because she will soon be moving to the Eastern Townships. She will leave behind Charlotte, the bears and the city to live in the country side and raise bees with her spouse. What a change indeed and nothing banal about this new career either!

The one thing Catherine wants most of all, is to be outdoors and take care of animals. Given that she enjoys training them so much, she has decided to get a small dog in the very near future, well perhaps a big one, whichever, she will surely enjoy many pleasant hours!

Editor's note: An article written about her sister, Amélie Kirouac, was published in *Le Trésor*, number 70, in December 2002.

THE JOURNAL OF MRS. ALICE LEPAGE PATRY

This is the second installment of Mrs. Alice Lepage-Patry's Diaries. Though the events described do not especially relate to the Kirouac family they describe very well the atmosphere in 1920, during the weeks before Christmas in well-to-do Quebec City families.

To enable the reader to better figure out who is who in the story, on page 29 there is a family tree, an amended/corrected version of the one published in the September issue of Le Trésor. It shows the links between the members of the Lepage, Patry and Kirouac families.

Tuesday, December 14, 1920

All day, it snowed and rained, there was even hail, so much so that I did not go to *l'ouvroir* ⁽¹⁾ at the Ursulines Convent. I only went out to the retreat in the evening but there were many empty pews in the church due to the bad weather.

Mother St. Donat returned my *Diaries* of November 12 to 30; it is obviously Advent ⁽²⁾ now, not a word from Montreal, Sherbrooke or St. Pascal. If I do likewise, I will not be the only one (not writing). I made many phone calls to find a second-hand cello. One particularly, to Miss Blanche Gagnon, the daughter of Ernest Gagnon ⁽³⁾; she writes very well and also composes music. She was very nice and pleasant, asked for my name, her conversation was quite distinctive, it shows when people are intelligent.

Simone answered the letter she received from her Irishman ⁽⁴⁾, how could she forget? She would

have been very disappointed if I had not copied it. In the evening (after the retreat) we never leave the church before 9 p.m. The ladies find the preacher too long-winded. Adrienne Dussault, violinist, had to play at the *Musical* ⁽⁵⁾ this afternoon but I did not attend.

The newspapers have printed the story of the inquiry into Blanche Garneau's murder ⁽⁶⁾. What an abominable crime last summer in Victoria Park. Justice does not seem to be the prime concern of the lawyers and judges! One would hope that the killers would be found and punished by the Law. It is revolting to see how justice is carried out! The names of the criminals are supposedly known, but they have money and with money, everything is permitted, so it seems.

Wednesday, December 15

A man clearing snow accidentally broke one of our windows.

(1) At the time, volunteer ladies would meet to do sewing for the poor or make vestments for the church. They would gather at the Ursulines' Convent on Parloir Street in Old Quebec City.

(2) Advent is the beginning of the Church Year for most churches in the Western tradition. It begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve (Dec 24). Advent was very special at the time of Mrs. Patry and many Catholics went to Mass in the morning and also attended the Advent retreat; preaching after the morning Mass and/or in the evening. The preacher was often a priest especially invited for this purpose.

(3) Ernest Gagnon, (1834-1915) organist at Saint-Jean-Baptiste Church in Quebec City in 1853 and at the Quebec City Basilica from 1864 to 1876; founding member of *École*



Collection Claude J. Doiron

Alice Lepage Patry

normale Laval (Laval Teachers' Training College) in 1857. He left a great number of musical works for the organ, choral music, etc., still produced today. He was a neighbour of Mrs. Lepage Patry. Blanche Gagnon, his daughter (1867-1951) For more info (in English), type *Ernest Gagnon* on Google.

(4) Simone, Mrs. Lepage-Patry's daughter, met this gentleman when his ship stopped at Quebec.

(5) She is referring to the Quebec City Musical Club, a non-profit society founded in 1891 by Quebec City's elite ladies, French-speaking and English-speaking, in order to organize concerts and spread musical culture reserved until then to the privileged class. Since 1959, this society has been known as *The Quebec City Musical Club*. Very much alive, it contributes to heighten the artistic life in Quebec City by introducing great international artists. It is the oldest musical society in the province of Quebec.

(6) In the summer of 1920, a young woman named Blanche Garneau was found dead in Victoria Park in Quebec City. The investigation was supposed to uncover who had committed the crime but it developed into a major controversy that shook the Quebec political world. The authorities seemed incapable of identifying those who had raped and murdered Blanche Garneau; consequently the newspapers questioned the government's will to solve the affair. Even the Quebec Premier, Louis-Alexandre Taschereau, as the Province's Attorney General, was fully implicated. The newspapers' accusation went way beyond a case of simple negligence, as they implied that the Premier was possibly protecting influential people by letting the investigation drag on so long. (French Internet Source : <http://bilan.usherbrooke.ca/bilan/pages/evenements/21241.html>).

He rang the bell and gave his name and address. It is annoying for him to have to pay for it and for us to have it replaced. I was just arriving back home from the retreat when the accident happened. It made such a noise I thought the whole window was broken but luckily it was only one glass pane.

While we were having supper, the door bell rang; it was the dear Parish Priest from Deschambault ⁽⁷⁾. He sat at the table with us. He is very frugal indeed; he only had a buttered slice of bread with a cup of tea. I wanted him to taste our fish and to warm up some bean soup for him as I still had some. He was as happy as ever and he stayed with us until 9 p.m. He thought our cat Toto was not as nice as his but, on the other hand, he found him funny and lively. He is supposed to come back tomorrow before catching the five o'clock train. We showed him Mr. Kennedy's letters ⁽⁴⁾, photos and cards. Again this afternoon, Simone received another letter with more photos. When he is on land, it shows, he writes often. He says that he has sent Simone some newspapers giving detailed report about the troubles in his country. Simone has not received them yet. Perhaps they were censored and confiscated.

Thursday, December 16

I wrote to Toronto to order two brown velvet dresses for Simone and Gabrielle's Christmas presents. It is ever so important to have a brand new dress to wear on such occasions. I understand that very well as I can remember how happy I was when I was showing off a new dress! I chose the least expensive dresses but still thought the price quite high

at \$8.00 each. But considering the time it takes to buy the material, go to the seamstress, it would not be any cheaper! Yvonne came to eat breakfast with me this morning. She is faithfully following the retreat. I missed yesterday evening's service. Miss Duquet phoned me to find out if I, or someone in my family, was ill. I so seldom miss that people notice when I do. I told her about the pleasant unexpected visit I had, and I knew that there were many altos present. But she recommended that I be present this evening because we will be singing a song (name illegible) in which the altos sing many solos.

Miss Lacroix came. She had the pleasure of meeting the Parish Priest from Deschambault whom she admires and likes so much. He teased her kindly; she will not forget this visit in a long time. The children have generous uncles, he left three silver-coloured ⁽⁸⁾ pieces of money, one for each of the children; he gave them to Gabrielle because she was holding his (heavy winter) coat. He arrived in town yesterday and lost no time at all, he had many messages and errands to do in various parts of town.

The young Simard boy stopped by and told me he had been to see the cello at *Lyonnais* and that he liked it very much. It costs \$45.00; I immediately wrote to Aline.

Friday, December 17

As soon as the sermon was over this morning, I went to confession to the preacher who is better at preaching than confessing. I like to change confessor once a year during the retreat, I think it can only do good. Thérèse Lavoie, Mrs. Garneau, was the

next one behind me. All was very calm in the church during the exposition of the Holy Sacrament. There is such peacefulness and consolation in prayers! Blessed are those to whom God gives faith! Daily I ask for this favour for each and every member of my family, I also pray for them to know the joys of a family, the consolation of piety; with these, life is never sad or bitter.

A card from Saint-Pascal was waiting for me when I got back home. Mother Saint-Donat would like twelve small snuff boxes ⁽⁹⁾ for a special occasion on the 26th but she would like them by tomorrow, Saturday. I must have made at least twenty phone calls; one would think that no one takes snuff anymore or that the snuff boxes ⁽⁹⁾ are only made of silver or gold. Some of the calls were rather funny. Some people were really nice and kind. Everywhere I called I was given various information. Finally I found some at ten cents each at Dussault, the tobacco shop. I sent them on to Saint-Pascal as fast as I could. I hope that they will arrive safely tomorrow and that they will be exactly what Mother Saint-Donat wishes. As Gabrielle was the first one home, she did the errands for me; she was glad to have an excuse to go out again.

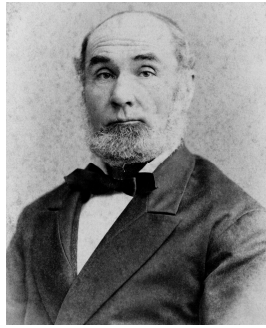
Saturday, December 18

This morning I went to the retreat like a wealthy woman; in

(7) Father Alexandre Lepage, Mrs. Patry's brother, was Parish Priest in Deschambault from 1914 to 1953.

(8) Silver-coloured coins by comparison to pennies, the only copper-coloured coins.

(9) Small snuff boxes. People still snuffed tobacco through the nose then.



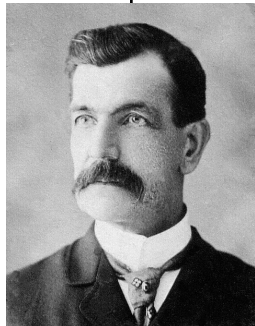
***JOURNAL OF MRS. ALICE LEPAGE PATRY
FAMILY LINES***

François Kirouac
1826-1896

Marie Julie Hamel
1830-1915

Frédéric Patry

Luce Courteau



Joseph Lepage

Marie-Julia Thurber
1840-1895

Aurélie Kirouac
1855-1938

Joseph Hilarion Patry
1847-1917



Joseph Patry

Alice Lepage
1876-1947

Joséphine Lepage
Sister Sainte-Julie

? Lepage
Sister Saint-Alexandre

? Lepage
Sister Saint-Donat

Alexandre Lepage
1871-1960

William Lepage

Adolphe Lepage

Gabrielle Patry

Laurent Patry

Simone Patry

Michel

Monique

addition, I walked with Mr. Gagnon. He had forgotten his pipe by the organ yesterday evening so he was going back to fetch it. I was introduced to his niece Miss Gagnon, author as well as music composer. She writes so well and ever so nicely it shows even in her smile.

Meatless cooking ⁽¹⁰⁾ for Advent and cooking for Sunday, in other words I spent the rest of the day by the stove. A piano tuner came to see what could be done. To put it back in perfect order would be more expensive than to buy another one but, on the other hand, I feel sad to see this piano being off tune and with many silent notes as well. So this Mr. Célestin Marcoux will come back during the first week of January to fix it as best he can and will charge \$5.00 to tune it. It needs to be tuned a fourth ⁽¹¹⁾ higher so you can imagine what that means. This man is a widower and has seven children. Anyone else would feel quite discouraged but he seems to be doing well in business. All these poor orphans have been placed and he rents a room probably while waiting in the hope of getting married again, which would probably be the best thing he could do. As long as he meets a duty-bound woman who will take her task seriously and fulfill her obligations; that might be quite difficult to find now-adays!

Sunday, December 19

Yvonne Patry arrived as we were leaving to attend High Mass where Simone, her aunt and I went. The sermon was remarkable; Father Gauthier spoke on *naturalism* ⁽¹²⁾. He was so assertive, animated and eloquent in preaching the Advent retreat. He proved that *naturalism* leads people to materialism, sensuality

and directly to paganism! I could have listened to him for hours; everything he said rang so right and true!

After dinner, while I did the dishes, Yvonne talked with my husband and afterwards she and I played duets on the piano. Contrary to her habit, after the retreat, Yvonne went straight back home. Having left her house in the morning and, as Mrs. Patry (Aurélié Kirouac) keeps to her room, she felt it was better to return home before supper. My husband and I paid our Sunday visits, he to his mother and I to my mother-in-law who is also my godmother. We talked in her room. She was sitting on her sofa and expected to be back there by 9 a.m. tomorrow. She went to bed so we went to play cards in the dining room near the fireplace. This is our favourite place. It is so nice, a lovely clean house so well kept where everything shines and gleams! I very sincerely complimented her on it.

Monday, December 20

What a very full day this Monday has been. I wonder if it will be like that all week. I received a letter from Mrs. Dunn; I answered it immediately after having called *Lyonnais* and asked for the information she requested.

Adolphe returned the September Diaries to me with a short note. I immediately sent along the October Diaries I had just received

(10) During the 19th and the first half of the 20th centuries, the Catholic Church prescribed many fasting days. During the first week of each season (in French known as *les quatre-temps* referring to the four seasons): Wednesday, Friday and Saturday were fasting days as well as every day during Lent, except Sunday; also the eve of Christmas, Pentecost, Assumption and All Saints Day; Wednesdays and Fridays du-



Alexandre Lepage, Parish Priest in Deschambault from 1914 to 1953, brother of Mrs. Alice Lepage Patry

ring Advent. Fasting was compulsory by the age of majority, 21 years old. Fasting meant only one main meal per day and one light snack if necessary. In the morning it was permitted to eat two ounces of bread with either tea or coffee. Fasting also meant abstinence, e.g. no meat. On certain days meat was allowed but only at the main meal. Besides the days of fasting, every Friday was a day of abstinence i.e. a meatless day. If we believe what they say about those days, few people actually followed these rules and many did not follow them properly. (French Internet Source : <http://www.cam.org/~lavalac/histoire1/chapitre6.html#28>)

(11) An interval of a fourth.

(12) *Naturalism*: A philosophical doctrine consisting essentially in looking upon nature as the one original and fundamental source of all that exists, also attempting to explain everything in terms of nature. In Mrs. Patry's Diary one finds the article that appeared in the local paper about the sermon entitled: *The world and its pleasures*: "Yesterday at the Basilica, the Reverend Father Gauthier, of the St. Jean Eudes Congregation, gave a splendid sermon. The large audience listened and admired his deep erudition, his convincing and solid doctrine and, especially, his great way with words. The eloquent preacher spoke strongly against today's naturalism and its deadly consequences, materialism and sensuality. He said that people today are afraid to consciously believe and, instead of following the dictate of their conscience, live for pleasure and for seeking pleasures, not the good leisure pleasures that are needed but the limitless pleasures. He stressed that "We are witnessing a return to paganism".

from Shawinigan. My manuscripts do travel and I rather enjoy knowing that my whole family can partake in our life as they read these daily notes. I also sent the November Diaries to William with a short note to let him know that he is expected here at Christmas. He will bring back my Diaries then. These notes concern the matters of the heart. I also swept the floor in the dining-room, the sitting-room, the passage, the two staircases, on the children's floor, prepared dinner, put everything back in order, so much so that I only managed to go back up to my room after 3 p.m. to refresh myself and change my *feathers* (e.g. dress).

The children, Simone and Gabrielle, came back from school; Laurent only comes back after 4:30 p.m. The sky was perfectly blue and pure. Gabrielle went to Dussault to buy eighteen small snuff boxes for Saint-Pascal. Mother Saint-Donat sent a card to acknowledge receipt of her parcel Saturday, as she had asked for. She was pleased with the snuff boxes which proved to be extremely popular. Thank goodness I was able to find more similar snuff boxes though I was afraid I would not. I put a word into the parcel and had it mailed immediately. I was not as lucky with the music paper, there was none left at Gauvin-Courchênes, so it will have to wait till tomorrow.

Sewing and a piano lesson for Laurent. Heaven is awakening in him the desire to learn. He is talented but lacks willpower; I was not too impatient with him so won a great victory over my quick temper. Supper, family prayers, then read the papers. There are parties, dances, balls, receptions, teas! Social events galore. At number 14 Saint-Flavien Street, life is quiet and

happy, free from all these expensive and very often boring distractions. More sewing today; visit of the Misses Vallée who stayed until 10 p.m. I wrote their Christmas cards for them.

Simone received a postcard from Ireland with a view of Dublin. Mr. Kennedy is asking for long letters; two were posted in response for the two received. Simone will surely make progress in English and her writing style will also improve with all this correspondence. She used to worry about not finding a way to learn English. I do not think there is any better method than this one. Went up to my room after 11 p.m. I wonder if the children are asleep now. The girls, yes; but the boys?

Tuesday, December 21

This is the nicest way to start my day when I receive letters from my dear loved ones. This morning, the postman delivered an envelope where the address was written in purple ink; the ink could have been red or black but still I would have recognized dear Mother Sainte-Julie's writing just as easily. Always the first Christmas letter to arrive and it is so nicely done! Your lovely cards show unparalleled kindness at the occasion of the New Year. When something nice, delicate, refined comes it is from the convent. In the outside world, we do not see things as nice! I thank you from the bottom of my heart and I am happy that our sisters, as well as Alex, will also benefit from your generosity. Whether you are in Quebec City or Montreal does not change anything, your friends are faithful to you in sending you lovely things fitting all circumstances and events of the

year. It is really wonderful as you know how to use them so well and you love to give and make others happy, it gives you the opportunity to make people happy and to show everyone that you are blessed with intelligence and a heart of gold!

I have yet to go into the stores to do some Christmas shopping but my purse is there facing me with a stern look and it cools my enthusiasm in case I would be tempted to splurge. Luckily you know how much I love you and you love me as well, even if I do not shower gifts on you! Nonetheless, how I would love to do so! Nothing would be too nice for such dear sisters whom I love so much. Thank you dear sister, I will pass on your card for 1921 to my husband and give the postcards to the children. I thank you very much on everyone's behalf.

After Vespers on Sunday, Simone met Marguerite Delage with her father. He inquired about you, where you were, if you were happy and he asked me to send you his regards. Recently Mrs. Delage travelled with her father; she will visit with you on a future occasion, she said. Mr. Delage would have preferred if she had gone right away but Mrs. Delage thought that you were at Notre-Dame-de-Grâce. Mr. Delage will be wiser next time when he goes to your part of the world.

Wednesday, December 22

Yesterday, I did not stay very long at the Ursulines' Convent⁽¹⁾. I was there by 3 p.m. but at 3:30 p.m. it was the meeting of the Ladies of the Holy Family Association in the church. The young Chouinard played the harmonium as Miss Gauthier was ill. We were only four sopranos

... de son pays - Simone
m'en a pas revus - C'est la
seul qui les a confusines - je
suppose!

Jeudi 16,

J'ai écrit à Toronto
pour avoir 2 robes en velours bleu
pour le cadeau de Noël et les
étrennes de Simone & Gabrielle -
Ce n'est pas pu une petite fête
étrenner une robe ces jours là
je comprends le chose - je n'ai
pas oublié une fois - mes amies
lors que j'avais une trottette nou-
velle! - J'ai choisi ce qui y avait
de mieux dispendieux & bon
le prix même assez élevé \$8.
Chaque - achetez ce qui faut,
le trouble de courir chez la vendeuse
ce n'est pas meilleur marché
Après est venue déjeuner avec
moi ce matin - elle est fidèle
& suivi les exercices de la retraite
J'ai manqué à l'office d'hier
soir - Mlle Dupont a téléphoné

Manuscript of Mrs. Alice Lepage Patry
(With the kind permission of Mr. Claude Doiron)

and three altos. I would like to write that quality replaced quantity but I cannot. Miss Chouinard kept what voice she had for her solo in the *Alleluia of the Redemption*, and kept her mouth shut during every chorus opening it only to cough.

Simone received a card from Dublin and a newspaper from Mr. Kennedy⁽⁴⁾. When he is not travelling, it shows. He writes often. One would not think that he lives on the other side of the world. Montreal people are polite and helpful. This morning, my husband and I received the card from uncle and aunt Bell with their good wishes for the New Year. I wish I could say the same thing about my Christmas and New Year correspondence and gift giving.

Simone and Gabrielle will be on holiday as of tomorrow, Thursday the 23rd until January 10th. Laurent will be on holiday on the 30th. At the Bellevue School the students will also start their holiday on the 23rd. I close this journal now if I want to have the pleasure to write to you for Christmas to send you my most affectionate and happy wishes for a Christmas Day marked by pure joy and serene peace. To my other little sisters who will read these lines, I send the same wishes adding sincere and ardent wishes for their material and spiritual happiness. In union of hearts and prayers during this particularly stirring and moving Christmas Night.

With tender loving care,
Alice

Quebec City, Wednesday
December 22, 1920

Separate Memo
Christmas Morning

The radiant sunshine makes it impossible to stay in bed after

seven o'clock. Canon Sylvestre, military Chaplain, officiated at the three Midnight Masses. The chapel was resplendent with lights and natural flowers. Superb azaleas, poinsettias and narcissus, these small star-like flowers from Bellevue (Convent) and, in the middle of it all, the most beautiful baby Jesus in the world. I prayed to Him as best as I could for everyone, especially for our far-away brothers who hear so little about eternity.

This morning, I received a card from Adolphe, written in his beautiful regular handwriting. After dinner, in the Cathedral, it was magnificent. Bishop Bruchési⁽¹³⁾ was sitting on his throne, very pale and thin. Bishop Roy's⁽¹⁴⁾ sermon kept me awake. He told the story of the birth of our Lord in a very clear and eloquent way, borrowing a great deal from Bossuet⁽¹⁵⁾. To conclude he said though Christmas is the commemoration of poverty we celebrate it in abundance.

Have you received my gifts and Aunt Bell's gifts? I phoned her last night, she was reciting the one thousand 'Hail Mary', twenty Rosaries on her own. That takes courage!

When you receive this, Christmas will be a thing of the past, just like all earthly things. However, and happily, the Author of these celebrations remains with us. I am going to Vespers; we cannot stop the hours flowing past. The nuns are so happy and young at heart; they make me forget my fifty years.

With all my heart, and all my love

No 10

Thursday, December 23

Mother Sainte-Jeanne-du-Carmel from the Victoriaville Convent called me from the Saint-Roch Convent; she will bring the cello for Renée Dunn. I notified Lyon-

nais and they delivered the instrument immediately. I hope the young lady will be pleased with her purchase.

There is a snowstorm today so it is the perfect time to clean the house as no visitors are likely to come. Mrs. Bouchard came and offered her services and I did not refuse. She removed the staircase carpet on the children's floor. She shook it on the snow, washed all that needed washing and then I put things back into place. I am quite tired. I am really too heavy to get on my knees then get up again, then back on all fours, I am not used to doing much exercise and have no training either. But I am glad it is all done!

Simone and Gabrielle are on holiday, they helped all afternoon. Simone paid a visit to her friend Fleur-Ange Martineau, who did not go back to St-Alban this year, but instead went to the Convent in Saint-Roch as a day boarder. I prepared all my small Christmas gifts this evening. Even if it is not much, it gives me pleasure to offer something however small it may be. I went up to my room after 11 p.m.

Friday, December 24

Same as yesterday. The cleaning lady came back. She washed the kitchen ceiling, all the painted surfaces, the floor, now everything is clean and shiny. The piano tuner also turned up. Deep down I was disappointed; there was too much going on at the same time, besides I would have preferred to wait before spending that money.

Christmas turkeys are not cheap this year! I bought one slightly smaller, it was my gift to the household. I managed to roast



Christmas 1909

Simonne, Gérard, Gabrielle and Laurent Patry

(13) Bishop Paul Bruchesi, ordained to the priesthood in 1878, first became private secretary to the Bishop of Montreal, Édouard-Charles Fabre (1879). Afterwards, he taught dogma at Laval University in Quebec City (1880-1884) then apologetics at Laval University in Montreal (1887-1891). From 1891 to 1897, he was Parish Priest of the Montreal Cathedral and then was promoted Bishop and Archbishop of Montreal in 1897 until 1939; this period was marked by numerous events where he was either directly or indirectly involved (The Eucharistic Congress in 1910; the Ontario Schools problem, the surge of Catholic unions, etc.). From 1921 onwards, because of ill health, Bishop Georges Gauthier took over the administration of the diocese. (English Web Source: <http://www.catholic-hierarchy.org/bishop/bbruchesi.html>)

(14) Bishop Paul-Eugène Roy, born in Berthier-sur-Mer in 1859, was ordained to the priesthood in 1886. His name is linked with the creation, in 1907, of *L'Action sociale*, the newspaper later known as *L'Action catholique*. In Connecticut, U.S.A., he founded a parish for French-Canadian immigrants. He was appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Quebec City in 1908, Coadjutor Archbishop in 1920 and Archbishop in 1925 until his death in 1926. (English Web Source: <http://www.catholic-hierarchy.org/bishop/broy.html>)

(15) Bossuet, a celebrated French bishop and preacher, born in Dijon in 1627, died in Paris in 1704. Three centuries later, his voluminous writings are still on the curriculum of all (French-speaking) colleges.

the bird and I am sure that it will be well appreciated by those who will eat it. Received a card from Mother Saint-Donat. There was nothing else in the mail today. I hope all my dear ones are well. After the evening prayer was said, as well as the one thousand 'Hail Mary' had been recited, the children helped me decorate the dining room; we gave it a Christmas look.

The evening went by so quickly, we lost track of time and the children did not go to bed. We got ourselves ready and all five of us attended Midnight Mass. The singing, the music, the red and gold decorations, everything was splendid! The Cardinal officiated, it was crowded. The *Minuit Chrétien* ⁽¹⁶⁾ was sung to perfection by Mr. Faguy. The children's choir sang the Christmas Carols to perfection. With such sweetness, it brought tears to one's eyes! How beautiful and how moving the religious celebrations are! Our brother William did not come, his place at the table was set and his bedroom was ready. I waited for him until the last minute hoping he would be with us for Midnight Mass and the *Réveillon* (traditional party after the Midnight Masses). It was a family party. We had a happy time; the children placed their Christmas gifts on the table in front of each person. What a delicious snack we had, hot coffee, tongue, *cretons* (traditional pork pâté), cakes, candies and fruits. We went up to bed at 3 a.m., happy and contented of our beautiful Christmas night 1920.

Laurent and Gabrielle went to church earlier because though we have three reserved seats, we were five so they had to take a chance (to find space). They were well settled in a double pew near the organ, next to our pews, but it seems that they were over confi-

dent, they lost their places; as I turned around I noticed that my two markers had disappeared. Gabrielle found a seat in another pew with Miss Richard, and Laurent ended up on the staircase. It was funny to hear them tell their adventure!

Christmas 1920

Saturday, December 25

I rejoiced at going to the High-Mass on this wonderful sunny but very cold Christmas day. The Choir from the seminary sang at the Mass and was accompanied by an orchestra. Father Gauthier gave a sermon on wealth. What remarkable parallels he drew between the poor and Baby Jesus in the crèche, because one has to become poor to reach God. I could have listened forever, because his speech is energetic, religious and it flows so easily!

I phoned my cousins to wish them a Merry Christmas and then I called Mrs. Patry. I had not been able to do so yesterday. We attended the Christmas Vespers; they are so beautiful and solemn. The Cardinal sang the Vespers. This morning, Bishop Roy officiated at Mass. It was a special occasion so the vestments were particularly beautiful, and the ceremony then takes on such importance and is so dignified! We walked back from the church with Mr. Gagnon. He came in for a few minutes and we kept talking.

Sunday, December 26

We had a really beautiful and delicious Christmas dinner. Today at lunch, we polished off the turkey leftovers. Everyone found the *bird* excellent. This afternoon the children went to visit Mrs. François Lemieux and returned only for supper. Aline Lemay



Collection Claude Doiron

Aurélie Kirouac, daughter of Chevalier François Kirouac and Marie-Julie Hamel, mother-in-law of Mrs. Alice Lepage Patry

came to visit, she spent the afternoon with me and I invited her to stay for supper. --- Sitting in comfortable rocking chairs by the dining room windows, we talked and talked. We reminisced about the good-old-days. We used to spend so much time at her home where hospitality was so generous and sincere! Emilienne, Corinne and I really felt part of the family. How could we forget? Evoking it all makes us feel young again and warms our hearts. Aline came to Vespers with us and went back home after the church service. We went to grandma's with the children to spend a Holiday-time evening with her. We played *Hearts* (card game) together. The adults took pleasure in watching the younger ones enjoying themselves. My aunt Marie-Louise gave us some of her good wheat wine and beetroot wine that she makes herself, as well as her coconut cream cake. It was very cold when we came back. I

(16) *Minuit Chrétien* (Christian Midnight) Traditional French Christmas Carol still sung exactly at midnight in all (French-speaking) Catholic Churches. For more info, type *Minuit Chrétien* on Google; English Translation on the Web at: http://www.songpeddler.com/SchoolsOfTheSacredHeart/MinuitChretien_SSHeart.asp

was glad to get home.

There is always the *Guignolée* ⁽¹⁷⁾ at Christmas. Our house was all lit up and our offering was ready in order to give our share to help the less fortunate. It is very generous on the part of these young men to devote their leisure time to charity work. The angels above must be smiling on them! May the young men's admirable dedication be rewarded by a successful door-to-door collection! Later on in life the children will happily remember all these events.

We spent a nice quiet evening at grandma's house, a fire was burning in the chimney and the gramophone ⁽¹⁸⁾ played tunes as we talked. God is so good to us! So many are homeless, cold and hungry, or live in homes afflicted by the misconduct of the parents or the children. When everything is going fine at home it is so easy to forget that such miseries exist!

Monday, December 27

Today I received letters from my three dear brothers Adolphe, Joe and William. My heart felt as light as a feather. It is so wonderful to receive news from our beloved ones. The news is good except for the fact that Joe has been without work since December 15, however he does not sound downhearted about it. I will put these letters into my journal and you will have all the details.

There is a snowstorm. I only went out to the 7 a.m. Mass. William is hoping to come and visit, but he cannot leave his work right now. He and two other workers were kept by the company to do some repairs. I sent him a card by return mail to thank him for the gifts he sent me and the children. Cousin Lepage phoned; she was due to leave for the Saguenay this morning but the bad weather forced her to delay her departure. She told us

about the death of cousin Pierre, known as Pitre Lepage, who died in Vancouver in early December. Ovide, his father, who works at *Paquet Store* ⁽¹⁹⁾, was granted some leave and went to see him in the hospital. He arrived on time to see him just before he died. Poor Pitre, he had wired asking for his brother. When your name is Pitre Lepage and you were born in Saint-Pierre-de-la-Côte-du-Sud where your parents were also born and are buried in the small local cemetery of their small village, it is a very long way to go and die (on the West Coast). Destiny can be so different for each one. I will know more from cousin Ovide when he returns. I knew uncle Pierre's whole family and naturally I am interested. I am told the cousin died of heart problems. I am sure the local fresh air would have been better for him. The father is living longer than his son who just

(17) *Guignolée*, by its French name, is a medieval tradition analogous to the English custom of wassailing. At the end of each year, people go from door to door singing and collecting money, clothing and food for the needy. This custom is still alive and successful. For more info in English type *Guignolée* on Google.

(18) Gramophone: In 1877, Charles Cros, French scholar and poet, imagined a way to record sound on a cylinder. A few months later the American **Thomas Alva Edison**, son of Canadian parents, achieved the same invention and had it patented in 1878. The phonograph was born and rotated by hand. The history of recorded sound in Canada can be said to have begun on May 17, 1878 with a demonstration of Edison's recently invented talking machine, the phonograph, at the Governor-General's residence in Ottawa. Later Edison added a motor to control the speed. In 1888, in the United States, the first gramophone was built by the German-born **Émile Berliner**. He worked on his project for years and eventually it surpassed Edison's phonograph. (Source: <http://www.collectionscanada.ca/gramophone/m2-3004-e.html>)

(19) See *Le Trésor*, number 70, December 2002, for the story of Quebec City *Paquet Stores* founded by Zéphirin Paquet, brother-in-law of the Chevalier François Kirouac.

In memoriam

KÉROUAC ALBINA

Mrs. Albina Kérouac (02077), wife of the late Jean Gamache, passed away at the Hôtel-Dieu Hospital in Montmagny, on October 21, 2005. She was 86 years and five months old.

She leaves to mourn her three children: Louiselle (Benoît Bélanger), Réjeanne (Réjean Lamarre) and Carole (Ghislain Thi-beault); her grandchildren: Jean-Simon and Pierre-Luc Lamarre. She was predeceased by her two brothers Louis-Georges and his wife Lydia Cloutier, and Gérard-Louis and his wife Marie-Rose Cloutier. Mrs. Gamache was one of the fifteen founding members of our Association and the aunt of Raymonde Kérouac Harvey, the author of *L'Album*. Funeral was held on October 29 followed by burial in the parish cemetery of L'Islet.

KIROUAC ÉLISABETH

Ms. Élisabeth Kirouac (02057) passed away at the Hôtel-Dieu Hospital in Montmagny, on September 22, 2005. She was 93 years old. She was predeceased by her brother Jean-Charles (Rita Moreau), and she leaves to mourn her two sisters, Bernadette (Maurice Cloutier) and Gemma Kirouac, as well as her nephews and nieces: Jean-Yves Cloutier and Marie Naltchayan, Rita Desrosiers, widow of Jean-Paul, Yolande Blanchard, widow of René, Gaston Kirouac and Raymond Brenke. Funerals were held on October 8, 2005 followed by burial in the parish cemetery in Montmagny.

OUR MOST SINCERE
CONDOLENCES TO
THESE FAMILIES

ANNUAL KIROUAC FAMILY GATHERING ROMEO, MICHIGAN, AUGUST 13, 2005

by Mark Pattison

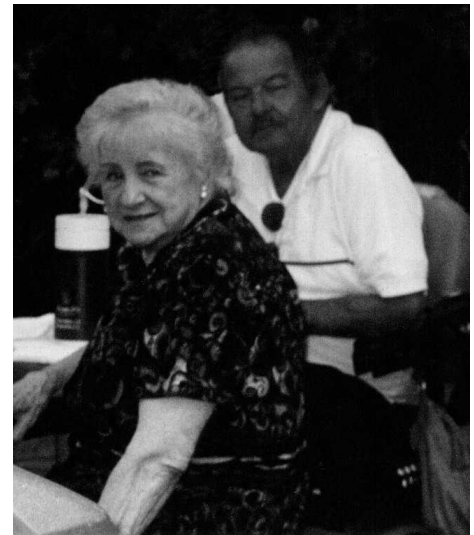
The death in the past year of the last three surviving children of Phillippe Kirouac and Alphonsine Jolicoeur Kirouac made this year's reunion of the Michigan-based Kirouacs more bittersweet than usual. Much was made about Roger Kirouac, now 74, being the "oldest" in the family.

However, three of the four surviving spouses of the Kirouac siblings were on hand. Especially gratifying for all was the presence of Jack Pickett, who had hosted the annual gatherings for their first 24 years. Because of the growing infirmity of his wife, Rolande Kirouac Pickett, they had to stop hosting the reunions and could not make the trip to Romeo, Michigan, a suburb about 30 miles north of Detroit, where the reunions are now held. Rolande died May 5, and in a bit of sad irony, this enabled Jack to attend. Geri Kirouac, widow of Rene, and Genevieve, Jules' widow, were also on hand.

Geri and her daughter, Susie Popham, always win the "greatest distance traveled" contest, as they

came from their homes in California for the reunion and to see family who live in the Detroit area. It was Genevieve's son, Steve, who has taken on the responsibility of hosting the event, supplying tents and picnic tables for his kin. (Steve's father, Jules, was the youngest son of Phillippe and Alphonsine.)

This year's reunion had a distinctive family-history flavour to it. A compact disc of music by "Jack King and His Knights of Royal Rhythm" (actually, Jacques Kirouac's pre-World War II dance band under an Anglicized name) was available for listening, although the sound quality from his homemade 78-rpm cardboard-and-shellac discs was subpar. Steve Kirouac was offering for sale DVD and VHS copies of old home movies originally recorded on film and videotape and digitally transferred. Steve's sister, Cathy Robinson, also spent much of the afternoon making and distributing CD copies of family photos digitally scanned over the past two years. A sister-in-law of cousin Jerry Kirouac (and a niece of Genevieve) served as a videographer, capturing more than a dozen Kirouac kin's family memories on videotape.



Gerry Kirouac and her son, Larry
(Photo : Mark Pattison)

The editing process was stalled after the woman's mother died less than a week after the Kirouac reunion.

Host Steve reported that the greatest crisis during the day was a severe lack of water pressure on the premises that went unreported for about 30 minutes. Steve fixed the problem by replacing the water filter. We had originally thought the "super streamer" squirt guns -- that look like bazooka launchers -- wielded by some adolescent members of the Michigan Kirouacs had caused the water shortage. Not so! Steve reported that "everybody went home smiling." No date had yet been chosen for the 2006 reunion, although a Saturday in August is the likely choice; it has been held on a Saturday in August for the past quarter-century.



Jenny Kirouac, widow of Jules Kirouac with Judith McCullough and Cynthia Pattison (Photo : Mark Pattison)



The Pattison family, from left to right: Rebecca, Cyntia (born 9 August 2003), Brian and Kellie (Photo : Mark Pattison)



Judy Hart, daughter of Philippe and Leona Kirouac with Meaghan Ogonowski, daughter of Tim and Jennifer Kirouac Ogonowski, with Cyntia Pattison (Photo Mark Pattison)

GENEALOGY / THE READERS' PAGE

The AFKFA computerized genealogical data base includes some couples where one of the partner's name is missing. Answers to the following questions would enable us to fill in the gaps. (François Kirouac)

Question 42

Answer from André Kirouac of Sainte-Croix-de-Lotbinière :

The name of Arthur Daigle's wife is Rosilda Croteau.

Question 45

Answer from Robert Kirouac of Cap-Rouge :

The name of Daniel Decaens' mother is Christiane Béranger.

Question 46

What is the name of the mother of Aline Auclair, wife of Alcide Kirouac, who was the son of Napoléon Kirouac and Anna Lemay?

Question 47

What is the name of the wife of Jean-Paul Lagueux, husband of Liliane Kirouac, who was the daughter of Lucien Kirouac and Rachel Beaulac?

Question 48

What is the name of the husband of Bernadette Kirouac, daughter of Édouard Keroack and Joséphine Chouinard?

Question 49

What is the name of the wife of Maurice Kirouac, son of Armand Keroack and Edwina Roy?

Question 50

What is the name of the husband of Mary Della Kirouac, daughter of Frédéric Kirouac and Laura Annie Rail?

Question 51

What is the name of the mother of Alvina Kirouac who was married to Alfred Padden and had a brother called Alphonse Alfred who was married to Mathilde Proulx? Who were the parents of Alphonse Alfred and Alvina?

Question 52

What is the name of the husband of Lorraine Kerouac, daughter of Elmer Albert Kerouac and Leah Soucie?

Question 53

What is the name of the husband of Cécile Béatrix Kirouac, daughter of Napoléon Kirouac and Élodie Fontaine?

Question 54

What is the name of the wife of Dale Howard Johnson Kirouac, son of Darel Howard Gérald Kirouac and Arlène Mavis Forrest?

Question 55

What is the name of the husband of Sheryl Anne Kirouac, daughter of Dale Howard Johnson Kirouac, son of Darel Howard Gérald Kirouac and Arlène Mavis Forrest?

Question 56

What is the name of the wife of Thomas Kerouac, son of Vernon Kerouac and Joan Meisterling?

Question 57

What is the name of the wife of Dale Kerouac, son of Vernon Kerouac and Joan Meisterling?

Question 58

What is the name of the wife of Robert Kerouac, son of Vernon Kerouac and Joan Meisterling?

Question 59

What is the name of the mother of Michaël Stewart, husband of Rachel Normandeau, who was the daughter of Henri Normandeau

Send in your genealogy-related questions, we will try to answer them; results will be published in the *Trésor*.

The Editorial Team

and Gertrude Kirouac?

Question 60

What is the name of the mother of Arsène Giroux, husband of Malvina Ste-Marie, who was the daughter of Étienne Ste-Marie and Philomène Kirouac?

Question 61

What is the name of the husband of Gertrude Fournier, daughter of Joseph Fournier and Denise Hélène Kirouac?

Question 62

What is the name of the husband of Anna Michaud, daughter of Georges Michaud and Rose-Anna Kirouac?

Question 63

What is the name of the wife of Lucien Fiola, son of Élzéar Fiola and Victorine Kirouac?

Question 64

What is the name of the wife of Roger Cormier, son of Richard Cormier and Yvette Kirouac?

Question 65

What is the name of the wife of Denis Cormier, son of Richard Cormier and Yvette Kirouac?

Question 66

What is the name of the husband of Gisèle Savard, daughter of Armand Savard and Louise Kirouac?

Question 67

What is the name of the wife of Laurence Martin Groëneveld, son of Laurence Groëneveld and Sylvia Kyrourac?

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Alexandre Duchroach

Our ancestor's signature on a request addressed to Governor Beauharnois in November 1733

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**Merry Christmas
 and a
 Happy New Year**